



**NATIONAL BAND COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA INC**

**INCORPORATING THE BRASS AND CONCERT BANDS OF AUSTRALIA**

## **2022 YEARBOOK**

*Version 1.0*

*Approved by the NBCA*

## **HYBRID CONTEST REGULATIONS**

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# NBCA 2022 Yearbook

## Hybrid Contest Regulations

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## A. Preliminaries

### 1 Preamble

- 1.1 The objective of the Australian National Band Championships is to provide an opportunity for members of eligible community-based brass and concert bands from across Australia and internationally to come together in a premier showcase event to perform in fair competition and in a spirit of good fellowship.
- 1.2 The 2022 Australian National Band Championships are being run as a hybrid event whereby bands will play at venues organised by the State Governing Bodies and will be broadcast live to the other venues and the adjudicators. The event will only comprise an On-Stage Championships.
- 1.3 The 2022 Australian National Band Championships shall be conducted, directed and controlled in accordance with these modified regulations.
- 1.4 These regulations replace the usual Contest Regulations. The usual Contest Regulations will be reinstated for subsequent Australian National Band Championships that follow the traditional format.

### 2 Interpretation

- 2.1 In these regulations, unless the contrary intention appears —

**Affiliated Band** means a brass or concert band that is registered with a State Governing Body.

**Australian National Band Championships** means the national band competition conducted for community brass and concert bands, and their members under the auspices of the National Band Council of Australia and as governed by these regulations.

**Band** means a brass or concert band.

**Category** means the type of band as defined under regulation 3.2 (i.e. Open Brass, Junior Brass, Open Concert and Junior Concert).

**Classify** means the assignment of a grade to a band as specified under regulation 3.2 and section 9 of these regulations.

**Conductor** means that person nominated as the conductor on a band's Certified Registration List as provided by the relevant State Governing Body in accordance with regulations 8.4 and 8.5. It includes the person referred to as the "Music Director", "Bandmaster" or "Coach".

**Contest Committee** means the committee established by the NBCA to run these Nationals.

**Contest Liaison Officer** means the person appointed by the NBCA to oversee the conduct of the Nationals by performing the duties prescribed to this role in these regulations, including providing advice on these regulations and ensuring that these regulations are upheld.

**Contest Regulations** means this version of the regulations for the Australian National Band Championships.

**Contest Supervisor** means the person appointed by the NBCA to oversee the running of the Nationals, including the band and player registration processes and the compilation of results.

**Council** means the Council of the National Band Council of Australia (NBCA) and comprises the President, Vice President, Executive Officer and the Councillors from each of the State Governing Bodies.

**Grade** means the grade used to classify a band and shall comprise the grades prescribed under each category in regulation 3.2 (i.e. Brass Bands: Open A, B, C, D, and Junior A, B, and C, and Concert Bands: Open A, B, C, D, and Junior A, B, and C).

**Junior** means a person who was under nineteen (19) years old at the 1st of January in the year of the championships.

**National Band Council (NBCA)** means the National Band Council of Australia Inc., the national body for brass and concert bands comprising all State Governing Bodies incorporated in New South Wales.

**National Music Consultative Committee (NMCC)** means the sub-committee of the NBCA that deals with music-related matters.

**Nationals** means the Australian National Band Championships (and is mainly used to refer to the championships held in a given year although it may refer occasionally to multiple occurrences of the championships).

**NBCA Executive** means the President, Vice President and Executive Officer of the NBCA.

**Open Section** means a part of the competition in which all registered players can perform in, regardless of his or her age.

**Protest Committee** means the committee established to deal with protests during the Nationals.

**Regulations** means these contest regulations.

**State Governing Body** means a State Band Association affiliated with the NBCA and may unless the contrary intention appears, include the regulatory authority for the brass and/or concert bands in other countries or where a regulatory authority does not exist, as determined by the NBCA.

