



Varsity Performing Arts: Pep Band Division





Varsity Performing Arts: Our Judging Philosophy





Our Mission:

**Elevate the Student Experience
and Create Memorable
Experiences for Young People.**



// Guiding Principles



Our Values (S-P-I-R-I-T):

SERVICE

- We lead with heart. We champion community.

PASSION

- We love what we do. It fuels our purpose.

INTEGRITY

- We do what we promise. We own our actions and decisions.

RESPECT

- We earn it by giving it. Because everyone deserves it.

INNOVATION

- We never stop striving to be better. For ourselves and our community.

TRANSPARENCY

- We are committed to openness and honesty in everything we do.



// Judging Philosophy



- We celebrate schools!
 - We look at design elements and execution.
 - We seek to improve school culture and spirit.
- Competitions are equitable for all
 - Style is taken into consideration.
 - Consistency is important.
- Elevate the student experience.
 - Celebrate their successes.
 - Improve their product.
- Create memorable experiences for young people.





Format and Rule Changes

2026 – 2027 Competitive Year



// Detailed Rules and Regulations: [HERE](#)



Format and Rule Changes for the 2026/2027 Competitive Season

Competition Performance Surface

- Approximate floor size: 10 Panel, Marley markers on gym floor OR Marley floor at approved venues (53.5' X 53.5')
- The performance area is not standardized from venue to venue; however, the performance surface is.
- Staging, formations, choreography and crowd engaging elements are encouraged.



// Detailed Rules and Regulations: [HERE](#)



Format and Rule Changes for the 2026/2027 Competitive Season

Eligibility:

- Group must contain a majority (greater than 50%) of musicians
- All performers registered as band members must remain band members throughout the competitive weekend.

Uniform:

- All participants must cover their midriff when standing at attention.
- Jewelry as part of the costume is allowed; however, smart devices are not allowed in any performance or warm-up.



// Detailed Rules and Regulations: [HERE](#)



Format and Rule Changes for the 2026/2027 Competitive Season

Performance Routine Guidelines

- Approved props are: foam fingers, rally towels, signs, poms, batons, sunglasses, flags/flyovers and/or megaphones.
 - *Prop approvals or prop questions can be submitted to PerformingArts@varsity.com and must be received at least 2 weeks prior to your event.*
- Props may be safely placed, dropped, or discarded off the performance surface but not hit/banged on the floor anywhere within the performance area.
- Color guard/majorettes/auxiliary performers must use some form of equipment for the majority of their routine.



// Detailed Rules and Regulations: [HERE](#)



Format and Rule Changes for the 2026/2027 Competitive Season

Performance Routine Format

- General format stays the same:
- 30 second run on – 5 minute performance routine – 30 second run off
 - ***Bands should not play during their run on or run off***
 - ***Your 5 minutes starts at the first note of music or first choreographed movement***
- Pep Bands must play a minimum of 3 selections.
 - ***We are removing the need for a school themed selection***





Varsity Performing Arts: The Scoresheet



// Score Breakdown



50 total points total x2 = Score out of 100



// Caption Breakdown: SOUNDS



Sound quality (10 pts)

Key Elements

- Accuracy & consistency of intonation and pitch control
- Accuracy & consistency of balance and blend
- Characteristic & consistent tone quality and control at all dynamics and ranges

Notes

- We as judges should not walk in with a preconceived notion of “good” or “bad” tone quality.
- Accuracy and Consistency are key components to this sub-caption.



// Caption Breakdown: SOUNDS



Technique (10 pts)

Key questions

- Accuracy, clarity & consistency of starts and stops of notes
- Accuracy, clarity & consistency of articulations
- Accuracy & consistency of rhythm and tempo

Notes

- Accuracy, Consistency, AND CLARITY are key words to this sub-caption



// Caption Breakdown: SOUNDS



Musicianship (10 pts)

Key questions

- Maintains a consistent style selections
- Creative and appropriate use of artistry & nuance
- Appropriate use of dynamics & phrasing

Notes

- Consistency within a selection is important
- Dynamics should be utilized throughout the performance.
- Clear, purposeful, and consistent communication



// Score Breakdown



SOUNDS – 60%

Sound Quality

10

Technique

10

Musicianship

10

SIGHTS – 40%

Crowd
Engagement

10

Presentation

10



// Caption Breakdown: SIGHTS



Crowd Engagement (10 pts)

Key questions

- Consistent uniformity & synchronization
- Performers show genuine spirit & energy
- Consistent leadership to engage audience in routine

Notes

- HOW your presentation is performed



// Caption Breakdown: SIGHTS



Presentation (10 pts)

Key questions

- Creative use of all elements
- Elements are carefully planned
- Creative use of environment, staging & choreography

Notes

- WHAT you are asking of the performers



// Score Breakdown



SOUNDS – 60%

Sound Quality

10

Technique

10

Musicianship

10

SIGHTS – 40%

Crowd
Engagement

10

Presentation

10



// Performance Rubric



Execution by Team	Score Range	Description
Excellent	9-10	Minimal to no performer errors Minor to no timing/execution issues All performers executing at a high level Overall excellent technique/execution with minimal small issues
Above Average	8-9	Few performer errors Few timing/execution issues Most performers executing at a high level Overall very good technique/execution with a few issues throughout
Average	7-8	Several performer errors Several timing/execution issues Few performers executing at a high level Overall average or good technique/execution with several issues throughout
Below Average	6-7	Most things performed had errors Most timing/execution had issues Performers across the ensemble lacking in fundamental knowledge or skills Overall below average technique/execution with issues throughout
Needs Improvement	Up to 6	Widespread performer errors Widespread timing/execution errors Overall fair technique/execution with widespread issues throughout



2020

THANK YOU!



Contact us at performingarts@varsity.com