

TENNESSEE BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION

Division III State Marching Band Championship Concept

Context:

While bands nationwide navigate various post-pandemic realities, Tennessee is ripe with talent and potential. Competitive marching events offer bands a valuable platform to showcase their skills, connect with other musicians, receive expert feedback, and measure their progress against peers. Competitive events can catalyze a vibrant and thriving band scene across the state, benefiting both individual bands and the band community as a whole.

Currently, schools with up to one thousand students are eligible to participate in existing Division I and Division II State Championships. Tennessee's larger high schools lack a dedicated, state-sanctioned championship to measure progress and drive excellence in the competitive marching arts.

Concept:

Creating a new TBA-sanctioned Division III State Championship modeled after the existing Division I and II State Marching Band Championships.

Structure:

- Seeking to improve the contest each year, participating band directors will have a voice and input to help govern rules, by-laws, and other assessment areas as changes to competitive marching arts continue to evolve.
- One-day prelims and finals: Open to all Tennessee schools of enrollments greater than 1,000, with approximately 30 bands in prelims and 10 advancing to finals.
- Late October/early November: Held at a university stadium in Middle Tennessee.
- First come, first served: Capacity may limit participation initially.
- TBA Adjudication sheets: Judged by a 6-judge panel (music, visual, effect).
- Potential expansion: Qualifying events in each Grand Division could be added in the future.

Benefits:

- Band Growth: Enhanced musical and visual training, student relationships, motivation, leadership, community engagement, pride, and historical connections.
- Teaching Acumen: Improved instruction, rehearsal planning, organization, parent partnerships, advocacy, leadership, and utilization of emerging technology.
- Parent and Community Support: Increased parent engagement, community awareness, band parent education, administration support, larger audiences, media coverage, and business relationships.

Investment:

Any funds generated could be reinvested in ongoing education for directors, students, and parents through an expanded TBA Summer Forum, including new tracks for students and parents. Additionally, funds could be used to support the Tennessee State Concert Festival and enhance the TBA Sweepstakes Awards and the Honors Recital.

Call to Action:

Join the conversation about the possibility of a new TBA event, the Division III Marching Band State Championship!