

## The Evaluation Process

As many of you many of you know, even though the most important part of the marching band performance is to perform well and entertain audiences, at a field tournament we are also evaluated and rated by a panel of judges that will award us with a numeric score. Using this score, we are then placed in order amongst our peers and given a trophy for the effort. The purpose of this article is to give you some general information about the procedure and criteria used in the evaluation process use by the judges, and the assignment of points.

### WBA

This season the majority of tournaments we will be competing in are part of the Western Band Association (WBA) circuit. There are three major areas that make WBA different from the other circuits or associations in the state. They are;

- 1) Equal emphasis on General Effect and Music (see score dispersement below).
- 2) The individual scores of the percussion section and the color guard are factored into the total score (each account for 10% of the total score).
- 3) The use of 2 judges on the field in addition to 6 judges up in the press box (we call it the judges box).

The dispersement of the scores are as follows;

<u>Caption</u>	<u>Points</u>
General Effect	300
Musical Effect-150 pts.	
Visual Effect-150	
Music	300
Ensemble-150	
Individual-150 (judge on the field)	
Visual	200
Ensemble-100	
Individual-100 (judge on the field)	
Percussion Total	100
Color Guard Total	100
Subtotal	1000
Minus Penalties	0
<u>Divide by 10</u>	
Total Score	100

Each judge is responsible for one caption and will submit a score sheet indicating specific comments on the level of achievement (success) and areas that need improvement. Each judge also records a digital commentary that will give us a 'blow-by-blow' commentary on our performance in the form of verbal comments. These sheets and recordings are reviewed by the director and the instructional staff and played back or shown to the members where appropriate so they can increase their level of achievement at their next performance.

### Classification

We are placed in a class according to size of the total ensemble. The classes are;

A	Bands with membership no greater than 60
AA	Bands with membership no greater than 80
AAA	Bands with membership no greater than 100
AAAA	Bands with membership no greater than 140
AAAAA	Any number of members ( <i>this is our class-we have 178</i> )

(For more information you may go to

[http://www.westernbands.org/forms/pdf/2007adjudication\\_rules.pdf](http://www.westernbands.org/forms/pdf/2007adjudication_rules.pdf) and download the WBA Handbook).

### SCSBOA

At the Kennedy and Valencia tournaments, the judges belong to an association called SCSBOA (Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association). The score dispersement is as follows;

<u>Caption</u>	<u>Points</u>
Music	450
(two judges who's scores are averaged)	
General Effect	350
Visual	200
Color Guard Total (not included in score)	NA
<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>1000</u>
Minus Penalties	0
<u>Divide by 10</u>	<u>100</u>
Total Score	100

As with WBA, each judge is responsible for one caption and will submit a score sheet and a digital commentary. Some notable differences are that all judges are in the press box so are only able to evaluate what can be seen/heard from a distance, and although there will be a judge for color guard (who's score is only used for the Color guard caption award), there will be no adjudication for percussion.

### Classification

We are placed in a class according to the number of musicians (winds and percussion, guard is not counted for classification). The classes are;

A	1-40 members
AA	41-60
AAA	61-90
AAAA	91-120
AAAAA	121-150
AAAAAA	151-up

In next month's installment I will give you more specific criteria for evaluation in each caption compare our local associations to BOA. I hope this will help you understand the procedure of band adjudication.