

PEP BAND HANDBOOK

Band Director Meeting

On the first day that all directors are present, the host director and tournament director will convene a meeting to review tournament etiquette, protocol, and any potential issues that may arise during the tournament. During this meeting, keys will be assigned for instrument storage and school team rooms, the schedule will be reviewed, and last-minute equipment needs should be addressed. If not already determined, directors will arrange for the roster, performance time, and rehearsal schedule for the All-Star Pep Band.

Instrument Storage

Each host school is expected to provide adequate, secure storage for each visiting band. For security reasons, schools should not share spaces. Practice rooms are a good solution to this need. Any visiting band director with specific storage needs should share this information with the host director in advance of the tournament.

Rehearsal Space

As necessary and as appropriate, the host director should coordinate the provision of a rehearsal space for visiting pep bands and/or All-Star or Mass Pep Bands.

Team Room

Each band will have access to the team room designated for its school. In keeping with host school policy, this is the most appropriate place for band members to be when in the school and not in the gym. By permission of the student's director or chaperone, a student may leave the school site.

All-Star Pep Band

Prior to the tournament, each director is expected to submit a list of students for acceptance to the All-Star Pep Band. Different schools select this recognition differently, but it is common to select based on seniority or musicianship. The host director will compile the lists and design and order shirts as necessary. Shirts are to be paid for by the host school, and up to 60 may be needed. The All-Star Pep Band rehearsal schedule and performance time will be determined by the host director and tournament director and released to visiting band directors as soon as possible. Traditionally, this performance is held as the audience is being seated for the Cheer/Dance Exhibition if that is held in the same venue as the games.

Mass Pep Band

All band members attending the Region V Tournament are welcome in the Mass Pep Band. All band directors are expected to assist in directing the ensemble. The host director should provide sufficient copies of the music for all visiting students (copies of the music in PDF form may be acquired by contacting veteran teachers and are also available in the Region V Music Teachers shared Google Drive folder). The Mass Pep Band performance time will be determined by the host director and tournament director and released to visiting band directors as soon as possible. Traditionally, this performance is held during the warmups for a championship or crossover game.

Game Logistics

Each band will set up in a designated area as close to their cheerleaders as the space will permit. It is customary for bands to exit the gym during the fourth quarter in order to provide time and space for the next band to enter and prepare. Each band area should be provided with a minimum of two electrical

outlets. It is essential that the performance area be safe and spacious enough for a large number of musicians with their instruments.

Prior to the game, each band will alternate playing during team warmups. It is standard to keep songs to within two minutes, but directors are expected to communicate as professionals and colleagues and to make different arrangements as useful (longer songs, playing together, etc.).

The Star Spangled Banner will be played or sung at the beginning of each session. The school designated as the home team for that game will be responsible for coordinating this performance. Each school's fight song will be performed directly before the game begins, with the home team performing second.

Band directors and cheer coaches should be in communication about sharing quarters and halftime in order to minimize conflicts and misunderstandings.

Students and directors are encouraged to play with other bands, but to always seek permission prior to doing so.

Hearing Safety

It is common for modern pep bands to exceed 90 decibels of volume on a regular basis (permanent hearing damage at these levels may occur within as few as fifteen minutes). Appropriate hearing protection for directors and students is expected. Audience safety must be taken into consideration as well. If a location cannot be provided where a sound buffer exists between the band and the audience, it is appropriate for the bands to self-regulate in order to keep volumes in a safe range for the space (preferably under 90dB). Directors should keep each other accountable for band volume in a courteous, professional manner. When possible, the tournament director should make a decibel meter available.

Miscellaneous

If visiting directors know of any special needs in advance of the tournament, it is expected that they will communicate these needs with the host director as soon as possible. Needs may include extra electrical outlets, specific instruments, amplifiers, accommodation for students with limited mobility, etc.

Above all else, the collegial nature of the Region V Music Teachers is most important. Any of the foregoing notes in this document may be overridden by the agreement of band directors involved, in consultation with their Activities Directors, the host director, and/or the tournament director as appropriate.