

Dual Musicians – Submitted by Suzan Karayel, Northern Branch President

Existing Text (Contest Rules):

7. Band Membership and Registration

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7.2. Band Member Registration & Rosters: ...

7.2.2. Eligibility: No person shall be allowed to play with a band in a contest who has not been a registered member of that band for fifteen (15) days immediately preceding the contest date. No person shall be on the roster of more than one band at any given time, except for the special provisions listed below

...

7.2.2.2. Dual Musicians: A musician may play one instrument (pipes, snare drum, tenor drum, bass drum) with one WUSPBA band, and a different instrument with another WUSPBA band of a different grade, provided it does not affect the order of play.

Proposed Text (Contest Rules):

7. Band Membership and Registration

...

7.2. Band Member Registration & Rosters: ...

7.2.2. Eligibility: No person shall be allowed to play with a band in a contest who has not been a registered member of that band **and with that instrument** for fifteen (15) days immediately preceding the contest date. No person shall be on the roster of more than one band at any given time, except for the special provisions listed below:

...

7.2.2.2. Dual Musicians: A musician may play one instrument (pipes, snare drum, tenor drum, bass drum) with one ~~WUSPBA~~ band, and a different instrument with another ~~WUSPBA~~ band of a different grade, provided ~~it does not affect the order of play~~ **the musician is appropriately registered with each band for the respective instrument.**

Rationale

A number of issues have come to light with regard to the Dual Musician rule this year. This change is meant to address those issues:

- 1) As it is currently written, the Dual Musician rule does not allow an individual who plays with a non-WUSPBA band to register and play with a WUSPBA band, even if that WUSPBA is in a different grade and the musician is playing a different instrument. As far as I can tell, this is the *only* WUSPBA Contest Rule that affords members of outside

pipe band associations fewer privileges than WUSPBA members. All of the other WUSPBA rules are written to put members of affiliated pipe band associations (especially ANAPBA-affiliated associations) on equal footing with WUSPBA members.

The fact that we do not necessarily know how this rule might interact with another association's rules should not be a limiting factor; WUSPBA Contest Rules govern WUSPBA bands and WUSPBA contests only. Any individual who wishes to compete in or join multiple associations bears the burden of navigating the rules of each of those associations in a harmonious way. For example, the WUSPBA instructor rule is not 100% identical to the instructor rules of all (or pretty much any) other pipe band associations. In fact, conforming the WUSPBA rule to the rules of all other associations would literally be impossible, since some iterations of the instructor rule are directly contradictory to others. Nonetheless, we have an instructor rule that allows WUSPBA bands competing in WUSPBA contests to register and utilize an instructor who is registered with another, higher-graded band, regardless of whether that higher-graded band is a WUSPBA band or not. It is incumbent on the individual registered and/or playing in multiple associations to ensure they are not violating the rules of any of those associations. A similar principle should be applied to the Dual Musician rule.

- 2) The rule as currently written states that a musician may “play” two instruments with two different bands. This language has proven to be somewhat ambiguous / confusing to some members. However, the rule does not make any sense unless the instrument someone “plays” in a band is reflected on the band's roster. (How do we know they're not actually playing the same instrument in both bands, if what they “play” doesn't have to conform to the records we keep?) The proposed rule change clarifies that the playing roles must be clearly specified when an individual is registered with each band, and that an individual's registration with a band is limited to the role(s) designated.

For anyone who may be concerned about this limitation and who has no intention of utilizing the Dual Musician rule: the broad designations of “Drummer” or “Piper/Drummer” will allow an individual the widest range of flexibility within their single band.

Lastly, the proviso prohibiting a change to the order of play is unnecessary. Rule 9.1 defines only a limited number of specific situations that are permitted to affect the order of play, and accommodation of a dual musician is not one of them.

Comparison Other Pipe Band Associations

At least four other ANAPBA associations have a dual musician rule. None of these four contain an internal association restriction, and three of the four explicitly state that the musician's respective roles must be clearly defined on each band's roster. This proposed rule change borrows some of the most common language from these other associations.

Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association: “5.2.5. Individuals recognized as playing multiple instruments (i.e. piper, snare drummer, tenor drummer or bass drummer) shall be

permitted to play one (1) instrument in one (1) band in a competition and another instrument in another band in another grade in a competition, provided the band member is registered with each band for the respective instrument.”

BC Pipers Association: “3.2.6 A band member registered as playing multiple instruments (i.e. piper, snare drummer, tenor drummer, bass drummer) shall be permitted to play these instruments in the band in competition. A band member shall be permitted to play one instrument in one band in a competition and another instrument in another band in another grade in a competition if the band member is registered with each band for the respective instrument.”

EUSPBA: “Dual Musician: A musician who plays more than one instrument (whether it be pipes, snare, tenor, or bass), may play one instrument with one band and a different instrument with one other band of a different grade, provided that he or she is registered with the Membership Coordinator on both bands’ rosters with the appropriate instrument.”

Midwest Pipe Band Association: “Players may play pipes in one registered band and drums in a registered band of a different grade and vice versa.”