

2025-26



# SOLO/ENSEMBLE MUSIC CONTEST

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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*In accordance with Section 1.450 of the IHSA Constitution, the Board of Directors has approved the Terms and Conditions governing the 2025-26 IHSA Music Solo /Ensemble Tournament Series.*

## I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

### A. CLASSES

Classification in the IHSA Music Solo and Ensemble contest will be determined according to IHSA Policy 17 (Classification System).

For the 2025- 26 school year the school classification will be as follows:

Class AA 1250.01 and over  
Class A 550.01 to 1250.00  
Class B 300.01 to 550.00  
Class C 200.01 to 300.00  
Class D up to 200.00

### B. PARTICIPATION

All soloists and ensembles representing member schools shall participate in the contest only in their respective school's classification, except the school may participate in the higher (not lower) classification with the permission of the Executive Director of the IHSA. The request to participate in a higher classification is available online at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org) and is due back to the IHSA office by Sept. 1.

## II. DATE AND SITES

### A. DATE

State Solo and Ensemble Contest will be held on the Saturday of week 35 of the IHSA Standardized Calendar (Saturday, March 7, 2026).

## B. SITES:

Contest sites will be posted on the IHSA website.

## III. ONLINE ENTRIES, LATE ENTRIES, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES, ELIGIBILITY, AND ENTRY INFORMATION

The Policy for Original Entry Deadlines, Late Entries, and Late Withdrawals shall be the policies and procedures regarding entry for all IHSA-sponsored sport/activities included in the 2025-26 Policies and Procedures.

### A. ONLINE ENTRIES

All member schools must enter their school into the state series competition through the IHSA Schools Center on the IHSA Website at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org). The deadline for entry is November 1, 2025. The 2025-26 Entry Policies and Procedures outlining the online entry procedures for all IHSA-sponsored tournaments can be found in the Schools Center on the IHSA website.

### B. LATE ENTRIES

Any attempt to enter a sport or activity online after the established deadlines will be denied. Schools that wish to enter after the deadline will be considered late. To be considered for late entry, the Principal/Official Representative must contact the IHSA administrative officer in charge of that sport or activity. The penalty for late entry shall be a payment of \$100.00 for that sport/activity by the school.

### C. ENTRY FEES DUE DATE

Your event fees should be made payable to the host school and mailed to the manager of the contest to which the school has been assigned no later than February 6, 2026.

### D. BREACH OF CONTRACT BY-LAW 6.041 (WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURE)

To withdraw without penalty, the principal must notify the IHSA Office, in writing, of the school's withdrawal, on or before January 1, 2026.

If a school withdraws after January 1, 2026, but prior to payment of event fees to the contest manager it will incur a \$100 penalty.

If a school withdraws after the List of Participants are due on February 6, 2026 or fails to send any entry information and/or fees to the contest manager and/or non-participation on contest day after the school submits the entry to the IHSA (and does not withdraw through the official procedures) it will incur a \$500 penalty.

Withdrawal after payment of event fees to the contest manager will result in a \$500 penalty and forfeiture of all fees paid.

## E. ELIGIBILITY

### 1. SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY

All member schools in good standing may enter soloists and/or ensembles in Music Solo/Ensemble under the provisions of IHSA By-law 4.071. The principal is the official representative of his/her school in all interscholastic activities, and the responsibility for seeing that all students from his/her school entered in Music contests are eligible under the rules shall rest with the principal. All correspondence with the IHSA Office must be conducted through the principal. Entry into the contests may be denied to any school which, since last year's contests, has participated in an unsanctioned interscholastic music activity.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

To represent a school in the statewide music contests, students must conform to the IHSA Activities By-laws found in the IHSA Handbook. Students shall be entered based on enrollment in a music course and/or the recommendation of the music director.

NOTE: Be sure to apply the provisions of By-law 4.022, relative to academic standing.

