

REGION 21 - UIL MARCHING CONTEST

Local Ground Rules

THE REGION 21 UIL MARCHING CONTEST WILL FOLLOW ALL APPLICABLE RULES IN THE CURRENT UIL CONSTITUTION AND CONTEST RULES [C&CR]; THE TEA & UIL SIDE by SIDE WHICH IS LINKED AT THE REGION UIL WEB-SITE; RULINGS AND INTERPRETATIONS FROM THE STATE UIL MUSIC OFFICE; AND POLICES APPROVED BY THE REGION 21 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

ENTRY: Entries are to be done through Texas Music Forms. Each entry should include whether or not your band intends to continue with Area Open track or Military track. Please follow instructions on the Region 21 web site to submit your entry. Prompt submission of documents (emailed) is also expected and include 1) Statement of Compliance, 2) Announcer's Script, 3) Video Release, 4) Certification of Eligibility (Form 1), and 5) Invoice Form 1A with Entry Fee check (brought or mailed).

VIDEO: Your entry fee includes a video of your band, so all bands will receive a video. Without proof the video release was submitted, you will not receive a video of your band's performance, nor will any recording fees be reimbursed.

REHEARSALS: Participating bands shall not rehearse at the contest site prior to the Region Contest. This does not apply to the host band, nor to scheduled contests or UIL football games.

CONTEST SCHEDULE: Each band will be assigned a performance time, which will be posted at www.uilregion21.org → Region Marching. The band director is responsible for their band arriving at the contest site on time. A band arriving at Contest late may have either reduced warm-up time, or be re-scheduled later in the day, at the discretion of the Contest Director. → New for 2026, for 2A bands only, schools that are the farthest distance from the contest site will not be scheduled at the beginning of the contest.

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT: Please, DO NOT use wireless equipment within the stadium complex during any band's 8-minute performance. The stadium complex includes the warm-up area, parking lots, stands, etc. Bands are allowed to check wireless devices ONLY during the 7-minute period that includes any band's 2-minute field exit and the ensuing 5-minute field entrance. This rule is in place to prevent crossover of frequencies that could be detrimental to the performing group on the field. Also, it must be understood that bands electing to use electronic equipment do so at their own risk. Directors should review the C&CR, Sections 1105: (h). *"Violations will be subject to penalties in accordance with Section 27 and Section 29."*

WEATHER DELAY/CANCELATION: Weather will be monitored with available technology and a lightning detector. The field and stands will be vacated by the Contest Director in case of severe weather. There could be a delay of 30 minutes or more, or the Contest could be postponed. The decision of the Contest Director is final.

WARM-UP: Rehearsing, playing instruments, cadences, & organized marching activities should be done only in the designated warm-up areas. Starting warm-up early is not allowed. The W/U time slot includes entering & exiting the warm-up area. Each BAND DIRECTOR, not the guide, is responsible for staying on time. The warm-up period will consist of either 30 or 45 minutes, depending on site logistics. Bands arriving late might have a shortened warm-up. Each band will be assigned a guide who will accept from the band director any required forms or payments that have not been received by the Contest Director. The guide will go with the band to the warm-up area as directed by the Contest Chairman. Bands must face opposite the stadium during the warm-up period. Voice/metronome amplification and percussion sounds must be kept at minimum, & whistles may not be used.

HOLD, READY, & STARTING POSITIONS: The guide will inform the band director when to move to the HOLD position as directed by the Contest Director. After arriving, the "Gatekeeper" will take over, and HOLD the band during the previous band's 8-minute performance. The HOLD area for keyboard percussion, front ensemble, sound equipment and props will be in an inconspicuous place and at a time designated by the Contest Director. The Gatekeeper will inform the band director when the group is to move to the READY position. During the previous band's two-minute field exit, the HOLDING band will move to the goal line (zero) and stop in the endzone. Keyboard percussion, front ensemble, sound equipment and props (if present) may move to the track even with 20-yard line and stop. Students, equipment, and props are not allowed on the 100-yard performance field while in READY position. When the Gatekeeper gives the signal to "GO," all units of the band may leave READY position and begin their 5-minute set-up/warm-up sequence to STARTING position.

CADENCE, WHISTLES, & COMMANDS: Cadence, whistles, and commands will not be allowed while moving to HOLD position nor READY position. These sounds are allowed ONLY during the 5-minute set-up/warm-up sequence moving from READY position to STARTING position.

OFFICIAL TIME: The Official Timekeeper will be in the Press Box, and the Official Time will be kept on the Scoreboard Clock.

- (a) The Timekeeper will start the scoreboard clock for the five (5) minute set-up/warm-up sequence at the Gatekeeper's signal or when the group steps into the performance area (zero to zero, sideline to sideline), whichever occurs first.
- (b) **Marching Announcement**
 - (1) The standard **UIL Marching Band Announcer Script** will be read with 0:45 remaining on the 5-minute set-up/warm-up sequence clock beginning with ***"THE NEXT BAND IN CONFERENCE...IS..."*** (The score-board clock will continue until 0:20). At **0:20**, the announcer will continue with ***"YOU MAY BEGIN YOUR PERFORMANCE FOR THE..."*** Bands should understand that their 8:00 contest timing will begin in twenty seconds at ***"YOU MAY BEGIN..."*** This script will be used at Region, Area, and State
 - (2) The final 0:20 seconds will be kept on a stopwatch while the 8:00 minute contest time is set-up on the scoreboard clock, then the 8-minute clock will begin. Judges will be instructed to begin evaluation when the scoreboard clock moves from 8:00 to 7:59.
- (c) *"Performance Time. Each competing band must occupy the football field for not less than five nor more than eight minutes. Any band which leaves the field in less than five minutes or fails to complete its performance in eight minutes shall be disqualified."* [C&CR, 1105: (h)]
- (d) The Scoreboard Clock will time the eight (8) minute sequence for the Contest Performance. At the end of each performance, the Timekeeper will record the official record of the exact time of the band's performance.
- (e) After the Performance, the Scoreboard clock will stop, and the band will have no more than *"...two minutes to exit the field and clear the marching surface of all equipment, instruments and props. The use of either instrumental or verbal cadence is optional. A band that fails to be clear of the field (outside the sidelines or end lines) or continues to use instrumental or verbal cadence at the end of the two minutes will be disqualified."* [C&CR, 1105:(h)(3)(F)]
- (f) The **standard post-show script** will be read during the two-minute field exit.
- (g) *"A band leaving equipment or instruments on the sideline in such a manner that these items impede the movement of the next band into the starting position is subject to penalty in accordance with Sub-chapter E."* [C&CR, 1105: (h)(3)(G)]

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE: Bands will vacate the field as directed by their guide. Bands will either be seated as directed by their guide or return to their buses [If the press-box stands become full, bands may be seated on the visitor's side]. Please do not have your band stay on the track or fall-in a formation on the sidewalks after marching. Bands will be expected to be respectful of other bands' performances. At least one director/adult-in-charge must be with the band at all times.

COLLEGE PERFORMANCE(S): The UIL Region 21 Executive Secretary will have final authority on invited college band performances, regardless of **where** the competition is held. Every effort will be made to accommodate all groups that express an interest in performing.

Additional information provided on the Region 21 Region Marching web page and by the Local Host will be included as a part of the Local Ground Rules and will be considered as an addendum to these instructions.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE LOCAL GROUND RULES MAY CAUSE THE PENALTIES STATED IN SECTION 1105:(h) OF THE CURRENT C&CR TO BE ASSESSED.

QUESTIONS CONCERNING REGION 21 UIL MARCHING CONTEST SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

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