

# PROPOSAL TO CLARIFY CIRCLE, FINAL TUNING LOCATION AND CONTEST TIME/PLAYER RULES

Submitted by Kevin Conquest, Desert Branch President

## Existing Text

7.13. Competition Area Guideline: Whenever possible: 1) A competition area shall be marked off to the following specifications: Band Circle-26 feet diameter; Adjudicators Circle-46 feet diameter; Spectators Barrier-60 feet diameter. The starting line will be marked forty five (45) feet from the center of the concentric circles.

2) A final tuning area shall be clearly designated and located approximately on hundred fifty (150) feet away from the starting line. The final tuning area will be at least twenty-five (25) feet in diameter.

7.16 Band Representative Duties: A representative shall be held responsible for the prompt attendance of his or her band on the contest field. The first band to compete will be advised at the draw as to the time it must be at the starting point in the contest arena. Thereafter, it is the duty of each succeeding band to move forward as directed by the stewards. Bands that are not at the line at their designated time are subject to disqualification. The officials shall mark off final tuning areas in the closest possible proximity to the contest arena, and bands should move forward to these areas upon request. Stewards may be provided as an aid to bands, but they carry no responsibility for the attendance of any band in the playing area. The final responsibility rests with each band to be at the starting point as and when required, and any band failing to do so and not complying with the official instructions is subject to immediate disqualification.

## Proposed Text

7.13. Competition Area Guideline: Whenever possible: ~~1) A competition~~ the band contest area shall be ~~marked off~~ conform to the following specifications:

1) Circle and Start Line Configuration

- Band Circle = 26 feet diameter
- Adjudicators' Circle = 46 feet diameter
- Start Line = 45 feet from center of Band Circle
- Spectators should be kept a minimum of 60 feet from the bands using barriers or other mechanisms as the contest sponsor sees fit.

2) A final tuning area shall be clearly designated and located approximately 150 feet away from the starting line. The final tuning area shall be a minimum of 25 feet x 25 feet. In this area, the designated WUSPBA representative shall check the following WUSPBA rules:

- Tardiness/delays (per 7.16)
- Minimum player headcount

7.16 Band Representative Duties: A representative shall be held responsible for the prompt

attendance of his or her band on the contest field. ~~The first band to compete will be advised at the draw as to the time it must be at the starting point in the contest arena.~~

**All bands will be given their performance time in the contest draw. Appearance time at final tuning must be within five minutes of the competition time.** Thereafter, it is the duty of each succeeding band to move forward as directed by the stewards. Bands that are not at ~~the line at their designated time~~ final tuning within five minutes of their competition time are subject to disqualification. ~~The officials shall mark off final tuning areas in the closest possible proximity to the contest arena, and bands should move forward to these areas upon request.~~ Stewards may be provided as an aid to bands, but they carry no responsibility for the attendance of any band in the playing area. The final responsibility rests with each band to be at the starting point as and when required, and any band failing to do so and not complying with the official instructions is subject to immediate disqualification.

## Rationale

The spirit of this proposal is to improve both the flow of our pipe band competition days and improve some rules that are inconsistently monitored.

1. Most venues currently do not specify a final tuning area despite it currently being in the contest rules. A specified, controlled final tuning area is common in our peer associations. Having this improvement enforced will make life easier on competing bands and contest stewards. Instead of hunting for the next bands on the field, stewards can expect to see the traffic flow moving toward final tuning.
2. The disqualification rules have been the subject of controversy. In some cases, minimum player headcounts were not caught until after the band played. In other cases, bands have been late due to traffic jams in the band areas or other circumstances. The application of these rules at a specified final tuning area with padded timing makes these rules fairer.

Respectfully,  
Kevin Conquest  
Desert Branch President