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### 3. ELIGIBILITY OF GRADE SCHOOL AND JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Any student of a grade school or a junior high school in the State of Illinois shall be eligible to participate with the instrumental and/or vocal ensemble representing a Class B, C or D member school, provided, however, that the principal of the competing member school shall be responsible for the good conduct of such grade and junior high school students during a contest; and provided further, that the principal of said member school shall certify that, at the time of registration for said participation, said student:

- a. Is a bona fide student of a grade school or a junior high school located in the district of the member school.
- b. Has a passing grade in at least three fourths (3/4) of his/her academic subjects.

NOTE: No grade school or junior high school student may compete as a soloist. Instrumental and vocal ensembles composed in part of grade or junior high school students may compete, if these students are members of their respective high school organizations.

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### 4. NON-STUDENT PARTICIPANTS:

Non-students may only be used as accompanists.  
See Art. VIII-A-5-d

### F. ENTRY INFORMATION (LIST OF PARTICIPANTS)

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#### 1. ONLINE ENTRY SYSTEM (LIST OF PARTICIPANTS)

**Schools are required to complete the Music Solo and Ensemble List of Participants online.** Go to [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org) – Click on “Schools & Officials Center login” – Enter your “User ID” (5 digits, a letter followed by 4 numbers) and the password issued to you by your school. Login information will be emailed to the directors designated in the Schools Center. Directors must have a valid email on file in the Schools Center to be issued a password. **PASSWORDS ARE NOW ASSIGNED TO EVERY DIRECTOR.** Click on “Music

Solo & Ensemble” List of Participants (This will then take you to the MusicWire program) and enter the information for participating ensembles.

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### 2. SCHOOL ENTRY DEADLINE

November 1, 2025

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### 3. EVENT ENTRY DEADLINE

The deadline for entering the “List of Participants” for Music Solo/Ensemble is February 6, 2026. See Art. III-C for entry fee deadlines.

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### 4. LIMITATION ON ENTRIES

#### SOLOS AND ENSEMBLE

A student shall not participate in more than a total of nine (9) solo and ensemble events combined, and not more than three (3) of these may be either band, strings or vocal.

A student shall not participate as a soloist in more than one event with the same instrument.

#### CHOIRS

An individual student may participate in any of the school’s choir entries. Choirs are not considered as ensembles in relation to individual entry limitations.

A school may enter six (6) instrumental choirs, one (1) handbell choir, one (1) string choir, and six (6) vocal choirs. A student could participate in each of these without violating entry limitations.

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### 5. SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitutions in the personnel of ensembles may be made only if the request for substitution is made to the local manager not later than the time the school registers on the day of the contest. Substitutions or changes for soloists may be made only if the request reaches the local manager at least two weeks prior to the contest. If a request is received later, it shall be denied.

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## 6. CHANGES IN ENTRIES

Changes in entries may only be accepted at the discretion of the contest manager.

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## 7. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

See Art. VIII-D

## IV. HOST FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

### A. CONTEST EVENT FEES

- Solo: \$10.00 per entry.
- Ensemble: \$15.00 per group
- Choirs: \$20.00 per group

Contest Event Fees shall be made payable to the host school and mailed to the manager of the contest. See Art. III-C for entry fee deadline.

### B. PENALTY FEES

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#### 1. LATE EVENT ENTRY FEES

Solo and Ensemble entries and event fees shall be submitted to the manager of the contest to which the school has been assigned no later than the event entry deadline of February 6, 2026. Information that is not complete may not be accepted (discretion of the manager). **Following the event entry deadline, changes in entries may be made only in accordance with Art. III-F-6.**

Late Event Entry Penalties:

Entries received after the contest entry period of February 6, 2026 will be assessed a \$5 per event late fee. Contest managers have the authority to waive these fees in extreme or exigent circumstances. Entries received more than 3 days after the February 6, 2026 deadline will only be entered at the discretion of the contest manager.

Late Event Entries Penalties shall be paid directly to the host school and mailed to the host school manager. Any individual solo or ensemble withdrawal(s) after the event fees have been paid to the contest manager will result in forfeiture of all fees paid.

