

**ILLINOIS GRADE SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION**  
**Northern Division**  
**ORGANIZATION CONTESTS**  
**INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADJUDICATORS**

You have been invited to serve as an adjudicator for the Illinois Grade School Music Association, Northern Division. It is our hope that you will do all in your power to make the contest day a wholesome and worthwhile experience for our young musicians.

Below you will find listed some of the rules of our Association; also some suggestions and explanations to aid you. Please follow them carefully so that we may maintain consistent standards throughout all of our contest activities.

1. In the organization contests, three adjudicators are used. These adjudicators shall not consult with each other concerning final ratings to be given the organization.
2. Directors must furnish three scores of each selection to be performed. The measures shall be numbered.
3. A concert band, jazz band, or orchestra will not exceed 30 minutes in the warm-up area or performance area.
4. Choruses and Swing/Show Choirs will not exceed 20 minutes in the warm-up or performance areas.
5. Students shall not wear medals while performing.
6. At organization contests, directors may proceed through the three selections at their own prerogative. This will include bands, orchestras, choirs, swing/show choirs, and jazz bands. There need not be a pause or waiting period between numbers for adjudicators to write comments.
7. Adjudicators should be instructed at district and state organization contests to complete and turn in adjudication sheets for each group before hearing the next group; the purpose being to ensure judging against a standard rather than another group.
8. In the adjudication of organizations, all adjudicators' negative comments pertaining to the director, literature, and general procedure shall be given to the director on a separate enclosure. A prepared sheet will be furnished for this purpose.
9. No adjudicator shall hold the behavior of a Special Needs student against the performance of the whole ensemble/organization. In order for this consideration to be given, a written note of sufficient explanation shall be submitted the day of contest and attached to the copies of music for the adjudicators.
10. Keep the contest schedule running on time by writing as many of your comments as possible after the final number has been performed by the organization.
11. Concert Bands are to play a march and two selected numbers other than marches. Jazz Bands shall perform three selections, two of which shall be in contrasting styles (swing, ballad, rock, Latin, etc.). Orchestras will play three selections, one of which may be a string selection. Choruses will perform three memorized selections. All numbers will be judged.
12. All choruses, including swing/show choirs, will perform three memorized selections. All selections will be judged. It is recommended that swing/show choirs perform two selections of varying style.

Swing/show choir music must be at least two parts and may be three or four parts except for swing choirs composed of sixth grade and younger students who may perform in unison.

13. Choral organizations shall be classified by grade level and must have a minimum of 16 members. Fourth-ninth grade groups must sing at least two-part music with these exceptions: 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade groups must perform at least one selection in three or more parts; 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade groups may sing one unison selection. Voicing of the choir shall be indicated on the choral adjudication sheets as either treble, boys or mixed. The accompaniment is optional.
14. Swing/Show Choirs shall consist of a minimum of twelve (12) members.
15. Swing/Show Choirs may be accompanied by a combo consisting of adults and students. The combo shall not be judged or presented medals.
16. At the State Contest/Festival, directors shall have the option of three tape adjudicators or one tape adjudicator and two adjudicators writing comments.
17. The use of electronic equipment in the concert band or symphony orchestra is forbidden unless required in the score.
18. The use of electronically recorded accompaniment shall be prohibited in contest.
19. Rating the Organization: Although no specific rating will be given for band and orchestra instrumentation, any wide deviation from the norm should affect the rating to the extent that it affects the balance and general effect of the performance. All organizations shall be rated in three divisions: Division I, Division II, Division III. The final rating for all organizations shall be the majority of the adjudicators' final rating. Organizations receiving a I, II, and III will be rated Division II. The posting of organization ratings shall be uniform. Only the final Roman numeral rating shall be posted.
20. Photocopied music may be provided to adjudicators only in an "emergency." An emergency shall be defined as cases in which music is out of print with no new score available or when purchased music copies are backordered. Written evidence in the form of a school purchase order and/or a written statement from the supplier shall be required to document the "emergency." E-Print Music may be used but must be labeled or a receipt shown to indicate it is not a photocopy.
21. Distribution of Ratings: The Association does not specify any particular distribution of ratings. Some adjudicators gain the reputation of being too "rough," too severe; other adjudicators have the reputation of being "too soft," too generous. It would seem that the best adjudicators are those who have neither reputation. We ask you to use your very best judgment in the distribution of your ratings.
22. Organizations shall not be marked down for stage entrance or exit.

#### VIOLATIONS

For any violation of the rules and regulations, the adjudicator and/or designated contest official shall lower the rating of a group by one step. Violations of the contest rules of this Association, other than those listed, shall be presented to the President, whose duty it shall be to present the same to the members of the Executive Board for action.

Adjudicators must report to the local contest office before departure. We sincerely hope you will enjoy yourself and that the experience will be a worthwhile one for you.