

**Minutes of the 2024-25
IHSA Music Advisory Committee
April 30, 2025**

The IHSA Music Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office at 10:00 a.m. on April 30, 2025. Committee members in attendance were IHSA Division 4 - Director Emily Bressler, Savanna (West Carroll) High School; IHSA Division 5 – Director Jennifer Mandel, Rantoul High School; IHSA Division 6 Director Raquel Reid, Petersburg (PORTA); and Ben Stewart from Music Wire was in attendance. IHSA Division 7 - Director Nick Williams, Murphysboro High School attended virtually. IHSA Division 1 - IHSA Division 2 - Principal Daniel Hill, Waukegan High School; and IHSA Division 3 - were unable to attend. Susie Knoblauch, IHSA Assistant Executive Director, conducted the meeting.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Item 1: Solo & Ensemble Section VIII. A. 2.

MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES SWEEPSTAKES MAXIMUMS

Recommendation:

The following maximums apply when counting for Sweepstakes points:

Solos:

Vocal Solos	35
String Solos	20
Wind and/or Perc. Solos	35

Ensembles:

Vocal Ensembles	22
<u>Instrumental Ensembles</u>	<u>22</u>
Brass Ensembles	6
Percussion Ensembles	9
String Ensembles	9
Woodwind Ensembles	9
Piano Duets	4

Rationale: By revising the Sweepstakes point maximums, the adjustment aligns with recent changes to the instrumental choir category and provides directors and students with increased flexibility in forming instrumental ensembles. It also encourages greater participation by expanding performance opportunities for students.

Item 2: Solo & Ensemble VIII. A. 2.

MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES SWEEPSTAKES MAXIMUMS

Recommendation:

The following maximums apply when counting for Sweepstakes points:

Choirs:

Flute Choir	1
Clarinet Choir	1
Woodwind Choir	1
Brass Choir	1
Percussion Choir	1
Instrumental Choir	6
Bell Choir	1
String Choir	1
Vocal Choir	6

Rationale: This update provides clarity and ensures consistency across all choir categories by aligning maximums with the intended structure of the Sweepstakes scoring system. By establishing the following maximums for choirs when calculating Sweepstakes points, we are better aligning the terms and conditions for clarification of intent.

Item 3: Solo & Ensemble VIII. C. 1.

**MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES C. RULES FOR ENSEMBLE
AND CHOIR EVENTS 1. APPROVED ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS
Instrumental Ensembles**

Recommendation:

~~619 Mixed Brass/Percussion Ensembles~~
619 Mixed String/Percussion

Rationale: Eliminates redundant categories and simplifies event organization and assists host managers in more effectively planning and scheduling of performances.

Item 4: Solo & Ensemble VIII. C. 1.

**MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES C. RULES FOR ENSEMBLE
AND CHOIR EVENTS 1. APPROVED ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS Vocal
Ensembles**

Recommendation:

651 Vocal Ensemble
~~651 Treble Ensemble~~
~~652 Bass Ensemble~~
~~653 Mixed Ensemble~~

Rationale: This update provides directors with greater autonomy and flexibility in organizing vocal ensemble entries, allowing them to better tailor groupings to their students' needs and strengths.

Item 5: Solo & Ensemble VIII. C. 6. A. b. c.

MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES C. RULES FOR ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS 6. DOUBLING AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Recommendation:

- a. Doubling of parts is permitted in instrumental ~~events~~ ensembles but may not exceed two players per part.
- b. Doubling of parts is permitted in vocal ~~events~~ ensembles but may not exceed four players per part with a maximum of eight performers.
- c. Doubling limitations do not apply to instrumental and vocal choirs.
- d. An ensemble's instrumentation must properly represent the intentions of the score. In brass and woodwind choirs, percussion may be used if it is an integral part of the score. Please notify the manager if percussion is required. ~~in events 701-704.~~
- e. Instrumental substitutions are not allowed. For example, a tenor sax may not substitute for a baritone/euphonium in a Brass Choir.

Rationale: This revision provides necessary clarification and consistency regarding part doubling and instrumentation in ensemble and choir events.

Item 6: Solo & Ensemble VIII. C. 7.

MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES C. RULES FOR ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS 7. CONDUCTORS

Recommendation:

7. CONDUCTORS Ensembles shall perform without a conductor. High school students are permitted to conduct any instrumental or vocal choir as well as ~~Instrumental choir events (nos. 701-750) and keyboard percussion ensembles. (no. 614) may be conducted by a high school student.~~ The student conductor's technique will be considered in the evaluation of the performance. Student conductors are counted when determining the number of students in an entry.

Rationale: This revision clarifies and expands the guidelines regarding the use of conductors in ensemble performances.