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## 2. WITHDRAWAL FEES

To withdraw all entries from contest without penalty, the principal (official IHSA school representative) must notify the IHSA office in writing, on or before January 1, 2026.

To withdraw all entries from contest after January 1, 2026 and prior to payment of event fees to the contest manager's school, the principal (official IHSA school representative) must notify the IHSA office in writing and will be assessed the \$100.00 late withdrawal fee.

If a school withdraws after the List of Participants are due on February 6, 2026 or fails to send any entry information and/or fees to the contest manager and/or non-participation on contest day after the school submits the entry to the IHSA (and does not withdraw through the official procedures) it will incur a \$500 penalty. The school will be responsible for all penalty fees due to breach of contract. (Late school withdrawal fees and all event entry fees).

Withdrawal after payment of event fees to the contest manager will result in a \$500 penalty and forfeiture of all fees paid.

### C. JUDGES' FEES:

See Art. XI-E

## V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments for Music Solo/Ensemble can be found online at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org) in November. Assignments will be made on the basis of location and equality in the number of entries.

## VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES

### A. RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LOCAL MANAGER

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#### 1. DELEGATED MANAGER

The principal is the local manager: In all cases in which a member school is selected as a contest site, the principal of the high school shall automatically assume entire

responsibility for the details of the contest under the general directions of the Board of Directors and the Executive Director of the Association. The principal may delegate the authority to manage the contest to another staff member. In case the site is not located at a member school, then the IHSA Board of Directors shall appoint a local manager with like responsibilities.

2. MUSICWIRE REQUIREMENT

It is a requirement for a Music Solo & Ensemble manager to use the online MusicWire program to manage their site.

3 UNUSUAL SITUATIONS

The local manager shall have authority to take proper action in the case of any unusual situations arising during the contests. However, no part of these Terms and Conditions may be set aside.

4 PROGRAMS

The local manager shall arrange, prepare and duplicate a program and time schedule for his/her contest. Insofar as is possible, the manager will maintain this schedule. However, if because of cancellations, conflicts, or for other reasons the program runs ahead of itself, he/she may permit or request available contestants or groups to appear in advance of their program time. He/she shall not require them to appear earlier.

5. MANAGER’S INFORMATION

The IHSA Office will post any pertinent instructions and management information on the Music menu page at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org).

B. RESPONSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

The principal is the official representative of his/her school in all interscholastic activities and the responsibility for seeing that all students from his/her school entered in the Music Contests are eligible under the rules shall rest with him/her. All correspondence with the IHSA Office should be conducted through the principal.

In each contest in which his/her school is represented, the principal shall ensure an adult, preferably a member of the faculty, is present to supervise and be responsible for the conduct of the participants and other persons from the school. Failure to comply with this provision shall result in disqualification of its contestants.

VII. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

There is no advancement of winners in the Music Solo/Ensemble Contest

VIII. MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES

A. GENERAL RULES

1. ENTRIES

- a. A school may enter any number or combination of events.
- b. Local managers shall not accept, nor schools enter for appearance, adjudication or criticism, any solo or ensemble not found, or provided for, in the terms and conditions (Arts. VIII-B-1 & VIII-C-1). If an adjudicator encounters approved but inaccurate or misclassified entries, he/she is to proceed as indicated in Art. VIII-D-3.
- c. Directors are responsible for the accuracy of the information entered for each solo or ensemble. The local contest manager is not responsible for checking instrumentation to see that entries are properly classified

2. SWEEPSTAKES MAXIMUMS

The following maximums apply when counting for Sweepstakes points

Solos:	
Vocal Solos	35
String Solos	20
Wind and/or Perc. Solos	35
Ensembles:	
Vocal Ensembles	22
Instrumental Ensembles	22

Choirs:

Instrumental Choir	6
Bell Choir	1
String Choir	1
Vocal Choir	6

Schools who indicate they are competing for sweepstakes (when submitting entries) will gain points from the best scores from their maximum number of entries.

Entries in "Mixed" Ensembles must be counted as an entry under the category of any one of the instruments in the ensemble. Designation is at the director's discretion.

