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Competition Rules

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1 Terms and Conditions

1.1 Principle

Competitions are carried based on the proviso of sufficient interest. The offered categories and implementations are decided by the Organization Committee (OC) of the World Youth Music Festival (WJMF) on the basis of applications.

1.2 Admission

The following formations (bands) are allowed to participate at the WJMF according to the categories defined in the sections below: Youth Wind Orchestras, Brass Bands, Marching Bands, Big Bands, Percussion / Drum groups, mixed Drum / Piper groups.

1.3 Participation

In principle, participation in one of the competitions is mandatory for all registered orchestras, bands, groups and clubs – hereinafter referred to as «formations». The OC WJMF may grant exceptions. Participation in other offered competitions is optional but encouraged.

1.4 Age restrictions

Eligible to play are young people up to 25 years of age (by the end of the year). In each team, three «Joker» members are permitted with no age restriction.

Parade Music and Show Band Competition: The age restriction applies to all participants except the conductor (band leader) and the three «Joker» members.

The «Joker» members must be reported no later than the final registration with name and the instrument being played.

1.5 Inspection

The musicians must carry an official ID (Identity Card, Passport) for the competitions. There will be inspections performed concerning the age restrictions.

1.6 Cancellation

Should a musician or a «Joker» member not be able to participate at short notice due to illness, accident or other unforeseen emergency, the OC WJMF may approve a replacement by a non-registered «Joker» member on site.

1.7 Schedule / Locations

The formations are not entitled to choose particular times to perform. The starting times for further competitions will be optimized on the basis of the competition schedule.

Competitions of the same category are held in the same location before the same jury. In categories with lots of competitors it may become necessary to move to another location and utilise a different jury team. In this case, separate rankings are kept for each location.

1.8 Reporting

The experts record the performances on an evaluation sheet. The evaluation sheet also shows the quality of the individual evaluation factors.

The evaluation sheets are given to the participating formations and are not published.

No copies will be made or archived by the OC WJMF.

1.9 Ranking

The scores will be announced immediately after the performance.

The results of the competitions include for each formation:

- a) The total score achieved
- b) The rank achieved

1.10 Awards

At the award ceremony, every formation receives a diploma with the achieved scores and the award for each competition (provided an award has been achieved).

The following awards will be assigned:

- 90.0 – 100.0 points: «Gold»
- 80.0 – 89.9 points: «Silver»
- 70.0 – 79.9 points: «Bronze»

1.11 Expert Judgement

The evaluation by the expert judgement panel is final and cannot be challenged.

1.12 Violations

Breach of these regulations may result in the exclusion from the competition as determined by the WJMF Organization.

1.13 Competition Office

Throughout the Festival a centrally located competition office is operated. This serves as an information center, but is also the contact point for all problems, complaints etc. in regards to the competitions.

1.14 Repair Service

Throughout the Festival a repair service is available.

2 Concert Competition

2.1 Categories

There are 5 categories each for Harmony (H) and Brass Band (BB):

- Low level = easy compositions (corresponds to 4th class SBV) or * degree of difficulty 2 - 2+
- Intermediate level = intermediate compositions (corresponds to 3rd class SBV) or * degree of difficulty 3
- High level = difficult compositions (corresponds to 2nd class SBV) or * degree of difficulty 3+
- Maximum level = very difficult compositions (corresponds to 1st class SBV) or * degree of difficulty 4 - 4+
- Maximum class = compositions with highest requirements (corresponds to maximum class SBV) or * degree of difficulty 5 - 6

* Grading according to International Publishing Convention, resp. Swiss Wind Band Association (SBV).

2.2 Compulsory Piece

The compulsory piece for each category will be announced one year before the Festival and delivered after the final application. The orchestras may choose freely between the compulsory pieces of each category and so determine the category in which they participate in the concert competition. The compulsory pieces will be determined by a task group nominated by the OC WJMF.

2.3 Self-choice Piece

- The self-choice piece may be selected from the competition lists of SBV (Swiss Wind Band Association, www.windband.ch) or from the additional list of SJMV (Swiss Youth Music Association, www.jugendmusik.ch): The competition list will be available on the homepage of the WJMF. It is also possible to refer to the classification (level of difficulty) according to the International Publishing Convention.
The self-choice piece must correspond at least to the chosen competition category (level of difficulty of the compulsory piece).
The full score (or condensed score) of the self-choice piece must be submitted in triplicate not later than 90 days before the Festival starts. Copied scores will not be accepted. Incomplete scores or scores not received by the deadline will be procured by the OC WJMF. The resulting costs plus a handling fee of CHF 100.00 will be charged to the orchestra.
- Self-choice pieces not corresponding to the lists of SBV (Swiss Wind Band Association) or the additional list of SJMV (Swiss Youth Music Association) may be sent to the OC WJMF for classification. To assess the composition, two scores (or condensed score) with the request for the according category must be submitted. The score must be received by the office of OC WJMF not later than 90 days before the Festival starts. There is no entitlement to allocation in the desired category, a classification decision is final and cannot be challenged. A fee of CHF 100.00 will be charged for the evaluation, regardless of the classification.

