

Dear Director,

Music for All is extremely honored to have your marching band participate in the **Bands of America West Texas Regional Championship, presented by Yamaha on October 14, 2017**. Bands of America programs are dedicated to providing the highest quality educational experiences possible for students and teachers across the nation. These programs emphasize the value of creativity, teamwork, and discipline in scholastic music settings, principles that our participants carry with them as they pursue their personal and professional goals.

At Music for All, we believe that every student in America should have access to high-quality educational experiences like these, but we know that barriers exist in several important communities. By investing in new initiatives to increase accessibility for urban schools, small and rural schools, and students with special needs, we are dedicating ourselves to the creation of a world where music truly is *for all*.

***PLEASE NOTE-**

The field will have one set of markings:

- NCAA markings 60' from the front and back sidelines and 40' apart (ticks and hash marks) in white paint.
- For groups who require traditional High School markings, additional tick marks only, can be placed on the field to divide it into equal thirds 53'4" from the front and back. ***PLEASE CONTACT THE MUSIC FOR ALL OFFICE NO LATER THAN MONDAY OCTOBER 9TH, 2017 TO REQUEST HIGH SCHOOL HASH MARKS***

EVENT COMMUNICATIONS AND IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

For your convenience, we have posted important documents on our website that will help you prepare and make the most of your experience at Midland. It is crucial to read through all documents provided.

The following important event documents can be accessed by following the link below.

<http://www.musicforall.org/resources/directors-lounge/midland-tx-final-packet>

- **Important Event Procedures**
- **Prelim Schedule**
- **Daily Schedule**
- **Driving Directions/Area Map**
- **Site Overview Map and Stadium Map**
- **Judge Bios**

Additional information relating to all Bands of America Fall Championship events can be accessed at:

<http://www.musicforall.org/resources/directors-lounge/important-reminders>

The Music for All website has information about the fall championships schedule of deadlines and links to required online forms. Forms include Regional, Super Regional and Grand National ticket order forms, parking pass request form, ticket pass policies, patch order forms, name badge and additional credential order form, event merchandise information, and more. Be sure to read these documents, as they will be important on the day of the event.

ADJUDICATION HANDBOOK UPDATE

Please be reminded of the following changes made to the Bands of America Adjudication Handbook for the 2017 season:

Official Procedures

- Any tie for an overall championship (Regional Champion, Super Regional Champion, Grand National Champion) will not be broken but rather be awarded to the two or more bands with a tie in their final score. (Section 3)
- Updated language: Scoresheet Explanations (Sections 7-12)
- Updated format: Adjudication Scoresheets and Criteria Reference (Appendix A)

ADULT CREDENTIALS:

Each Band will receive 25 field passes plus six name badges as part of their Participation Cooperative Fee.

UPDATED FOR 2017: A band may purchase up to 10 additional credentials. **All credentials must be purchased by the Tuesday before the event by credit card only.** The combination of additional name badges and field passes may not exceed 10. Of those 10, a maximum of four may be name badges. (Sections 6, 9, 14, 17 of the Handbook)

Cost of additional Name Badges per badge:

Regionals \$25 per badge

Super Regionals \$55 per badge

Grand Nationals \$75 per badge

Cost of additional Field Passes per pass:

Regionals \$15 per pass

Super Regionals \$25 per pass

Grand Nationals \$36 per pass

Previous update reminders:

- Adults that operate a soundboard may not “contribute directly to the music or visual program” (ex. triggering sound or light effects, voiceovers, etc.) (Section 21.05)
- Props made of “soft materials” (ex. streamers, fabric, inflatables) are permitted up to a height of 25 feet. Props made of “hard materials” (wood, metal, plastic, PVC pipe), must still follow the existing 12 foot maximum height rule. (Section 22.01)
- The list of items that are prohibited from use during performance has been updated to disallow off-road mechanized vehicles and drones, or similar aircraft items. (Sections 22.02 and 22.03)
- Updated language: Tempo-Specific samples and musical loops are not permitted during the performance. (Section: 15.16, 21.01)
- Bands will be allowed a reduced minimum performance time of six minutes. (Sections: 19.01, 19.05)
- Bands may only pre-set props and equipment in the designated staging area (end zone or front side) when directed by Bands of America officials. Enclosed venues (domes) may suggest a specific sequence of items in the flow. (Section: 22.04)

ADJUDICATION PROCEEDURES UPDATE:

Music for All is implementing a new digital adjudication system (CompetitionSuite) this fall. As such, you can anticipate additional communications between now and your first event regarding the new system implementation and how to access your bands information. We anticipate that the following process will remain similar to past events.