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### 3. SHEET MUSIC PROVIDED FOR ADJUDICATORS

- Each entry shall supply the judge with one score of their selection, with the measures numbered. Failure to supply such a score shall result in the contestant's rating being automatically lowered by one step.
- Unpublished works, including student compositions, are not allowed.
- Public domain or digital printed music is allowed provided the director lists the exact internet address for their score and provides proof of purchase (if applicable). A copy of the score is required and should be made available to the contest manager and judges.
- Photocopied music, other than previously mentioned, may be provided to judges only in an "emergency." "Emergency" shall be defined as cases in which music is out of print with no new score available and/or purchased music copies are backordered. Written evidence, in the form of a school purchase order and/or a written statement from the supplier, shall be required to document the "emergency." The penalty for violation shall be reduction of rating by one step.

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### 4. REPERTOIRE

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#### REQUIRED SELECTIONS

There are no repertoire requirements.

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### SUITABILITY OF SELECTIONS

The choice of appropriate selections, suited to the performers' capabilities and in keeping with the classification of the schools they represent, is always an important factor in the awarding of ratings. The solo/ensemble contest should be considered a formal recital. Selections with vulgar, foul and inappropriate language will be disqualified from the Music Contest. Solo/Ensemble events shall consist of a minimum of 64 published measures or a performance time of at least 90 seconds.

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### TRANSPOSITION

Music may be performed in a key other than that in which it is written, provided it is suitable to the contestant(s).

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### ROYALTIES

The Association assumes no responsibility for the payment of any royalties or other fees in connection with the performance of any music.

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### 5. ACCOMPANIMENT

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#### REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Entries need not be accompanied unless the accompaniment is required by the score. If a performance is accompanied, accompaniment must be by piano, harp or any other instrument designated for accompaniment in the score.
- Accompanists may help with on-stage tuning for solos and ensembles, but assistance by anyone else is prohibited.
- The name of the accompanist MUST be indicated when registering entries in the MusicWire system.
- It is strongly recommended that students be used as accompanists in all events for which accompaniment is provided. However, non-students, including directors, may serve as accompanists if necessary.
- Piano solos may not be accompanied.
- It is recommended that no accompanist be permitted to play for more than six events during any contest day and schools should permit this



maximum number only in cases where no one else is available.

- g. Recorded accompaniment shall be allowed provided the following conditions are met:
- The student(s) must use some type of sound system or Bluetooth speaker.
  - The student and director are responsible for audio setup.
  - Setup for the recorded accompaniment should not detract from the performance time limit.
  - Any violation of the above guidelines would result in a penalty and the event's ranking being lowered a division.

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## USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR ACCOMPANIMENT

- a. Accompaniments may not be recorded except as noted below.
- b. SmartMusic accompaniment system has been approved for use at IHSA contests. If you plan to enter SmartMusic events, please notify the contest host at least two weeks in advance. The school entering such events is responsible for supplying the necessary equipment for a quality performance using the SmartMusic system. It is recommended that the contest host set up a separate SmartMusic room if entries warrant.

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## 6. MEMORIZATION

- a. Instrumental Events
- i. There is no memorization requirement for instrumental entries.
- b. Vocal Events
- i. There is no memorization requirement for vocal entries.

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## 7. FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Vocal performances may be sung in any language.

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## 8. MEDALS

Students shall not appear for adjudication wearing medals or ribbons of any type. Contest room chairpersons are

instructed to request the removal of all medals or ribbons before performers are permitted to begin their numbers.

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## 9. REPETITION

No student shall perform a selection that he/she used in any event in any previous year's contest.

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## 10. PERFORMANCE TIME

The performance time for the prepared selection(s) shall not exceed **six minutes** (including time needed for on-stage tuning.) Time schedules should be set up at ten-minute intervals.. See Article VIII-D-1-d and VIII-D-2-j for penalty. Solo/Ensemble events shall consist of a minimum of **64 published measures** or a performance time of at least **90 seconds**. The performance of two short selections is allowed.