Item 7: Solo & Ensemble Editorial Revisions

VIII. MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES A. GENERAL RULES 2. (PAGE 7)

Entries in "Mixed" Ensembles must be counted as an entry under the category of any one of the instruments in the ensemble. ~~For example, event no. 607 must be entered either as a Brass or a Woodwind Ensemble.~~ Designation is at the director's discretion.

VIII. MUSIC SOLO/ENSEMBLE CONTEST RULES C. RULES FOR ENSEMBLES AND CHOIR EVENTS 1. APPROVED ENSEMBLE AND CHOIR EVENTS (PAGE 9)

606 **Mixed** Wind/String Ensemble (Any ensemble consisting of woodwind, brass, and string instruments)

ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEST

Item 8: ORGANIZATIONAL VIII. B. 3.

MUSIC ORGANIZATION CONTEST RULES B. Programs 3) Chorus

Recommendation:

3) Chorus: Each chorus shall perform selections with a minimum time of seven (7) minutes and a maximum time of twelve (12) minutes. No director or accompanist may sing with the chorus in the concert portion of the performance. All Class B, C, or D choruses (bass, treble and mixed), regardless of classification, must perform at least three-part music. ~~All Class A or AA treble or bass choruses must perform at least three-part music, while Class A or AA mixed choruses must perform at least four-part music.~~ All Class A or AA treble or bass choruses must perform at least three-part music; Class A mixed choruses must perform at least three-part music; Class AA mixed choruses must perform at least four-part music.

Rationale: This revision clarifies performance expectations for chorus classifications to ensure consistency and equity across all levels.

Item 9: ORGANIZATIONAL VIII. B. 4. b.

MUSIC ORGANIZATION CONTEST RULES B. Programs 4) Show Choirs/Jazz Choirs

Recommendation:

4) Show Choirs/Jazz Choirs: Special rules governing this event are:

b. **Show Choirs**/Jazz Choirs must meet a minimum performance time of seven (7) minutes and a maximum performance time of twelve (12) minutes. Jazz Choirs must include one “swing-style” (unequal division of the beat) selection in their program.

Rationale: This editorial change provides clearer expectations for both directors and adjudicators by establishing a defined performance time range to ensure consistency across show and jazz ensembles and allows for effective scheduling and equitable evaluation.

Item 10: ORGANIZATIONAL VIII. J. 2.
MUSIC ORGANIZATION CONTEST RULES J. ACCOMPANIMENT 2)
Accompanists

Recommendation:

Accompanists may only be used in Choral Entries. The pianist may be an adult, ~~For choral entries only the pianist~~ and all other instrumentalists may be adults if they are providing accompaniment designated by the score or implied by the genre. In all other cases, all instrumentalists must be eligible students. ~~Instrumentation must be called for in the score or implied by the genre.~~ Show Choir or Jazz Choir accompaniment may be provided by up to seven instrumentalists.

Rationale: This revision provides clear and consistent guidelines regarding the use of accompanists in choral entries, ensuring both educational integrity and artistic authenticity. This change enhances clarity for directors and adjudicators while maintaining the integrity of student participation.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The music contest managers meeting will be conduct in person at the IHSA office on Wednesday, October 29th 10 am – 2 pm. In addition to IHSA updates and a Music wire overview, members of the advisory committee and veteran host managers will share best practices.
2. It was recommended to approve Mike Madonia as the music contest state final manager to assist in the training and mentoring of new contest hosts and in the adjudication process.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Knoblauch reviewed this year's contests. Host sites were recognized and thanked.
2. Academic eligibility for IHSA music contest was reviewed.
3. The committee discussed the adjudicators test/rules & registration process. Music wire adjudication registration will streamline this format to link to the current terms and condition changes and rule updates.
4. The committee approved a recommendation from Justin Lee (Heritage High School) to help develop and deliver a first-time participating director's training. It will cover basics like list selection rules, and prepping entries. Some committee members offered to assist.
5. The committee discussed music director and official rep information on the IHSA school directory and in Music wire.
6. The committee discussed vocal solos and vocal ensembles, choir limitation and voicing requirement and doubling of parts.
7. Tourney wire request were reviewed. Drop down tabs will be added for directors to provide instrument information to assist managers in room planning and adjudication.
8. The committee discussed accompaniment.
9. The committee discussed microphones for organizational contest. The group agreed that by rule interpretation a group may bring their own mic. systems.
10. The committee discussed time limits and time limits for set up.

11. The committee discussed groups that perform undertime and agreed that should also constitute a lowering of ranking.
12. The committee discussed “Best of Day” awards and confirmed that students can be recognized per day, and ties would be permitted.
13. Knoblauch reviewed NFHS Music Courses and Awards: Heart of the Arts & Outstanding Music Educator.
14. Knoblauch acknowledged and thanked committee members for their service. Outgoing committee member Raquel Reid was recognized for her service and support of the IHSA.

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