

CR4 - Proposal to Amend Contest Rule 7.2.4, Registered Instructor Policy

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1. EXISTING TEXT

7.2.4 Registered Instructor Policy

Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5, and Juvenile bands may register, for the competition season, at most one (1) piping instructor and one (1) drumming instructor who are also registered with another, higher-graded band. An instructor is defined as an individual from a higher-graded band who provides piping/drumming instruction on an ongoing basis to the lower-graded band in which the instructor is registered, i.e., an instructor is a registered member who regularly attends that band's practices and provides instruction at those practices. The instructor(s) shall not be permitted to make up the minimum number of pipers or drummers required for competition. Instructors for Grade 2 bands may not act as the Pipe Major or lead drummer. A higher-grade band may have more than one piper or drummer who serves as instructors of Grade 2, 3, 4, 5, and Juvenile bands, provided, however, that no individual may serve as a playing member for multiple bands in the same grade. Instructor(s) must be clearly identified on each band's roster. Except to the extent it implicates Rule 9.2.2. for multi-grade band organizations, utilization of this rule does not affect the draw for the order of play.

2. PROPOSED TEXT

7.2.4 Registered Instructor Policy

Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, Grade 5, and Juvenile bands may register, for the competition season, at most one (1) piping instructor, **one (1) snare instructor, and one (1) midsection instructor** who are also registered with another, higher-graded band.

[All remaining language of Rule 7.2.4 remains unchanged.]

For purposes of this rule:

A piping instructor provides instruction to the pipe section.

A snare instructor provides instruction to the snare section.

A midsection instructor provides instruction to the tenor and/or bass sections.

3. RATIONALE

The purpose of this proposal is to recognize the distinct instructional disciplines within a pipe band drum corps and to encourage experienced musicians to continue contributing to the development of lower-graded bands.

The current rule permits one piping instructor and one drumming instructor. However, pipe band drumming includes distinct areas of specialization, particularly snare and midsection (tenor and bass). The knowledge and skills required to provide effective instruction to these sections are not necessarily interchangeable.

Under the current rule, a band that already has a registered drumming instructor cannot register an additional experienced drummer from a higher-graded band as an instructor, even when that person's primary area of expertise and contribution is a different section of the drum corps.

This can unintentionally limit opportunities for experienced musicians to contribute to developing bands.

I have personally experienced this situation. I have been a member of a Grade 4 band for more than a decade and recently began competing with a Grade 3 band. Because the Grade 4 band already has a registered drum instructor, I am unable to compete with the Grade 4 band under the current instructor limitation, despite wanting to continue playing with the band and helping develop the talent and skill of its drum corps.

My intention in proposing this change is not to create an individual exception, but to address a broader issue that can affect other bands and musicians.

Experienced players are an important resource for developing bands. Allowing appropriately qualified musicians to provide specialized instruction can help developing players improve their skills, retain experienced members within the pipe band community, and strengthen the overall quality of competition.

The proposed change would allow a lower-graded band to register:

- One piping instructor
- One snare instructor
- One midsection instructor

This recognizes the distinct instructional roles of piping, snare, and midsection while maintaining limits on the number of instructors a band may register.

The proposal does not change the existing requirements or restrictions applicable to registered instructors, including the requirement that instructors be identified on the band's roster and that instructors may not be used to satisfy the minimum number of players required for competition.

Intended Effect

The intent of this proposal is to provide lower-graded bands with access to specialized instruction while allowing experienced musicians to remain active contributors to the development of those bands.

It would also recognize the distinct roles of snare and midsection instruction rather than treating all drum instruction as a single discipline.

This change would benefit not only individual musicians but also developing bands and the broader pipe band community by encouraging experienced players to share their knowledge and remain involved in player development.