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## 11. ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY

The use of adaptive technology (including but not limited to metronomes, tuners, cell phone, and audio/video recording devices) is prohibited unless requested as a student specific adaptation using the IHSA Request for Accommodation form through the state office.

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## 12. DETERMINATION OF RATINGS

To determine the rating for each performance, contest judges shall utilize the approved IHSA adjudication form, and apply penalties as necessary.  
See Art. VIII-D

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## B. RULES FOR SOLO EVENTS

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### 1. APPROVED SOLO EVENTS

#### Woodwind

101	Piccolo
102	Flute
103	Alto Flute
104	Bass Flute
105	Oboe
106	English Horn
107	Bassoon
108	Eb Clarinet
109	Bb Clarinet



- 110 Alto Clarinet
- 111 Bass Clarinet
- 112 Contra Bass Clarinet
- 113 Bb Soprano Saxophone
- 114 Eb Alto Saxophone
- 115 Bb Tenor Saxophone
- 116 Eb Baritone Saxophone

#### Brass

- 201 Cornet, Trumpet, or Flugelhorn
- 202 French Horn
- 203 Trombone
- 204 Baritone/Euphonium
- 205 Tuba

#### Percussion

- 301 Xylophone
- 302 Marimba
- 303 Vibraphone
- 304 Bells (Glockenspiel)
- 305 Snare Drum
- 306 Timpani
- 307 Multiple Percussion

#### String

- 401 Piano
- 402 Violin
- 403 Viola
- 404 Violoncello
- 405 String Bass
- 406 Harp
- 407 Acoustic/Classical Guitar
- 408 Other Strings

#### Vocal

- 501. Jazz & Musical Theatre
- 502. Arias and Art Songs
- 503. Contemporary and Commercial

### C. RULES FOR ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS

#### 1. APPROVED ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS

##### Instrumental Ensembles

- 601 Flute Ensemble
- 602 Clarinet Ensemble
- 603 Double Reed Ensemble
- 604 Saxophone Ensemble
- 605 Mixed Woodwind Ensemble (Any ensemble consisting of unlike woodwind-family instruments)
- 606 Mixed Wind/String Ensemble (Any ensemble consisting of woodwind, brass and string instruments)
- 607 Mixed Wind Ensemble (Any ensemble consisting of woodwind and brass instruments)

- 608 Trumpet Ensemble
- 609 French Horn Ensemble
- 610 Trombone Ensemble
- 611 Tuba/Baritone/Euphonium Ensemble
- 612 Mixed Brass Ensemble (Any ensemble consisting of unlike brass-family instruments)
- 613 Membrane Percussion Ensemble (Any ensemble using non-keyboard percussion instruments)
- 614 Keyboard Percussion Ensemble
- 615 Mixed Percussion Ensemble
- 616 String Ensemble (Any ensemble consisting of like or unlike string instruments)
- 617 Piano Duet (1 piano, 4 hands; literature must be written for duet)
- 618 Mixed Wind/Percussion Ensembles
- 619 Mixed String/Percussion Ensembles
- 620 Random Instrumentation (Any ensemble that could not be entered as another event. No improvisation will be permitted, unless indicated by the score)

#### Vocal Ensembles

- 651 Vocal Ensemble

#### Instrumental Choirs

- 701 Instrumental Choir
- 702 String Choir
- 703 Handbell Choir (6-20 students)

#### Vocal Choirs

- 751 Vocal Choir

### 2. NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN AN ENSEMBLE

- a. Ensembles shall consist of 2 to 8 students.
- b. Accompaniment for Duets and Trios
  - i. Ensembles consisting of two major performers, with or without piano accompaniment shall appear as Duets.
  - ii. Three players including piano or harp as an integral part of the score (rather than an accompaniment) shall appear in the proper Trio events, with the added permission that repertoire in these events may include double concertos with piano reduction.

