

Festival Improvement Committee Report

September 8th and 9th, 2006

Holiday Inn, Lansing

The following representatives were in attendance:

Rob Manning – District I,
Rich Brand, District II,
Erick Senkmajer, District III,
Al Johnston – District IV,
JoAnn Gross – District V,
Eric Olsen – District VI,
Rob Finn, District VII,
Melissa Marks – District VIII,
Leo Hazen – District XI,
Elizabeth Hering, District XII,
Jeff Groth – District XVI,
Jeff Bennett, District II President,
Ron Good, District X President,
Brian Shetterly, District XI President,
Stacie Detgen, State V.P. for Music Selection,
Kevin Culling, State V.P. for Solo and Ensemble Festivals,
Paul Lichau – Assistant to the Exec. Director,
Eric Joslin – FIC Chair

Please note all motions, passed and defeated, are included in this report. In addition, any additions to the language of existing policies, procedures or rules are underlined. Also every attempt has been made to reproduce the motions in the chronological order in which they were addressed in the meeting. Finally, since you may not yet have the new yearbook, I will be referring to locations within the 2005-06 green yearbook.

First, I need to thank Al Johnston for chairing the meeting on Friday night. His help is greatly appreciated and he ran a very productive meeting. I would also like to thank the state office staff and Paul Lichau in specific for all the help with the preparation for this committee meeting.

During Friday's meeting, the committee considered concerns from the districts covering Changes to sight reading, solo and ensemble site mechanics, forced participation in Band and Orchestra Festivals, adjudicator evaluation, appropriate cuts and modifications to solo literature, and defining "traditional doubling" in chamber ensembles. From these discussions some recommendations were made to district representatives and one motion was presented.

1) Moved by Rich Brand, seconded by Kevin Culling, that on pg. 20, Section E, rule #2, the second sentence be changed to read, "Not more than one soloist or ensemble should warm up at a time."

Motion Passed.

The next motion is the result of an omission noticed by VP of S&E, Kevin Culling. He suggested the addition of two scales to the proficiency requirements for the piccolo, bringing the number of scales up to match the number for the other wind instruments.

2) Moved by Al Johnston, seconded by Erick Senkmajer, that we add the following scales for Piccolo proficiencies to the yearbook and proficiency books,

Proficiency II – Db Major – 1 octave

Proficiency III – c# minor – 1 octave

Motion Passed.

The next motion was the result of discussion on an email from Carl Knipe regarding the S&E sheets.

3) Moved by Al Johnston, seconded by Jeff Bennett, that the term “accuracy” be added under the heading of General Technique to Solo and Ensemble and Proficiency adjudication sheets. The changes should be implemented as soon as current inventory of S&E sheets and Proficiency sheets is depleted.

Motion Passed.

The next motion aligns the published Band and Orchestra rules with the past, accepted practice regarding the purchase of extra time at B&O festivals.

4) Moved by Elizabeth Hering, seconded by Rich Brand, that the word “Performance” be added to Pg. 50, Fees, item #3 to read “Extra Performance Time.”

Motion Failed.

The next motion grew from a past discussion on the changing nature of Special Education practices in our schools and the MSBOA policy of omitting special education students from enrollment figures used in calculating classification.

5) Moved by Elizabeth Hering, seconded by Erick Senkmajer, that item #3 of Enrollment on page 51 be deleted and replaced with, “Full time Special Education students are not counted in enrollment.”

Motion Failed.

The next two motions, very similar in nature and wording, are the result of a motion by Jeff Bennett directing the FIC to revisit the Open Classification Proposal originally authored by Cliff Chapman and his committee.

6) Moved by Al Johnston, seconded by Erick Senkmajer, that all districts be granted the discretion to implement open classification systems in District B&O festivals for a period of two years. Ensembles that choose open classification designation will not qualify for state festival participation.

Motion Failed.

7) Moved by Al Johnston, seconded by Erick Senkmajer, that all districts be granted the discretion to implement open classification systems in District B&O festivals for a period of two years. Ensembles that choose open classification designation at a lower level than their current MSBOA classification will not qualify for state festival participation.

Motion Passed.

The previous motion that passed gives District B&O officers the freedom to implement a two-year trial run of Open Classification if the members of their district wish to do so. Districts do not have to participate in this trial. If a district chooses to join the two-year trial, member schools within that district may choose to enter festivals under the current festival entry rules and maintain their state festival qualification opportunity. At the end of this two-year trial, the FIC will be collecting data from the districts that took part in the trial and will use this information to 1) decide if open classification is palatable to the current membership, 2) address concerns of districts by revising the open classification proposal, 3) identify problems with an open classification festival and create solutions. If the analysis of the data shows statewide interest in open classification, FIC will continue work on an Open Classification proposal to present to the Executive Board.

Finally, the FIC created a Definitions Sub-committee with the purpose of creating a "glossary" of terms from the MSBOA yearbook. This document would be inserted into the current and future forms of the handbook to aid with the consistency of yearbook interpretation.

To assist with the creation of these terms, we will be requesting a list of most troublesome terms from current and past executive board members. This will assist the sub-committee in prioritizing their work.

Members of the committee are: Al Johnston, JoAnn Gross, Leo Hazen, Eric Olsen, Paul Lichau and myself.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Joslin
Chairman, Festival Improvements Committee