## **B. Nationals Structure and Music Requirements**

### **3 Nationals Overview**

- 3.1 Hybrid Nationals will only consist of a modified version of the On-Stage Championships as specified in these regulations.
- 3.2 The Nationals shall provide for the following grades within each category of band:
- | <b>Category</b> | <b>Grades</b>                           |
|-----------------|---|
| Brass Bands:    | Open A, B, C, D, and Junior A, B, and C |
| Concert Bands:  | Open A, B, C, D, and Junior A, B, and C |
- 3.3 Competitors in the Nationals shall perform music consistent with the specifications prescribed in these regulations.
- 3.4 Entries to the Nationals will be restricted to bands and band members who meet the conditions specified in these regulations and fulfil the specified registration requirements before and during the Nationals.
- 3.5 All matters relating to the Nationals not covered by these regulations shall be determined on submission to the National Band Council of Australia.

### **4 On-Stage Championships**

- 4.1 The On-Stage Championships for each grade of brass and concert bands, including junior bands, shall consist only of a test selection and an own choice selection.
- 4.2 The maximum time limit for the own choice selection shall be 15 minutes.
- 4.3 The points for these items will be:
- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Test       | 200 points |
| Own Choice | 200 points |
- 4.4 All items shall be optional but a band cannot win the On-Stage Championships in a grade if it does not perform all items.
- 4.5 The band gaining the highest aggregate points shall be the On-Stage Champion Band. In the event of two (2) or more bands having identical highest aggregate points, the trophy or trophies shall be awarded to the band gaining the highest number of points in the test selection.

### **5 Music Requirements**

- 5.1 The National Music Consultative Committee (NMCC) shall select the test pieces for the 2022 Nationals. The test pieces must be selected by 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year preceding the Nationals.

- 5.2 Each competitor is responsible for the selection of all other music (i.e. own choice music) they will perform. However, the music selections must comply with all requirements specified in these regulations, and be approved by the NMCC.
- 5.3 Each band shall forward to the Contest Supervisor by the date specified in the contest schedule, which should be not less than forty-two (42) days prior to the commencing date of the Nationals, all scores of own choice music to be played at the Nationals.
- Copies of music intended for the Adjudicator's use shall not bear any name, sign or mark which may indicate the band or individual to which it belongs.
- Photocopies of original music made for the purposes of providing an Adjudicator's copy for the Nationals shall be submitted in accordance with OneMusic Australia requirements.
- 5.4 At the Nationals, no band shall play any music with which that band has won any category at a contest in any country in the prior 24 months, unless that music is a set test piece.
- 5.5 Junior brass bands playing in their own grade and Open D Grade, or junior concert bands playing in their own grade and an open grade below B Grade, are permitted to play the same piece of music in both grades.
- 5.6 All competitors in the Nationals must comply with Commonwealth laws regarding copyright. The NBCA and the State Governing Bodies do not accept responsibility for any breaches by bands, soloists, or ensembles entering the Nationals.

## **C. Eligible Bands and Players**

### **6 Eligible Bands**

- 6.1 Bands eligible to compete in the Nationals shall be limited to:
- Australian bands affiliated with a State Governing Body for at least forty-two (42) days prior to the commencing date of the Nationals;
  - New Zealand brass bands who are affiliated with the Brass Band Association of New Zealand for the period of registration required by that governing body;
  - International bands that are affiliated with a national governing body for the period of registration required by that governing body; and
  - International bands that affiliate directly with the NBCA at least forty-two (42) days prior to the commencing date of the Nationals, in the absence of a national governing body in their home country.

- 6.2 The instrumentation of a brass band competing in the Nationals shall comprise brass and percussion instruments. Band members playing in open brass band grades shall not play trumpets and French horns, while members of bands playing in junior brass grades may play trumpets and French horns.

A brass band in the Nationals shall have a maximum of thirty-four (34) instrumentalists and a minimum of sixteen (16) instrumentalists, plus percussion as required. This regulation shall not apply to junior brass bands whose instrumentalists shall not exceed forty (40) plus percussion, when playing in junior grade.

- 6.3 A concert band in the Nationals shall have a maximum of seventy (70) instrumentalists and a minimum of twenty-four (24) instrumentalists, plus percussion as required. The instrumentation of a concert band including percussion instruments, shall be those indicated in the musical score as supplied to the Adjudicator except that:

- bass guitars and/or keyboards may be used to replace or supplement any bass line instrument on the score; and
- reasonable substitutions within the concert band instrumentation are allowed provided the musical integrity of the score is maintained.