### 3. NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN AN INSTRUMENTAL OR VOCAL CHOIR

- a. Instrumental Choirs shall consist of 9-20 students except where indicated in the event definitions above.
- b. Vocal Choirs shall consist of 9-20 students

### 4. INSTRUMENTATION RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY

- a. Bb trumpets, cornets and flugelhorns are considered like instruments.
- b. Mellophones, concert horns, altos, etc., are not approved for ensemble use.
- c. The bass drum is not considered a major membrane in ensembles.
- d. Marimbas (xylophones with resonators) of differing size or model are not considered as different instruments, despite either range or tessitura.
- e. Vibraphones are counted as differing or different from marimbas.
- f. All piano duet participants must be active members of one of the school's music groups.

### 5. INDEPENDENCE OF PARTS IN INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

All instrumental ensembles events must represent and demonstrate a clear independence of parts. Therefore, a duet must represent two-part music; a trio, three-part; and so on. Failure to perform such literature will result in the penalty described in Art. VIII-D-1-f.

### 6. DOUBLING AND SUBSTITUTIONS

- a. Doubling of parts is permitted in instrumental ensembles but may not exceed two players per part.
- b. Doubling of parts is permitted in vocal ensembles, but may not exceed four players per part with a maximum of eight performers.
- c. Doubling limitations do not apply to instrumental and vocal choirs.
- d. An ensemble's instrumentation must properly represent the intentions of the score. In brass and woodwind choirs, percussion may be used if it is an integral part of the score. Please notify the manager if percussion is required.
- e. Instrumental substitutions are not allowed. For example, a tenor sax may not substitute for a baritone/euphonium in a Brass Choir.

### 7. CONDUCTORS

Ensembles shall perform without a conductor. High school students are permitted to conduct any instrumental or vocal choir as well as keyboard percussion ensembles. The student conductor's technique will be considered in the evaluation of the performance. Student conductors are counted when determining the number of students in an entry.

## D. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

### 1. LOWERING OF RATING

For violations of the following rules and regulations, the adjudicator shall lower the rating of an individual or group by one step.

- a. Failure to submit required score to adjudicators. Individual parts do not constitute a score.
- b. Failure to supply each judge with a score for each selection with each measure numbered.
- c. Failure to perform with accompaniment in the event accompaniment is required by the score.
- d. Entries exceeding the time limit up to one minute or entries not satisfying the minimum time and/or measure requirements.
- e. Failure of an ensemble to represent independent parts for each performer

### 2. DISQUALIFICATION

For violation of the following rules and regulations, the penalty shall be disqualification:

- a. Violation of rules of eligibility (Art. III-E). Discovery of the participation of an ineligible student with an ensemble or organization shall result in the disqualification of the group with which he/she participated. Any additional penalty upon the school for violation of eligibility provisions shall be determined by the IHSA Board of Directors.
- b. Violation of substitution rule (Art. III-F-5).
- c. Violation of the rules limiting the number of events in which a student may participate (Art. III-F-4).
  - i. If a student participates in too many events, the school shall be disqualified in those events in which the student involved was not officially entered.
  - ii. If the student was entered in an excess number of events and this was not discovered by the local manager prior to the contest, the school

shall be disqualified in the last programmed event or events in which he/she illegally participated.

- d. A non-student performing for adjudication (excepting accompanists) (Art. III-E-4).
- e. Individuals or groups appearing in an event not listed as an approved event (Arts. VIII-B-1 and VIII-C-1).
- f. Soloists and ensemble members wearing medals or ribbons (Arts. VIII-A-8).
- g. Violation of rules governing repetition of selections (Arts. VIII-A-9).
- h. Violation of maximum or minimum personnel rules for ensembles (Art. VIII-C-2, 3).
- i. Ensemble performing under direction of adult or student (except Nos. 701-750 and 614) (Art. VIII-C-7).
- j. Entries exceeding the time limit by one minute or more. (Art. VIII-A-10).
- k. Entries with repertoire selection containing vulgar, foul and inappropriate language (Art. VIII-A-8-4).

