WUSPBA Championship Rules – Submitted by Office of Strategic Planning for Games Organizers (OSPGO)

Existing Text (Contest Rules):

**Part II. Pipe Band Contest Rules**

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**8. Technical Requirements of the Competition Performance**

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8.7.7. ANAPBA Championship Rules: In cases where contest sponsors wish to adopt the ANAPBA championship rules for a contest held within WUSPBA jurisdiction and wish the contest to be sanctioned by WUSPBA, the Executive Committee must approve the request. The contest sponsor shall submit a formal request through the Sanctioning Secretary no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the requested contest. The Executive Committee shall return the results of the request to the contest sponsor no later than thirty (30) days prior to the contest.

Proposed Text (Contest Rules):

**Part II. Pipe Band Contest Rules**

…

**8. Technical Requirements of the Competition Performance**

…

~~8.7.7. ANAPBA Championship Rules: In cases where contest sponsors wish to adopt the ANAPBA championship rules for a contest held within WUSPBA jurisdiction and wish the contest to be sanctioned by WUSPBA, the Executive Committee must approve the request. The contest sponsor shall submit a formal request through the Sanctioning Secretary no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the requested contest. The Executive Committee shall return the results of the request to the contest sponsor no later than thirty (30) days prior to the contest.~~

8.7.7. WUSPBA Championship Rules: If the Contest Sponsor wishes to adopt the WUSPBA Championship Rules, the Executive Committee must approve the request. The Contest Sponsor shall submit a formal request through the Sanctioning Secretary no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the requested contest, and preferably at the time the sanctioning packet is first submitted. The Contest Sponsor may request to adopt the WUSPBA Championship Rules for all grades of band competition, or only for certain specified grades. The Executive Committee shall return the results of the request to the Contest Sponsor no later than thirty (30) days prior to the contest. If the request is approved, the contest shall follow the WUSPBA Championship Rules, found in Rule 11 below.

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**11. WUSPBA Championship Rules [new section]**

11.1. Applicability: These Championship Rules shall apply to any contest which has been approved by the Executive Committee pursuant to Rule 8.7.7 above. Except for the specific alterations contained in these Championship Rules, all other aspects of the standard WUSPBA Band Contest Rules shall apply.

11.2. Eligibility: To be eligible to utilize the WUSPBA Championship Rules, a Contest must, at minimum:

1. Hold both band events for every grade that will be subject to these Championship Rules.

2. Have sufficient judging personnel (see Rule 11.3).

3. Offer the following minimum prize money for the overall winners of each grade that will be subject to these Championship Rules:

|  | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Grade 1 | $1,500 | $1,200 | $1,000 | - | - | - |
| Grade 2 | $1,250 | $1,000 | $800 | - | - | - |
| Grade 3 | $1,000 | $800 | $650 | $500 | - | - |
| Grade 4 | $750 | $600 | $450 | $300 | $150 | $100 |
| Grade 5 | $500 | $400 | $300 | $200 | $100 | $50 |

Provided that the last place band in any grade shall not be entitled to prize money, unless only one band competes in the grade.

4. Publish the actual amounts of all prize monies for the band contest on the contest entry form or online entry page, as applicable.

5. Travel money is not required. But if it is offered, the contest entry form should also disclose that travel money is available.

In general, the Executive Committee will approve a maximum of one (1) contest to use the WUSPBA Championship Rules per grade, per branch, per year.

11.3. Determination of Band Championship Contest Results (in lieu of Rule 10.1): Judging for each event will be performed by a panel of four (4) piping judges, two (2) drumming judges, and two (2) ensemble judges. Each judge will award a rank to all bands entered into a single event; based upon their evaluation of the bands performance. No ties are allowed.

The Contest Organizer shall form a Tally Committee whose responsibilities will be the verification of judge’s rankings and tabulation of the contest results. The Tally Committee should not contain any members of a band that has taken part in the contest being tabulated. The Tally Committee should include the WUSPBA Contest Steward for the appropriate WUSPBA Branch, or their designated representative.

For each event, the Tally Committee will record the rank for each band, from each judge. The ranks of the four (4) piping judges, the two (2) drumming judges, and the two (2) ensemble judges will be added together to get the band’s judging total for the event. For each band, the judging totals from the two events will then be added together, to get the band’s aggregated judging total.

The overall band placement in the Championship contest will be determined by the lowest to highest aggregated judging totals.

In the case of a tie, preference will be given in the following order:

1. Lowest combined ensemble ranking (sum of all 4 ensemble rankings across both events).
2. Lowest judging total in the MSR (Grades 1-4) or Quick March Medley event (Grade 5).
3. Lowest ensemble ranking in the MSR (Grades 1-4) or Quick March Medley (Grade 5) (sum of the 2 ensemble rankings in that event only).
4. Conference of the judges.

11.4. Prizes and Season Aggregate Points: Prizes and season aggregate points will be awarded for the overall winners as determined by the Championship rule above. While the Contest Organizer may announce placings for each individual event if they wish, no prizes or season aggregate points will be awarded for the individual band events.

All season aggregate points awarded for the aggregated results of a Championship contest will be double that of a single, standard band event.

11.5. Participating Bands: All bands participating in a WUSPBA Championship contest must be in contention for said Championship. All bands must play both events in their grade. Challenging up (Rule 8.7.6) and playing for critique (Rule 8.7.5) are not permitted at Championship contests.

11.6. Championship Sanctioning Fees: Any Contest which the Executive Committee approves to use the WUSPBA Championship Rules shall be subject to an additional $100 championship sanctioning fee, per day. The championship sanctioning fee shall be in addition to the standard sanctioning fee provided in the Bylaws.

**[Subsequent section (Massed Bands, in Part III) and all subparts renumbered as rule 12]**

Rationale

The Contest Rules currently contain a provision for using the “ANAPBA Championship Rules,” subject to EC approval. However, the ANAPBA Championship Rules have long been a mystery. When they were finally unearthed, it was clear that they were only ever intended to be used at one specific contest, the scoring was overly complex, certain provisions were now significantly outdated, and there were a lot of provisions that would not apply (or that the Contest Organizer may not want to apply) if the rules were now used at a WUSPBA contest.

Rather than defer to using a completely different set of rules published by a different body and often not readily available for review, the addition of WUSPBA Championship Rules would be more transparent to the membership, competitors, and contest organizers alike. Crafting our own Championship Rules also allows us to take into account some more recent developments in other associations that have adopted their own versions of championship rules (particularly MWPBA), with great success.

These Championship Rules were crafted around the idea that a “Championship” contest should be a focal point that draws more bands than the average band contest. While contests of all sizes are important, bands should feel reasonably confident that they’re going to find a larger-than-average competition field at a “Championship” contest. The use of a double judging panel is one obvious draw. Increased prize money should draw more bands as well–MWPBA has found that offering larger amounts of prize money (and publicizing it) significantly increased the number of band entries at their contests, and they now include mandated minimum amounts of prize money for both their championship and standard contests.