

Changes to the Order of Play – Submitted by Suzan Karayel

Existing Text (Contest Rules)

7. Pipe Bands

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- 7.3. Order of Play: Each band taking part in a contest shall send a representative to draw for order of play. The drawing shall take place on the field not less than two hours before the contest. When a band is not represented at the draw, a member of the Executive Committee may carry out the draw for said band. The order of play will be decided by ballot and the time and order of play will be posted at the association headquarters. An official clock shall be on display to reflect the official time as well as to record the length of band medleys. These clocks shall be furnished by the WUSPBA, and maintained and supplied on loan by each branch. Any band refusing or failing to play according to the draw may be disqualified.

In case of emergency, contact the onsite WUSPBA Representative or a member of the WUSPBA Executive Committee.

Contest sponsors/organizers wishing to conduct a pre-draw prior to the contest day may do so providing that (1) prospective permission has been obtained by the Executive Committee, and (2) at least one WUSPBA representative (member of the Executive Committee, WUSPBA-appointed WUSPBA Representative, or official designee) will be in attendance when the Sponsor makes the pre-draw for order of play. Draws held without WUSPBA representation will not be valid. In such cases, a valid draw will be conducted the day of the contest.

At any games running different-graded contests in separate venues simultaneously, any bands from the same organization will be scheduled at least twenty (20) minutes apart. The WUSPBA representative doing the draw may move bands in either direction in order to accomplish this timing.

Once the official draw has been posted, whether established by draw or pre-draw, the order of play may not be changed until the day of the games. The following pre-requisites must be met: (1) all competing bands, the contest organizer, and the WUSPBA Representative have agreed to the change, and (2) all parties are notified of the change in order of play no less than one hour prior to the time of the affected contest.

Each competing pipe band required to perform as part of the obligation(s) to the game sponsor must be allotted a minimum of one (1) hour for preparation/tuning prior to it's scheduled individual competition time, and a minimum of ten (10) minutes between events running concurrently.

Proposed Text (Contest Rules)

7. Pipe Bands

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Once the official draw has been posted, whether established by draw or pre-draw, the order of play may not be changed ~~until the day of the games. The~~ **unless all of the** following pre-requisites ~~must be~~ **are** met: (1) ~~all competing bands,~~ the contest organizer, and the WUSPBA Representative, **and all bands whose time will be altered as a result of the change** have agreed to the change, and (2) all parties—**including all competing bands in the affected contest, whether their time has changed or not**—are notified of the change in order of play no less than one hour prior to the time of the affected contest. **In the case of a pre-draw that is changed prior to the day of the contest, the contest organizer must provide each competing band in the affected contest with a hard copy of the updated order of play on the day of the contest, no less than one hour prior to the time of the affected contest.**

Each competing pipe band required to perform as part of the obligation(s) to the game sponsor must be allotted a minimum of one (1) hour for preparation/tuning prior to it's scheduled individual competition time, and a minimum of ten (10) minutes between events running concurrently.

Rationale

There are two major changes contained in this proposal:

1. Only the bands affected by a change in the order of play must agree to the change, as opposed to all competing bands.
2. The order of play may be changed prior to the day of the contest, provided that all competing bands are given a hard copy of the updated order of play on the day of the contest.

First, there is no need for bands that are unaffected by a change in the order of play to have veto power over a change that does not affect them, if all affected bands have agreed to it. The rule as written contains an unwarranted obstacle that merely invites discord. This proposal removes that obstacle.

Second, while making changes to the order of play on the day of the contest may be feasible for smaller and medium-sized games, it is extremely difficult at larger games, especially where there may be multiple band contests running concurrently. Since the prohibition on changes prior to the day of the contest was originally intended to avoid confusion as to what the final order is, this proposal solves that problem by requiring that, if any changes are made prior to the day of the contest, the contest organizer must provide all of the bands in the contest with a hard copy of the updated order on the day of the contest.

Ultimately, this proposal will provide the same clarity as was achieved by the old rule, but it removes the requirement that the unaffected bands must actively agree to a change that does not affect them, and allows affected bands to solve their timing issues before they arrive at the games.