### 3. ENTRY CLASSIFICATION ERRORS

For an incorrectly classified instrumental ensemble, other than within the scope of Art. VIII-D-2-e above:

- a. For cases of understandable confusion in instrumentation, not in eligibility, and for borderline cases, especially in genuine misinterpretation of the integrality of a concerned piano part, the adjudicator may adjudicate the group in reference to a corrected classification if the school has not already entered two in the corrected classification. Otherwise, the entry shall be disqualified.
- b. For cases of obviously willful violation in instrumentation, or in eligibility of instruments, or in an attempt to substitute a piano accompaniment for integral part, the penalty shall be disqualification; except that it shall not be done in immediate public embarrassment of the players.
- c. In all instances covered in a and b above, the adjudicator shall plainly indicate his/her action upon the adjudication blank and forward it directly to the local contest manager.

### 4. THE ROLE OF THE CONTEST MANAGER

Violations frequently can and should be prevented by the local contest manager. Entries made in violation of any rule should be refused by the manager, except that the local manager is relieved of any responsibility, real or inferred, for the correct classification

of instrumental ensembles-although he/she may at will check them as a feature of management and refuse violations. However, if an illegal entry is not discovered and acted upon by the manager and is then discovered by the adjudicator before or during the performance, the student or group shall be penalized as provided in 1, 2 and 3 above.

### 5. REPORTING AFTER CONTEST CLOSURE

If a violation which involves disqualification is discovered and reported after the close of contest, any awards won as the result of ratings in the disqualified events shall be surrendered to the IHSA.

## IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES

### A. DAMAGE TO PROPERTY OR EQUIPMENT

If contestants or people from any school entered in a state series are found guilty of carelessness or maliciously breaking, damaging or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host school, such school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in replacing or repairing such property or equipment.

### B. TOBACCO/LIQUID NICOTINE PRODUCTS

The use of tobacco or liquid nicotine products in any competition area, either during a practice or while a contest is in progress, or affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest by any coach, player, any other person connected with a team, or fan shall be prohibited. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, tobacco/liquid nicotine free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site.

### C. USE OF INHALERS

A student with asthma may possess and use his/her medication during an IHSA competition, while under the supervision of school personnel, provided the school meets the outlined procedures of self-administration in the Illinois School Code.

### D. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND IHSA STATE SERIES EVENTS

The possession, distribution, sale and or consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the site and on any affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other

school or event venue property, alcohol free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site. Violation of this policy by an event host will subject the host to a penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Such penalty may include but not necessarily be limited to prohibition against subsequent event hosting assignments. Violation of this policy by a non-hosting member school will subject the school to penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Patrons of any IHSA state series contest determined to be in violation of this policy will be removed from the premise, and law enforcement officials will be called as warranted. No ticket refunds will be granted in such cases.

## E. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEFT OR OTHER LOSSES

The IHSA will not be responsible for loss or theft of any personal property during the course of a contest. The Association's regular policy shall apply to loss or damage to school property.

## X. RATINGS AND AWARDS

### A. RATINGS

Ensembles and solos in the respective music events shall be rated in five divisions as follows:

Division I  
Division II  
Division III  
Division IV  
Division V

Judges may elect to use tenths of points in their ratings. Scores will not be rounded.

### B. SOLO AND ENSEMBLE AWARDS

Medals shall be awarded to soloists and members of ensembles (including student directors) receiving a Division I Rating in Sweepstakes and Non-sweepstakes events. Comments only events are not eligible for medals. These awards may be ordered through A & M Products by each school following the contest. They can be reached at 815-875-2667. The IHSA also provides second place medals for purchase through A & M Products. The deadline for ordering medals is June 15, 2026. There will be no charge for orders for Division I medals. Division II medals are \$2.15 each and payment must accompany Division II orders before the order will be processed. The order forms can be found in this rules book.

Medals shall also be available for purchase by students acting as accompanists for ensembles or instrumental choirs winning a Division I rating. Such medals may be purchased through A & M Products by the competing school of the student entitled to the award. The cost of medals is \$2.15 each. When ordering, please state "Accompanist Medals" and enclose payment. No medals are awarded for **"comments only" entries**.