2.4 Percussion Instruments available

In the competition locations a standard set of percussion instruments are available, without drum sticks. A detailed list will be found on the homepage of the WJMF. With the final registration, any additionally required instruments are to be mentioned on the instruments list. In the practicing rooms, music stands are available but no percussion instruments.

2.5 Jury

The jury consists of three experts. These jury members will be determined by an expert group of the OC WJMF.

2.6 Assessment factors

The concert presentations will be judged according to the following factors:

- Tune and intonation
- Rhythmic and meter
- Dynamics and sound balance
- Sound Culture, technicality and articulation
- Musical expression
- Interpretation

2.7 Rating

Each jury member gives an overall assessment after the presentation, which can rate from 50 to 100 points. They only grant full points.

The average of the points from all three jury members gives the score obtained for the corresponding piece.

The average of the points from the compulsory piece and self-choice piece gives the total score for the concert competition.

Explanations to the scores can be found in the appendix «rating».

3 Parade Music Competition

3.1 Categories

There are three categories:

- Small (S) = line-up of 40 members or less
 - Large (L) = line-up of 41 members or more
 - Evolutions (E) = no limitation
- The size of the line-up refers to the members of the orchestra (including percussion). Any marching bands, majorettes, representative members etc. are not included.
 - The categories S and L are determined by the size of the orchestra.
 - The degree of difficulty of the musical and figurative performance is not taken into account in the judging. There will be no division of performance levels.

3.2 Choice of Literature

The choice of literature is left up to the orchestra.

Category S and L: The full score (or condensed score) of the music piece must be submitted in triplicate not later than 90 days before the Festival starts. Copied scores will not be accepted. Incomplete scores or scores not received by the deadline will be procured by the OC WJMF. The resulting costs plus a handling fee of CHF 100.00 will be charged to the formation.

- Category E: Original scores (or original condensed scores which are used for the compilation of the musical presentation must be in possession of the orchestra. Three final record transcripts (own arrangements or compiled copies) must be submitted to the WJMF organization not later than 90 days before the Festival starts. Incomplete or illegible scores will be rejected. In addition, a choreo sketch of the show in duplicate (to be filled out according to the template that will be provided on the homepage of the WJMF or a printout of a choreography program) must be submitted at the same time.

3.3 Participants

A formation may consist of orchestra, drummers, drum majorettes, flag bearer (Color Guards) etc. The entire formation will be evaluated by the expert jury.

3.4 Course of competition

At the beginning of the performance, the conductor (band leader) reports the formation to the first expert. The expert inspects the formation and then gives the signal to the conductor to begin marching.

All formations of the category S and L must show two changes. It begins with the percussion (or, if present, the drummers). The change must be after 2 x 8 bars. After the music piece there has to be another change to the percussion or to the drummers (at least 2 x 8 bars) and also stopping on command (with drum major rod or baton).

In category E the formations are free to arrange their performance, but must contain at least three different figures. The performance may be a maximum of 10 minutes. Exceedances result in a deduction of the final score of 5 points per minute.

The length of the parade route is 320 meters. The exact dimensions will be found on the homepage of the WJMF.

3.5 Jury

The jury consists of three experts. These jury members are determined by an expert group of the OC WJMF. These jury members evaluate both musical and visual performances.

- Jury 1: Start till Jury Stand
- Jury 2: Jury Stand (approx. middle of parade route)
- Jury 3: Jury Stand till stop

3.6 Assessment factors

The parade music presentations will be judged according to the following factors:

Musically

- Tune and intonation
- Rhythmic and meter
- Dynamics and sound balance
- Sound culture, technicality and articulation
- Overall impression

Visually

- Salute, presentation
- Departure, commands, marching
- Instrument holding position
- Alignment during the parade
- Change, cadence
- Stopping

3.7 Rating

Each jury member gives an overall assessment after the presentation, which can range from 50 to 100 points. They only grant whole points.

The overall score is determined by the average of the three scores given by the jury.

Explanation of the scoring system can be found in the appendix «rating».

