

Emergency Bass Drummer Substitution – Submitted by **WUSPBA Executive Committee**

Existing Text (Contest Rules): None.

Proposed Text (Contest Rules):

## **7. Band Membership and Registration**

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### **7.2. Band Member Registration & Rosters:**

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**7.2.4. Emergency Bass Drummer Substitution:** If a band finds itself without their bass drummer within 15 days of a contest due to unforeseen circumstances , and have no other registered bass drummer available for the contest,,, any playing member on the current band roster may play bass drum at that contest. The substitute bass drummer cannot be registered as a bass drummer with any other band.

A band representative shall notify the Band Registrar and the Branch President where the contest will take place as soon as the band becomes aware that a substitution under this rule will be necessary. The substitute bass drummer will have “bass drummer” added as a secondary role on the roster effective immediately. A band representative shall also notify the designated WUSPBA Rep on the day of the contest, no later than one hour before the contest starts. The band representative will be expected to produce a roster validated by the Band Registrar more than 15 days prior to the contest, as well the updated validated roster provided by the Band Registrar as a result of the substitution, if one has been provided.

**7.2.5. Penalties:** ...

### Rationale

Many bands only have one individual registered as a bass drummer on their roster, because in most bands there is only one individual who regularly plays bass drum. Because a bass drummer is always required and a band often only has one bass drummer rostered, the short-notice absence of a bass drummer can have a much more substantial effect on a band than the absence of any other individual member, short of (or possibly including) the pipe major and lead drummer.

This change provides an emergency option for a band that finds itself without a bass drummer on short notice, so that even if they only had one bass drummer rostered, the band will not necessarily be forced to scratch the contest.

Note: Even with the potential addition of this option, it is generally advisable for bands to plan and designate at least one member as a back-up bass drummer on their roster, in addition to the band’s regular bass drummer. In the event of the primary bass drummer’s unavailability, it will be *easier* for the band if they already have another bass drummer rostered, rather than resorting to this emergency provision.