- Approximately 90 minutes after your prelims performance, you will receive a text message to your primary director phone number letting you know that your commentary files are beginning to upload for you to review. You can then open up the CompetitionSuite phone/tablet application, visit the CompetitionSuite website, or call the number from which you received the text message to listen to your commentary.
- All scores (both Prelims and Finals) and recaps will be held until the end of the finals awards ceremony. All scores and recaps will be available online via CompetitionSuite. No scores or recaps

will be released prior to the conclusion of the finals awards ceremony.

- Due to the online system, you will no longer need to meet a Music for All representative at field level to receive your sheets or recaps.

BUS/EQUIPMENT TRUCK PARKING PASSES

At the West Texas Regional Championship, bus/truck parking passes are complimentary. If you have not submitted a parking pass request, please complete the form immediately in order to receive your passes in time.

You will receive the number of parking passes indicated on your parking pass request form. These passes will be emailed no later than the Tuesday prior to each event. Passes are required to enter the bus/truck unload and parking lots at the Regional. Only ONE complimentary staff vehicle pass will be provided per band. All other personal vehicles will need to park in a spectator lot.

SPECTATOR PARKING

There is no charge for spectator parking at the West Texas Regional. Please advise your parents and boosters to arrive early and allow extra time to get to the stadium, especially during peak times. Refer to the Important Event Procedures document for further details.

COOPERATIVE TICKETS

Your cooperative tickets (20 day passes) will be mailed to you at least two weeks prior to the event. These tickets allow general admission to both prelims and finals. As there are no reserved seats at this venue, your cooperative tickets **cannot** be upgraded.

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Your Copyright Report and approvals are due on September 1, and must be received by Music for All prior to your performance. **If you have not submitted your Copyright Report and/or permissions to arrange, please do so immediately. You will not be allowed to take the field until ALL of your copyright paperwork has been received.**

CONNECT WITH BANDS OF AMERICA AND MUSIC FOR ALL ONLINE

Music for All will be posting photos, videos, and updates from each show this fall and we would love for you, your students, and your band's fans to join the conversation.

Encourage your band to follow Music for All and Bands of America on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat so they don't miss any of the action. Use #boa2017 all season long.

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/musicforallnetwork

www.facebook.com/bandsofamerica

Twitter:

www.twitter.com/musicforall

www.twitter.com/bandsfamerica

Instagram:

www.instagram.com/officialmusicforall

Snapchat:

www.snapchat.com/officialmfa

LIVE STREAM on FloMarching.com

All Bands of America Championships, including this one, will be Live Streamed. Music for All has partnered with FloMarching, a website dedicated to covering the world of competitive marching bands and the marching arts. If you have band parents, alumni, administrators, and supporters who cannot come to the event, the live stream offers a way they can watch all of the performances, for this and all 21 Bands of America Championships. Visit FloMarching.com to see the monthly and annual subscription options. Please share this opportunity and link with your band family. An annual FloMarching subscription provides access to year round coverage of Marching Arts including Bands of America, Drum Corps International, and Winter Guard International events, all for a single subscription.

VOLUNTEER

Music for All has a number of opportunities to get involved, stay involved, and give back to your community and your music programs. Show your support for Music for All in person by volunteering at our Grand National Championships held November 8-11 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN. Information about this opportunity will be available in October. For more information on this opportunity and other ways to get involved, visit musicforall.org/volunteer or email volunteer@musicforall.org.

MUSIC FOR ALL NATIONAL FESTIVAL

Opportunities to be part of the 2018 Music for All National Festival honor ensembles are still available. For more information please contact festival@musicforall.org. Applications are due October 1, 2017.

Dr. Scott Weiss, Director of Bands, University of South Carolina, will conduct the 2018 Honor Band of America. The Honor Orchestra of America will be conducted by Larry J. Livingston, Chair, Conducting Department, Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California. The Jazz Band of America will be conducted by Jeff Rupert, Director of the Jazz Studies, University of Central Florida, and Yamaha Performing Artist.

We hope to make your band's experience in Midland an enjoyable and memorable one. If you have any additional questions after reading through this packet, please do not hesitate to contact us during regular business hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EST at **800-848-2263**. Beginning at 5 p.m. EST on Friday, October 13, 2017 through the show on Saturday, please call the EVENT HOTLINE at **877-643-6043** to reach Music for All personnel on-site. We look forward to seeing you in just a few weeks. You will see our passion and mission come to life from the moment your buses arrive at Grande Communications Stadium.

Have a safe trip to Midland!

The Music for All Staff