- 6.4 Bands may change their personnel and instrumentation during the Nationals provided that the players and/or conductors meet the registration requirements stipulated in these regulations.

## **7 Eligible Players and Conductors**

- 7.1 Eligible players permitted to participate in the Nationals shall be limited to members of eligible bands as prescribed in section 6.
- 7.2 Each playing member and conductor must be registered with a State Governing Body or the NBCA for international entrants at least 42 (forty-two) days immediately prior to the commencing date of any Nationals.
- 7.3 Any player can nominate to play with one (1) band, and only one (1) band in each grade as defined in regulation 2.1, except,
- (i) A junior member can nominate as a playing member of more than one (1) junior band without being recognised as a permit player.
  - (ii) A permit under section 12 of these regulations is required in order for any player to play with a second or subsequent band in any open grade as defined in regulation 2.1.
- 7.4 Except for permits, a player can only nominate to play with a band which is registered with the same State Governing Body or national governing body with which the player is registered.
- 7.5 A person may nominate to conduct more than one (1) band at the Nationals.

- 7.6 Players wishing to compete in any of Junior A, B or C Grade Championships must be under nineteen (19) years old at the 1st of January in the year of the Nationals. This age restriction does not apply to conductors of any band wishing to enter a junior grade.
- 7.7 Transfers of players shall not be allowed between competing bands within 42 days of the commencing date of the Nationals unless otherwise authorised by the Contest Supervisor in consultation with the Contest Liaison Officer in light of valid extenuating circumstances.

## **D. Entering the Nationals, Grading and Registration**

### **8 Applying for Entry to the Nationals**

- 8.1 Any band that wishes to compete in the Nationals must complete the entry procedures developed in light of these regulations to demonstrate they meet the eligibility requirements including confirming that:
- (i) Players and conductors are eligible (as per section 7 of these regulations);
  - (ii) The band is either an eligible brass band or an eligible concert band (as per section 6 of these regulations);
  - (iii) The music to be performed meets contest requirements (as per section 5 of these regulations).
- 8.2 The Contest Committee shall provide entry forms for the Nationals that shall be completed and signed by the Secretary of a band competing in the Nationals.
- 8.3 Each band applying to compete in the Nationals shall forward to the Contest Supervisor not later than 21 days prior to the commencement date of those Nationals, a list with the names of the players and conductor(s) wishing to participate in the Nationals.
- 8.4 The Contest Supervisor shall forward to the Secretary or Registrar of the relevant State Governing Body or national association, a copy of the entries, including the lists of players and conductor(s), for each band competing from that State Governing Body or national association.
- 8.5 If the relevant State Governing Body or national association is not satisfied a proposed entry meets the player registration requirements (as per section 7), that association shall advise the proposed entrant and the Contest Supervisor not later than 14 days prior to the commencement date of the Nationals of any registration requirements that need to be addressed for the proposed entry to meet the registration requirements.
- 8.6 Any player or conductor whose name does not appear on the list submitted for scrutiny under regulations 8.3, 8.4 & 8.5 will be ineligible to compete in that Nationals except if they meet the specific exemptions provided in the following regulations, including permit players.



- 8.7 Entries for the Nationals shall only be accepted if they meet all requirements specified in these regulations, including, but not limited to band registration, player eligibility, music selection requirements and payment of entry fees.

## **9 Band Grading**

- 9.1 A band must nominate the grade in which it intends competing in the Nationals using the grades specified in regulation 3.2. The grading should appropriately reflect the standard of players that comprise the band, except as provided in regulation 9.4.
- 9.2 The National Music Consultative Committee will advise the Contest Supervisor on the grades proposed by each entrant to the Nationals. Overseas bands wishing to participate in the Nationals must submit evidence of musical standard if requested to the National Music Consultative Committee. This evidence must include a recording, not more than 12 months old, and enough additional information to allow the National Music Consultative Committee to determine a grading level for the band. The submission of evidence of musical standard will not be required of New Zealand brass bands.
- 9.3 All bands must compete in the grade as determined by the Contest Supervisor in light of the advice from the National Music Consultative Committee and in consultation with the Contest Liaison Officer.
- 9.4 Any band, brass or concert, open or junior, graded B, C, or D winning the aggregate of music items at any two (2) consecutive Nationals in the same grade shall not be permitted to contest the same grade or a lower grade in the third consecutive Nationals.

