

# Festival Improvement Committee Report

## January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008

### MSBOA State Office, Okemos

The following representatives were in attendance:

Kyle Nester – District I,  
Rich Brand – District II,  
Jeff Ehardt – District III  
Al Johnston – District IV,  
Garrett Earnst – District V President for JoAnn Gross,  
Eric Olsen – District VI,  
Daniel Barnett – District VII,  
Sheri Powers – District VIII,  
Keith Westmoreland – District X,  
Albie Todd – District XI for Brian Shetterly,  
Elizabeth Hering – District XII,  
Willie J. McAllister – District XV,  
Elizabeth Zachary – District XVI  
Kevin Culling – State V.P. for Solo and Ensemble,  
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 addition to the language of existing policies, procedures or rules is underlined. Any words deleted from existing policies will be shown as ~~stricken~~. Every attempt has been made to reproduce the motions in the chronological order in which they occurred at the meeting. Finally, all motions reflect page numbers and sections as found in the current 07-08 MSBOA Yearbook.

At times, motions passed by this committee change the rules governing M.S.B.O.A. festivals. These motions are marked as such in the report. Approval and implementation of any proposed rules change follows a two-step process. First, the motions are presented to the executive board. Once reviewed by the Executive Board, they vote as to whether or not the motion should be supported and presented to the general membership. If supported by executive board, it is presented at either the Fall or Winter General Membership meeting. No vote is taken at these times; the motions are simply read to allow for member discussion and consideration. Per the MSBOA bylaws, the general membership votes on any rules changes at the Spring General Membership Meeting.

The Fall FIC report was presented at the Fall Executive Board meeting held in Mt. Pleasant in November. I was not present due to a playoff football game performance, so the Executive Board took no action on the motions from our Fall FIC meeting. These motions will be revisited at the Winter Executive Board Meeting in Grand Rapids and any action taken by the Executive Board on those motions will be presented at the General Membership Meeting at the MMC.

*The first motion looks to revise a motion made at our Fall FIC meeting. The previous motion suggested a change to the B&O rules to allow copied scores at festival when accompanied by a letter from a music publisher. The previous motion spoke of when a score is purchased which could be difficult to track. This motion represents a rules change.*

1) Moved by Al Johnston, seconded by Jeff Ehardt, that Item 6 from the Fall FIC meeting be amended as follows – Letters from a music distributor will be accepted if the letter verifies that the scores have been ~~purchased~~ ordered and are non-refundable.

**Motion Passed**

2.) The FIC feels that item 1 is a legal issue and as such we direct the Executive Board to obtain a legal opinion relating to Copyright Law and the accountability of MSBOA as a governing body to maintain policies that are in compliance with that law.

*The next motion seeks approval for the Open Classification Pilot Project Survey. The intent of the survey is to collect information from the participating districts. Non-Participating districts will have the opportunity to present their opinions and have them heard before any formal proposal is presented to the Executive Board. A copy of the survey is included with this report.*

3) Moved by Jeff Ehardt, seconded by Liz Zachary, to accept the Open Classification Pilot Project Survey.

**Motion Passed.**

*The next motion was a result of discussion on a recommendation from a member-at-large that FIC include a provision for Class D Band participation in the Open Classification Pilot Project. Any change would be implemented in the second year of the pilot project.*

4) Moved by Al Johnston, seconded by Elizabeth Zachary, that the Open Classification Pilot Project be revised to include the following provision – Class D ensembles may select their required piece from any MSBOA Band and Orchestra list the director feels is appropriate.

**Motion Failed**

*The next motion is serves to make the B&O rules governing visually impaired students consistent with S&E rules relating to the same impairments. This motion represents a rules change.*

5) Moved by Elizabeth Zachary, seconded by Jeff Ehardt, that the following be added to page 49, item #2 of the Sight-reading section after the first sentence – Sight-reading will be waived for all blind or visually impaired students as determined by their director.

**Motion Passed**

*The next two motions attempted to address the participation of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students in Solo and Ensemble festivals at both the high school and middle school/ junior high levels. This motion represents a rules change.*

6) Moved by Kevin Culling, seconded by Rich Brand, that the following be added to page 16, item #4 of the Eligibility Requirements section after the first sentence – Ninth Graders may only attend the middle school/ junior high S&E festival if they are enrolled in a middle school/ junior high school. They may not attend the middle school/ junior high festival if they are enrolled in a high school.

**Motion Failed**

7) Moved by Sheri Powers, that the following be added to page 16, item #4 of the Eligibility Requirements section after the first sentence – Students in 9<sup>th</sup> grade may attend Solo and Ensemble festival at either the Junior or Senior level at the discretion of the director.

**Motion Died for Lack of Support**

*The next motion grew from yet another question from a member-at-large on the chamber ensemble section of the Solo and Ensemble Festival Rules. It appears that these rules as written are confusing to members, especially the section on doubling and numbers on a part. We discussed the phrases “common practice” as compared to “academic practice” or “historical practice.” In addition there was discussion into the history of the addition of chamber ensembles into the festival and the definition of a chamber ensemble in the areas of winds/percussion and strings. The FIC looked to clarify these rules with this motion. This motion represents a rules change.*

6) Moved by Al Johnston, seconded by Jeff Ehardt, that the following be added to page 17, item #9 of the Eligibility Requirements in place of the second and third sentences – Chamber Ensembles may also double or use multiple players on a part at the discretion of the director, unless the composer/arranger specifies numbers of players to perform.

**Motion Failed**

<p>To clarify for all S&amp;E Vice Presidents of S&amp;E around the state, per the State V.P. of S&amp;E Kevin Culling, the official interpretation of the Chamber Music rules are as follows, Wind and Percussion Chamber ensembles may have up to two on a part. String Chamber ensembles may have up to three on a part. There does not have to be an equal number of players on all parts.</p>
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*Further items of discussion that did not result in any motions at this time included –*

- a. The class AA Orchestra list and its current listing format,*
- b. Guitar Solos at Solo and Ensemble Festival*
- c. Rating sheets and “predominance of grades” rule*
- d. Special Education Students as part of our festivals*

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Joslin  
Chairman, Festival Improvements Committee