

HELPFUL INFO/SUGGESTIONS FOR ENJOYING (AND SURVIVING) BAND CONTESTS

GENERAL INFO

- **UIL CONTESTS:**

Area and State level competitions for Marching Band only occur every other year. Region level competition occurs every year.

The process is as follows:

- **Region** - The WHS Band will perform for a UIL rating for Region 20. (The goal is to obtain a "I" rating.) This contest is unique in that it is a one-time performance while other competitions are comprised of a preliminary round and a finals round. For this competition the band will perform for their UIL rating and then return back home.
- **Area** - On the "State" years all bands that receive a "I" rating at Region will advance to Area competition. Waxahachie is in Texas Music Region 20 and Area C. Area C is comprised of four regions for UIL 4A bands: Regions 3, 4, 20 and 21. All bands receiving a "I" rating at their Region competition in these four regions will come together at Area C contest to compete for a spot at the State 4A Marching contest. Generally, one out of every 5 bands at Area contest will advance to state. The more bands that advance to Area means more bands from that Area have the opportunity to advance to State. Unfortunately for Waxahachie, Area C has several East Texas bands that typically receive a "I" rating at their Region contest, but opt out of participating at the Area competition. With the low participation level in Area C there are generally only 2 spots open for advancement to State competition. Please refer to Area Scoring Procedures (<http://www.uiltexas.org/music/marching-band/marching-band-scoring-and-advancement-procedure>) for more details. Unlike Region contest, Area contest is a two part process with Prelims and Finals. Bands will draw for a prelim performance spot. The preference is to perform last and not first. The number of bands advancing to Finals is determined by the number of participants (see [Area Scoring Procedures](#) for more details.)

- **State** – State competition has a Prelims and a Finals section. The top 10 bands from Prelims section will advance to Finals

- **NON-UIL CONTESTS:**

- Each contest is different, depending on the rules outlined by the contest host. However, they are generally comprised of two rounds of competition: Preliminary and Finals. Bands are divided into several classes, based on the number of wind players in the band. It is not unusual to see Waxahachie classified as a 2A or 3A band in these non-UIL contests.
- During the preliminary round, bands will compete at two levels. Level One is for a spot in the Finals competition, Level Two is for awards in their Class. These awards vary between competitions, but they generally include the following: Best in Class, Best General Effect, Best Drum Majors, Best Percussion, Best Winds, Best Auxiliary (color guard), and Best Marching. The top 10 bands will advance to finals regardless of their classification. In Prelims bands compete with each other based on their size, in Finals they go head to head regardless of their size. It is not uncommon for Waxahachie to compete with 5A bands in Finals.
- The results from the preliminary and finals round are announced at the end of each round. (NOTE: Have a program and a pencil ready to write down scores and awards.) The performance time for the finals round is based on ranking going into finals. The higher the ranking the later the performance time. There is normally a break between the preliminaries and the finals providing adequate time for parents to get a quick dinner. Band students will be fed one main meal during the day by the Band Boosters. The timing of this meal depends on performance schedules. Students should take money for their second meal (if needed).

- **MONEY:**

- Items for sale at contests will include patches, t-shirts, and performance videos. Patches (for preliminary and final competitions) are designed for letter jackets, and the cost is around \$5-\$10.
- Concessions are available at all contests with a wide variety of foods. Prices are typical concession prices (HIGH).

STUDENT INFO

- The drop-off and pick-up procedures are basically the same as football games.
- Your WHS band student will be provided with a meal by the Band Boosters; however, extra money will be needed for concessions/snacks throughout the day.
- Students are not allowed to leave with parents following preliminaries and return for finals; they are required to stay with the Band throughout the competition, sitting together once their performance is completed.

JUST FOR PARENTS...

- Wear your show shirt since the WHS Band students will be wearing these with their bibbers. The green polo shirts are also a great way to be identified with the WHS Band.
- Bring pencil/pen and possibly notepad to keep notes on shows performed, etc. and to record results.
- To show your spirit... bring your "Go Hachie" roll banners (sold by the Band Boosters - if you need one they are available through WHS Band Office. Please make sure that your noisemakers are "MILD"...no air-horns, etc. since this can cause the band to be disqualified from the competition. PLEASE NOTE: **NO BALLOONS** since this can be another disqualifying factor, especially at UIL.
- Be sure to bring an umbrella (for sun and rain) and a small hand towel (for wet seats in case of rain).
- Most contests have concession stands, most stadiums will not let you bring in outside food.
- Most contests charge a one-time, per person entry fee, and attendees are given a "paper bracelet" for re-entry.

- Contest observers/fans normally sit on the home side of the stadium and are requested to enter and leave during the breaks between bands rather than during a performance.
- When you enter the stands, look for the Waxahachie crowd. It's easier for the students to find us as they enter the field, and of course, the cheering is louder!
- If your Band student has younger siblings, it might be helpful to bring coloring books, colors, etc. to help them enjoy the day as well.
- At some contests video photography is prohibited. Please be aware of the local contest rules. We don't want our band disqualified because the parents broke the rules. Where permitted the Band Boosters will record the performances and post them on the band website.
- **DON'T FORGET YOUR CAMERA FOR STILL PHOTOGRAPHY!** Parents are welcome to share any contest photos by posting them on the band shutterfly photo website (spiritofwaxahachie.shutterfly.com).