## **10 Confirmation of Registrations**

- 10.1 At the Nationals, the band secretary or other band representative must sign the contest registration form for their band immediately prior to taking their place on the stage for any competition to confirm all players and conductor(s) meet the registration requirements stipulated in these regulations.
- 10.2 The Contest Supervisor in conjunction with the Contest Liaison Officer shall ensure that the contest registration form for each band is correctly certified prior to the conclusion of that competition.
- 10.3 If a player or conductor is found to be ineligible, they and/or their band will be dealt with under the disciplinary provisions in section 14 of these regulations.
- 10.4 All player registration sheets are to be retained for reference by the NBCA for a period of 3 years.

## **11 Emergency Replacement Conductors**

- 11.1 If a nominated conductor becomes unavailable within forty-two (42) days of the commencing date of the Nationals, the band may apply to the Contest Supervisor for permission to use an alternative conductor. Permission may be granted by the Contest Supervisor in consultation with the Contest Liaison Officer.

## **12 Permit Players**

- 12.1 Applications for permit players at the Nationals shall be made in writing, on the appropriate permit form, to the Contest Supervisor not later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the commencement date of the Nationals. A permit player must be registered with a State Governing Body or equivalent international association. Additionally, a permit player may play any instrument.
- 12.2 The maximum number of permits for instrumentalists to any brass band shall be two (2) and to any concert band shall be four (4). Bands shall be granted permits for percussion as required.
- 12.3 Emergency permits may be granted by the Contest Supervisor in consultation with the Contest Liaison Officer in the case of death or extreme emergency at any time after the close of registration and the nomination period and prior to or during the Nationals.
- 12.4 The emergency permit player must play the same instrument and band part as the player being replaced. The player being replaced must take no further part in the competition in any capacity.

## **E. Conduct and Disciplinary Matters**

### **13 Competitor Conduct**

- 13.1 All competitors shall behave with appropriate decorum throughout the Nationals to uphold the good reputation of community banding and to ensure the smooth running of the Nationals. Failure to uphold appropriate standards of behaviour will result in disciplinary action up to and including permanent disqualification of the band from competing in Nationals.
- 13.2 All bands, ensembles and soloists that have entered for a Nationals shall be deemed to have had notice of these regulations and, by their entry, to have accepted and be bound by all of these regulations.
- 13.3 All bands, ensembles and soloists entering the competition shall comply with all instructions from contest officials provided these instructions are consistent with these regulations.

- 13.4 Bands may be permitted to play, as a band, two short (maximum time of approximately 5 seconds) tuning notes or chords which may be played only before the start of a bands first item to be played on stage at each appearance on stage. These two chords will not be considered part of the bands adjudicated performance, however, any other sounds will be considered. Between the two chords or notes, the conductor may take a maximum of 1 minute to make minor tuning adjustments. No other signal by note, tap of conductor's baton or by any other means shall be allowed before, during or after any competition performance.
- 13.5 No competing band or member shall be allowed to practice or play in any building or grounds within hearing of the competition building or grounds while the competition is proceeding.
- 13.6 On no account shall any person other than the Contest Supervisor or a contest official approved by the Contest Supervisor, be allowed to communicate with Adjudicators whilst the competition is proceeding.
- 13.7 All competitors shall compete in full uniform or, if not possessed of a uniform, must wear distinguishing badges. Such uniforms or badges shall be worn while playing in all items but hats or caps may be removed provided the whole band does so.
- 13.8 No conductor shall be permitted to conduct a band at the Nationals unless they are wearing a band uniform or dress of a similar standard.