### C. SWEEPSTAKES AWARD

1. Schools will gain sweepstakes points by the best scores from their maximum number of entries as defined above. Schools may still enter "comments only" for entries that do not wish to receive rankings. All "comments only" entries must be marked appropriately in *MusicWire*. Sweepstakes entries do not need to be designated prior to the contest date.
2. Winner, runner-up and third place sweepstakes awards will be distributed to the three (3) schools in each class throughout the state which earn the greatest number of points in solo, ensemble and organization competition. Medallions will be available for purchase by each qualifying school and shipped directly from the manufacturer to the schools. Points will be assigned by each local manager for solo and ensemble performance ratings according to the following scale:
  - a. 6 points for each entry earning a Division I rating
  - b. 3 points for each entry earning a Division II rating
  - c. **No sweepstakes points are earned with "non-sweepstakes" or "comments only" entries**
3. After the conclusion of the contests, managers will report the point totals of all schools to the IHSA Office. The points will then be tallied according to classifications and team awards will be presented to the three schools in each class that received the highest scores. The awards will be shipped directly from the manufacturer to the schools. In case of ties, duplicate awards will be presented.
4. After the conclusion of the Solo and Ensemble contests, managers will report the point totals of all schools to the IHSA office. The points will then be tallied according to categories (band, choir, strings, etc.) and classifications. Team awards will be presented to the top three (3) schools in each category that received the highest scores. The awards will be available for purchase by each qualifying school and shipped directly from the

manufacturer to the schools. In case of ties, duplicate awards will be presented.

#### D. BEST OF DAY AWARD

Each judge will have the opportunity to select one (1) solo and one (1) ensemble from the competition room where they are adjudicating which they have determined to be the "best performance" of the day. NO SWEEPSTAKES POINTS WILL BE ADDED FOR THIS DESIGNATION. The IHSA Office will produce Certificates, which should be signed by the Judge and the Contest Manager and sent home with the students. Judges will be instructed by the Contest Manager of this award and should carefully consider its presentation. Each judge should present this Award to the Contest Manager at the conclusion of the day.

### XI. JUDGING

#### A. SELECTION OF JUDGES

All judges shall be required to complete the IHSA online registration and certification before adjudicating of contest(s). Local managers may select registered and certified judges for their contests from the list prepared and distributed by the IHSA Office. The local manager of each contest shall be responsible for the selection of suitable qualified judges. Judges shall be music educators experienced in the area(s) they are assigned to judge. Undergraduate students shall not be used as judges. Judges should be selected from as near the contest center as possible.

#### B. DUTIES OF JUDGES

All events shall be rated on the official adjudication blanks furnished by the State Association. Instructions to adjudicators, which are designed to express in a general way the attitude of the Board of Directors and its music advisors toward the adjudication of IHSA Music Contests, can be found on page 1 of this Rules Book. Judges are required to follow these instructions.

Judges shall base their adjudication upon the actual achievement of competitors as given in the instructions to adjudicators rather than upon any alleged desire to encourage to better effort or to express sympathy for an honorable attempt.

Contest adjudicators are not to consider their personal likes, dislikes or preferences of music literature in their evaluation of contest performances.

#### C. RESTRICTIONS ON DIVISION I RATINGS

Judges shall award Division I ratings to only those competitors manifesting the very highest level of achievement. Indiscriminate awarding of Division I ratings must be avoided.

#### D. NUMBER OF JUDGES

Performance in solo and ensemble events shall be rated by one judge.

#### E. JUDGES' FEES

Judges for the Solo/Ensemble contest shall be compensated at a rate of \$35 per hour plus IHSA mileage. Any judge who drives more than 70 miles round trip to the site of a State Final Music Contest shall be reimbursed a travel allowance of \$.45 per mile in excess of 70 miles round trip. Reimbursement shall be directly from the IHSA office, upon the judges' submission of a travel report form to be provided by the IHSA through the contest managers.