



Iowa High School Music Association

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PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR BANDS AT ATHLETIC CONTESTS

RECOMMENDATION 1: It is recommended that high school principals, athletic directors, and band directors select athletic contests at which they wish the band to perform during the year. The number of events should not exceed 16, excluding post season games. A limit of one performance in a week should be observed, with no performances during vacation periods.

RATIONALE: This would establish what we believe is a reasonable balance between pep band and the core of the band program. It would also lessen the possibility of exploitation of band students.

RECOMMENDATION 2: It is recommended that the decision for bands or pop bands to travel to postseason contests be determined in consultation between the principal and the band director.

RATIONAL: There are a number of factors to consider including weather, travel time, school time missed, parents; and students' wishes, expenses, the need for team support, and community pride.

RECOMMENDATION 3: It is recommended that pep bands perform at postseason football games, rather than the entire marching band.

RATIONAL: Poor weather conditions, student conflicts with performances, concern for uniform care, and excessive rehearsal time can diminish the community pride in those bands who have limited marching band budgets and rehearsal time.

RECOMMENDATION 4: It is recommended that band students should not be expected to perform past half-time of athletic events for which they perform.

RATIONALE: Bands generally are able to do the bulk of their performing only before and at half time of athletic events. Once the students in the band have completed their performing obligation, they should be free to choose whether or not to remain for the rest of the game and where to sit.

RECOMMENDATION 5: It is recommended that the band director should be consulted before any commitments are made on his or her behalf to perform for an athletic activity.

RATIONALE: Among school officials, only the band director has a true picture of the performance demands being placed on the band students at any given time. To commit the band students to a performance without consulting the director shows a questionable judgment and a lack of understanding for both the students and the director.

RECOMMENDATION 6: It is recommended that bands should not be expected to perform at a scheduled pep band event if unforeseen and unavoidable conflicts with other school and community activities would not allow the remaining students to perform in a manner representative of the band program.

RATIONALE: The band students' only opportunity to perform for large numbers from surrounding communities is at athletic events. This is even true for numbers of people within their own community. To expect them to perform ineffectively due to circumstances beyond their control has a negative effect on them, on their band, and on the school.

(Over)

RECOMMENDATION 7: It is recommended that the school district or athletic department provide any performing band personnel admission fees to athletic events, including all tournaments and postseason play where they are expected or asked to perform.

RATIONALE: It seems unfair to require students to pay admission fees and/or transportation costs for any athletic event at which they are required to perform. Students and parents have already invested substantial amount of money for instruments, instruction, music, uniform fees, accessories, etc. It is, therefore, unreasonable to expect performing band students to incur additional costs when required to attend.