#### **14 Breaches of Regulations**

- 14.1 Any alleged breach of regulations involving failure to comply with the instructions of a contest official or failure to uphold appropriate standards of behaviour or other misconduct by a competitor at the Nationals may be referred by a contest official to the Contest Supervisor or Contest Liaison Officer during the Nationals.
- 14.2 If the Contest Supervisor or Contest Liaison Officer is satisfied that further action is warranted, they will refer the matter as a formal protest to the Protest Committee as soon as practical under the provisions of section 15. The Protest Committee will not be bound by the restrictions imposed by regulations 15.5 and 15.6 in dealing with these protests, especially any alleged serious breaches of regulations that potentially threaten the safety and welfare of others or seriously compromise the running of the Nationals.
- 14.3 A band or member subject to a disqualification shall not be eligible to take part in any contest until the disqualification period is served.
- 14.4 Any band with a player who is, at the date of the Nationals, suspended or disqualified under these regulations or by a State Governing Body shall render itself liable to disqualification.

- 14.5 Any alleged breach of regulations involving failure to comply with the instructions of a contest official or failure to uphold appropriate standards of behaviour or other misconduct by a competitor at the Nationals but raised after the Nationals have concluded shall be dealt with by the NBCA.
- 14.6 A State Governing Body permitting a breach of these regulations or failing to enforce them at the Nationals shall be dealt with by the NBCA.

## **15 Protests and Appeals**

- 15.1 Subject to the further regulations in this section, formal protests may be made at the Nationals to the Protest Committee through the Contest Supervisor.
- 15.2 A protest can only be a claim that:
- (i) a competitor in an event is either not qualified to compete in that event, as a result of these regulations; or
  - (ii) a competitor in an event has breached one or more regulations.
- A protest relating to any other matter must not be considered by the Protest Committee.
- 15.3 A protest may be lodged against:
- (i) any competing band by the Contest Liaison Officer or Contest Supervisor; or
  - (ii) a band by the Conductor or Secretary of a band competing in the same section.
- 15.4 The person protesting shall state clearly the grounds for the protest.
- 15.5 A protest must be lodged with the Contest Liaison Officer or Contest Supervisor not later than 30 minutes after the results of the section have been announced.
- 15.6 Any band subject to a protest shall be allowed to compete, and any protest must not be considered by the Protest Committee until that band has completed their performance.
- 15.7 The Protest Committee shall consist of the Contest Supervisor, the Contest Liaison Officer, two (2) representatives of the NBCA and the Contest Administrator or their nominees.
- 15.8 The NBCA Executive Officer shall attend the Protest Committee to record proceedings.
- 15.9 The presiding officer of the Protest Committee shall be selected by the members of the Protest Committee.
- 15.10 Once a protest is lodged, the Protest Committee must be convened to deal with the matter as soon as is practicable. It is the responsibility of the Contest Liaison Officer to convene the Protest Committee and to make known its decisions.

- 15.11 When a protest is under consideration any member of the Protest Committee connected directly or indirectly with a band whose position in the prize list may be affected by the decision on such protest, shall temporarily cease to be a member of the Protest Committee and shall not be eligible to take any part in the proceedings relating to such protest nor to attend any meetings as a member of the Protest Committee while such protest is being considered.
- 15.12 When a band, ensemble or soloist has been disqualified, the prize or prizes gained by such band, ensemble or soloist shall be awarded to the next in order of merit. Any protest against a band, ensemble or soloist which, by virtue of such disqualification, comes into the prize list for the first time must be lodged with the Contest Administrator not later than 24 hours after the decision of the Protest Committee has been announced.
- 15.13 When the Protest Committee is considering a protest, those entitled to take part in the proceedings shall be
- (i) the party who lodged the protest;
  - (ii) two (2) representatives of a band, ensemble or soloist against whom a protest has been lodged; or
  - (iii) any other person required by the Protest Committee.
- Any such parties shall be entitled to produce oral or documentary evidence in support of their case.
- 15.14 In addition to the oral or documentary evidence supplied, the Protest Committee may inform itself about the matter in any way it considers necessary to fairly and efficiently deal with the protest.
- 15.15 The Protest Committee shall decide any protest and, should such protest be upheld, may impose on the band, ensemble or soloist against whom the protest was lodged, an appropriate penalty commensurate with the severity of the breach of regulations including imposing a reprimand, loss of competition points or disqualification from the Nationals for a specified period.
- 15.16 Should a trophy be awarded before the announcement of a protest decision which involves the imposition of a penalty that results in the loss of a trophy, the recipient must return that trophy to the Contest Supervisor.
- 15.17 A party to a protest may appeal to the NBCA against a decision of a Protest Committee. Any notice of appeal must be lodged in writing with the NBCA Executive Officer within 7 days of the conclusion of the Nationals. If no appeal is received, the decision is final.
- 15.18 All appeals should be dealt with by the NBCA at the earliest reasonable opportunity. Subject to the observance of the principles of natural justice, the NBCA may regulate its own proceedings.

