

ISSMA IDEOLOGY STATEMENT REGARDING THE USE OF AMPLIFICATION AND ELECTRONIC SOUND ENHANCEMENT

The mission of the Indiana State School Music Association is, first and foremost, “to provide educationally evaluated music performance opportunities for students and teachers of school music ensembles from member schools in Indiana.” The primary focus and priority of these performance opportunities is on the educational and artistic experience for the performers, not on the competitive elements and results.

The policies and guidelines set forth by the ISSMA State Board, and presented in the ISSMA Festivals Manual, have been developed to ensure that all participants, educators, and member schools are aware of and compliant with the expectations needed to successfully fulfill the mission of these performance events.

Achievement of these educational goals takes a cooperative effort from everyone involved. ISSMA expects our adjudicators to be mindful of our mission statement and the philosophy behind it as they provide the best possible educational evaluations for all participants. Likewise, ISSMA encourages all directors and design/instructional staff members to prioritize the educational process, stay true to the core values of the ISSMA Mission Statement, and abide by all rules and guidelines through their professional and earnest behavior and actions.

The following are guidelines we believe all participating groups should follow regarding the use of amplification and/or electronic enhancement of sound during ISSMA Marching Band events:

- Soloists or featured small ensembles may use microphones/amplification during their featured section, but should be muted from amplification when not being featured.
- The use of microphones/amplification for percussion or other instruments in the front ensemble, or for live performance of spoken word, narration, or vocals is an acceptable practice.
- The use of microphones/amplification of individual performers/players during full ensemble sections to enhance or misrepresent the actual acoustic quality of what is being performed by the total ensemble is an unacceptable practice.
- ISSMA Adjudicators will be instructed to recognize and reward the acoustic qualities of the musical performance over electronically reinforced or amplified sound during extended sections of the performance.

Through the shared responsibility of self-regulation and adherence to these guidelines by everyone involved, it is the hope that ISSMA Marching events remain an exposition for displaying exceptional teaching, creativity, design, and performance, while avoiding the intentional use of artificial, non-acoustic means to create a misleading portrayal of the actual musical presentation.