

CR7 - Proposal to Amend Contest Rule 7.2.4, Registered Instructor Policy - Percentage-Based Instructor Limit

Submitted by: Adam Blaine, Susie Shoemaker, James Duncan, and Alex Walker

Email: alex.walker@blandfordbands.org

Date: September 30, 2026

Summary: This proposal changes the instructor policy from one-per-corps to a percentage.

1) EXISTING TEXT

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 and one (1) drumming instructor~~ **any number of piping and drumming instructors** who are also registered with another, higher-graded band. **These instructor(s) shall comprise no more than 25% of each corps as played at any given contest.** 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.

3) RATIONALE

This change will allow more players more opportunities to play with higher grade bands while mitigating the risks of poaching, depleting numbers in local bands, and overrepresentation of higher grade players in lower grades. This change maintains a proportionate number of instructors across bands of all sizes and will benefit bands by allowing more higher grade band players to share their experience with lower grade bands.