- 15.19 The decision of the NBCA upon such appeal shall be final and conclusive. Upon hearing the appeal, the NBCA can quash, amend or substitute any penalty as it sees fit.
- 15.20 Any trophy awarded to a contestant in light of protests must be returned by that contestant to the NBCA Executive Officer if an appeal against a protest results in a change in the award of that trophy.

## **F. Organisational Matters**

### **16 Timing and Scheduling**

- 16.1 The Nationals are to be conducted using a schedule which has been prepared by the Contest Committee in consultation with the State Governing Bodies.

### **17 Certificates and Trophies**

- 17.1 The perpetual trophies allocated to events at the Nationals are listed in Appendix A.
- 17.2 The NBCA Executive Officer shall maintain a list of perpetual trophies and advise the affiliated State Governing Bodies of the due date by which the return of the trophies is required.
- 17.3 Each State Governing Body shall arrange for the trophies won by their affiliated bands to be forwarded to the Contest Committee no later than 21 days before the Nationals.
- 17.4 The Contest Committee shall advise the NBCA Executive Officer of the receipt and condition of the trophy and arrange for the trophy to be available for presentation at the Nationals. Any postage or transport costs associated with the return of a trophy or trophies shall be the sole responsibility of that State Governing Body.
- 17.5 A State Governing Body will incur a fine of \$100 for each trophy that is not forwarded from their affiliated bands to the Contest Committee by 21 days before the Nationals.

## Appendix A: Perpetual Trophies

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|   |  |
|---|--|
| A Grade Brass   | Fireman's Helmet   |
| B Grade Brass   | Silver Cup   |
| C Grade Brass   | Wooden Plaque Board  |
| D Grade Brass   | Wooden Obelisk   |
| Junior A Grade Brass  | Harold Walmsley Shield   |
| Junior B Grade Brass  | Musicians Union of Aust. (Nth Tas) Trophy<br>(cornet mounted on Block) |
| Junior C Grade Brass  | JD Marchingo Trophy (dark wooden shield)                               |
| Highest Overall Aggregate A Grade Brass<br>Band                   | Ian Mathers Trophy   |
| Highest Placed Australian A Grade Brass<br>Band                   | Gal John Trophy (new trophy each year)                                 |
| A Grade Concert   | Wooden Shield  |
| B Grade Concert   | Boosey and Hawkes Shield   |
| C Grade Concert   | Wooden Shield  |
| D Grade Concert   | Wooden Shield  |
| Junior A Grade Concert  | Silver Ice Bucket  |
| Junior B Grade Concert  | Northern Trophy House Shield   |
| Junior C Grade Concert  | Wooden Shield  |
| Open Champion of Champions Brass                                  | Musicians Union of Australia Silver<br>Cup/Merv Simpson Trophy         |
| Junior Champion of Champions Brass                                | Wooden Shield  |
| Open Champion of Champions Concert                                | Mike Butcher Shield  |
| Junior Champion of Champions Concert                              | Robert Bedwell Shield  |
| Best Drum Major   | Jim Brill Memorial Trophy  |
| Band with Highest Mark for Drill in the<br>Marching Championships | John Kelly OAM Trophy  |

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