

SANCTIONING POLICY OF THE IHSMA  
(Effective June 30, 2016)

Recognizing that school music programs have a community commitment that extends beyond the confines of strictly school events, and, recognizing also that there are events that extend beyond the desire or intent of the Iowa High School Music Association to administer, the Executive Committee of the Iowa High School Music Association, acting under the authority granted in the constitution, sets forth the following regulations and recommendations for governing the participation of its member schools in competitive or evaluative events sponsored by agencies other than this Association during the academic year.

1. Member schools may participate in other competitive/evaluative music events provided they also participate in the IHSMA program in instances of same-day programs. This does not apply to bands wishing to compete in parade competitions on the same date as the IHSMA State Marching Band Festival.
2. Member schools, and students representing member schools, may not compete for cash prizes other than out-of-pocket expenses.
3. Competitions and evaluative festivals, in Iowa, will not be approved if classification guidelines do not comply with those established by the IHSMA. The only exception permitted is an open competition with all schools competing in the same class.
4. The eligibility regulations of the Iowa High School Music Association are in effect for any competitive or evaluative music event that is sponsored-approved by the Iowa High School Music Association. With the exception of the main keyboard player accompanying Show Choirs, Jazz Choirs, Concert Choirs, Solos and Small Ensembles, all participants must be eligible students, in good standing, and enrolled in grades 7-12 in their respective schools. In instances of early graduation, the student loses eligibility at the conclusion of the last scheduled day of attendance.
5. Programs must be open to all students, regardless of race, creed, sex or national origin.
6. Competitive or evaluative music events, originating in Iowa, must have the written approval of the IHSMA office.
7. Multiple-day events must make use of at least one day of the weekend.
8. Participation, by any member school, in out-of-state competitive or evaluative music events shall be the sole responsibility of the involved school district provided Regulation No. 1,2, and 4 of the above are abided.
9. Sanctioned events held on days where there is a conflict with a Unified Activities Federation Calendar event are required to cooperate with schools wanting to participate in both events. If a pattern of non-cooperation is established, sanctioning may be withheld from that event in the future.
10. Any contest or activity under the jurisdiction of the IHSMA sponsored by an outside agency which is on the approved list of the National Association of Secondary School Principals shall be considered automatically approved.
11. All performances occurring at any IHSMA-sanctioned event must be compliant with U.S. Copyright Law. Failure to ensure such compliance may result in the revocation of said sanction

It is further RECOMMENDED that:

1. Whenever possible, competitions or evaluative events should be held on non-school time (weekends, vacation, etc.)
2. Schools should emphasize a 125-mile of half-day limitation for events scheduled on a weekday and a 300-mile limitation for events scheduled on weekends.
3. Events sponsored by the non-educational agencies should be scrutinized with extreme care. Sponsoring agencies should submit, upon request, a financial accounting to demonstrate that they do not profit unreasonably from such sponsorship.
4. Activities scheduled on the Unified Iowa High School Activities Federation calendar should be given priority in relation to programs sponsored by outside agencies.