

June 2016 VBODA Marching Band Report-Grayson Fore and Martin Blount

As of June 14, 2016 we have 153 bands registered for VBODA Marching Band Assessment. Payment for assessment or a letter from your principal indicating payment will be made will need to occur by August 31, 2016 to maintain your position. Last year we had 163 total bands. Registration will remain open until August 31, 2016 without a late fee and until September 16, 2016 with a late fee. The site assignment list has been posted to the marching band event page on the website.

Each site will contain 22-24 bands maximum. We have registered 22 bands at each site and left 2 emergency spots at each site to deal with unusual circumstances such as new schools opening who were not in the VBODA data base at the time of registration, homecoming or director relocation.

We added a new regional site in Williamsburg based upon membership request and will host their event on Thursday, Oct 27, 2016 from 4-9 pm. Currently we have 17 bands registered for that location.

Patriot site filled up within 24 hours of registration opening.

Our middle weekend, Oct 29, continues to be the most popular weekend and has the largest number of registrations.

Having the online registration was extremely helpful in redirecting the bands. As a site reached capacity we removed that option from our registration process. This allowed directors to choose three options where their band could attend. Most directors followed the directions selecting multiple locations. Four registrations expressed concern on moving to on-line registration with one director saying they had no notice of registration process. We should encourage District Reps to ensure that their District emails are up to date to help avoid any problems in the future.

During the summer we will issue a mailing to any school who has not registered. We will release payment information and will be working with Mr. Turner to enable online payment, but we will also receive checks. We hope to open payment options mid-july. We plan to review current registrations and determine how many new bands have elected to attend assessment.

Judges contracts have been issued and we will update the list online of confirmed judges in the coming weeks. We have exhausted the judges list and used recommendations from the membership to help fill a few positions. Our goal is to have all adjudicators confirmed by Aug 1. We have begun to issue site coordinator and host coordinator contracts as well.

We also plan to make available a Best Practices VBODA Host guide to help ensure all sites are run in the same fashion. We are working on documentation for the duties of a host and of site coordinator. We hope to educate membership on both duties and believe that the role of the Site Coordinator is similar to a SOL Test Proctor. A guide to ensure that events stay on time, follow VBODA procedures and are held in safe environments.

Membership has raised questions about performance guidelines. Currently we have no published rules. Gordin Rawlins has proposed we issue the following statement for this year and I believe he has crafted this well. Please review/advise on us on how to proceed and if you endorse this course of action.

The Marching Band Performance Assessment Committee has been made aware of the need for specific performance regulations for the event. The committee will take this under advisement and discuss it at our next regularly scheduled meeting at the VMEA Professional Development Conference in November. For your planning purposes until then, please read through and consider Section 21 of the [BOA Rulebook](#) as a set of suggested guidelines. While these are only guidelines at this point, please remember that VBODA is a guest at each of our performing venues, and each venue may have its own set of regulations or prohibitions. These regulations will be communicated with the participating bands as they become known. The site hosts will have authority to prohibit any prop, effect, or procedure he or she deems unsafe or that fails to comply with site prohibitions. Band Directors should feel free to discuss any individual concerns regarding props or effects with their district's Marching Performance Assessment Committee Member or the Instrumental Representative.

As stated we will hold discussions in the November meeting and present guidelines for the review of the executive board.

Sincerely,

Grayson Fore