

Indiana State School Music Association, Inc.

HIGHLIGHTS AND RULE CHANGES FOR 2025-2026

GENERAL

2025-2026 ISSMA Festivals Manual – The entire manual, including adjudication sheets, is available in the “Directors Only” area of the ISSMA Website. Recent changes have been highlighted in red. Hard copies of the manual will not be mailed to teachers. Access to the Directors Only area requires registration with an individual director login.

Fee Increases – Due to uncontrollable increases in costs, membership and entry fees for the 2025-2026 school year have been increased. **p. 95**

Calendar – The Calendar of Events and Deadlines for 2025-2026 can be found on the ISSMA website under the “RESOURCES” menu link.

MARCHING BAND

Classification – *Classification as determined from Grades 9-12 IDOE enrollment from previous year.* **p. 9, VII.E.2**

CATEGORY	ENROLLMENT	TOTAL PERFORMERS
Festival	unlimited	unlimited
Scholastic B	899 or fewer	55 or fewer
Scholastic A	900 or more	110 or fewer
Open D	550 or fewer	unlimited
Open C	551-899	unlimited
Open B	900-1799	unlimited
Open A	1800 or more	unlimited

Performance Order/Scheduling Requests – IHSAA Sanctioned Tournament Level Events (Sectional, Regional, Semi-state, State Finals) and Required Community Performances will be given consideration when possible. **p. 9, VII.F.4**

Sound Amplification/Lighting – A new ideology statement regarding the use of amplification and electronics at ISSMA Marching Band events has been included in the Music Festivals Manual and can also be found on the ISSMA Website under the Marching Band tab. **p. 11, VII.L**

Definition of Purpose – A new document describing the Philosophy & Definition of Purpose for Marching Band Classification & Events has been created and can be found on the ISSMA Website under the Marching Band tab. In addition, the Definition of Purpose for each event can be found on the following pages:

Festival Class - **p. 14 & 15, VII.Q.1**

Scholastic Class - **p. 15, VII.R.1.a**

Open Class - **p. 17, VII.S.1.a**

Scholastic Class Petition – *Any Scholastic Class Band that has grown beyond the allowable number of performers for its respective Scholastic Classification may petition to remain in that classification in the event of a director change or other extraordinary circumstances deemed critical to the band’s success. Such petition must be submitted to the ISSMA Executive Committee by August 1st.* **p. 16, VII.R.g**

Open Class State Finals Performance Order – The order of classes will be CBDA. **p. 18, VII.S.6.c**

(OVER)

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

Revised Piano Manual –The Piano Group I Required List Solo & Ensemble Manual has been revised and is available to view and/or download under the “Resources” link on the ISSMA website.

Percussion Solo Entries – *Percussion Students may enter and perform two different selections on two different instruments for Event 100 – Xylophone/Marimba/Vibraphone. p. 21, VIII.C.3.a*

JAZZ/SHOW CHOIR EVENT

Show Choir Classification – *A Large School shall be defined as 1525 students or more, and a Small School as 1524 students or fewer, based upon DOE enrollment statistics from 2024-2025 school year. p. 30, X.B.5*

State Show Choir Performance Order - *A maximum of 36 show choirs, 18 each from the Large and Small School Classifications will qualify for the State Show Choir Finals. Up to 9 Unvoiced and 9 Mixed Choirs from each class will be chosen for performance. Exception: If fewer than 9 Unvoiced or 9 Mixed Choirs in a class submit entries, the next highest scoring choirs entered from the other division (Unvoiced or Mixed) in the classification will be selected to fill the field of 18. p. 30, X.B.7*

CONCERT ORGANIZATION

Choral Organizations – *Mixed choirs must perform music written in both treble and bass clefs. Exception: Genre specific standard practices with prior approval from the ISSMA office. p. 33, XI.E.5.b*

Instrumental Sight-reading – *NOTE: When requesting additional parts, it is expected that students in each section would share 2 per part and would NOT have their own individual part. p. 36, XI.L.5.b & p. 42, XI.M.5.b*

Choral Sight-reading – *During the preparation of each exercise, students are permitted to sing and actualize rhythms, pitches, harmonies, and voice leadings. p. 37, XI.L.8.i & p. 43, XII.M.8.i*

Qualifications Warm-up Procedures: *The Warm-up Supervisor will indicate to the director when there is 5 minutes, 2 minutes, and 1 minute remaining in the time allotted for music warm-up, then will indicate the start of the 5-minute (instrumental) or 2 -minute (choral) exit period. p. 41, XII.L.2.c*

State Concert Organization Finals – Remove the following: Qualifying Schools will be notified by telephone if a representative is not in attendance at the draw. The ISSMA Executive Committee will be responsible for this process.

***Specific changes in rules have been printed in italics.**