3.8 Implementation

In the event of very bad weather, the parade music competition will not be held. The decision will be made shortly before the fixed start of the competition. In case of light rain, the start may be postponed for a maximum of 30 minutes.

4 Indoor Show Band Competition

4.1 Categories

No distinction is made by category. All formations are evaluated in the same category.

4.2 Choice of Literature

The choice of literature is left up to the orchestra.

Original scores (or original condensed score) which are used for the compilation of the musical presentation must be in possession of the orchestra. Three final record transcripts (own arrangements or compiled copies) must be submitted to the WJMF organization not later than 90 days before the Festival starts. Incomplete or illegible scores will be rejected.

In addition, a choreo sketch of the show in duplicate (to be filled out according to the template that will be provided on the homepage of the WJMF or a printout of a choreography program) must be submitted at the same time.

4.3 Rehearsals

Formations will be given the opportunity to rehearse for half an hour at the competition location on the original stage. Rehearsal times will be announced with the competition schedule and must be adhered to.

4.4 Band leaders meeting

Each formation must delegate one person (musical or choreographic director) to attend the band leaders meeting. At this meeting the start and end of the performances will be discussed, so that the moderator and the jury are aware of where and when the show starts and ends.

4.5 Course of competition

A playing area of 40 x 25 meters is available for the show. The formations can perform a rehearsal on the original field at the assigned time.

Tags can be placed at the edge of the field. These must be removed again after the presentation.

The show has to take 8 to 12 minutes. Deviations result in a deduction of the final grade of 5 points per minute.

The starting position can be chosen freely. The timekeeping will be started according to the agreement set during the band leaders meeting. The timekeeping is stopped after the last tone according to the score.

Entry and exit may or may not be part of the show.

4.6 Jury

The jury consists of three experts. These jury members are determined by an expert group of the OC WJMF. One jury member evaluates the musical performance, two jury members evaluate the visual effect, of which one expert is watching from ground level and the other from an elevated position.

4.7 Assessment factors

The musical quality is judged according to the criteria of the parade music.

The visual performance is judged by the following factors:

- Choreography
 - Composition of the show
 - Level of difficulty of the show
 - Coordination of music and movement
 - Presentation
- Technical execution
 - Stance / mobility
 - Figures / formations
 - Synchronization
 - Technicality
 - Commands
 - Instrument holding position
 - Detailed execution
 - Alignment

4.8 Rating

Each jury member gives an overall assessment after the show, which can range from 50 to 100 points. They only grant whole points. The overall score is determined by the average of the three scores given by the jury.

Explanation of the scoring system can be found in the appendix «rating».

5 Competition for Percussion / Drum Groups, mixed Drum / Piper Groups

5.1 Categories

There are four categories.

- Category 1: Single voice drums performance
- Category 2: Multi-voice drum and/or percussion performance
- Category 3: Drum and/or percussion performance with melodic percussion instruments
- Category 4: Mixed groups of drummers/pipers

The desired categories have to be indicated with the final application. It is possible for the same formation to participate in more than one category.

When assessing, the level of difficulty of the musical performance is not considered. There is no differentiation of the performance levels.

5.2 Size of formations

In categories 1 to 4, each formation consists of at least 4 people, exclusive of the conductor.

5.3 Instruments available for categories 2 + 3

In the competition locations a standard variety of percussion instruments without drum sticks will be available for categories 2 and 3. A detailed list will be provided on the homepage of the WJMF. Further instruments needed, that are not provided on the list, need to be brought by the formations. In the rehearsal rooms are no percussion instruments available. Formations may bring their own instruments.

5.4 Choice of literature

The pieces to be performed in categories 1 to 4 may be chosen freely. 1, 2 or 3 pieces may be performed per category. The maximum playing time is 10 minutes.

The time from the beginning to the end of the programme is measured, including applause in between (without final applause). Deviations will result in a deduction of 5 points per every commenced minute.

The performance pieces in categories 2 and 3 must be at least three voices.

In category 3, the performance pieces must contain timpani and/or board instruments (mallets).

In category 4, all sorts of pipes and drums may be used (Basler Piccolo, Natwärisch, Fifres anciens, pipe and others).

The original scores of the performance pieces must be submitted in triplicate at least 90 days before the Festival starts. Incomplete or illegible scores will be rejected.

5.5 Jury

The jury consists of three experts. These jury members are determined by an expert group of the OC WJMF.

5.6 Assessment factors

The presentations will be judged according to the following factors:

Category 1:

- Technicality and synchronicity
- Rhythm
- Dynamics
- Musical expression

Category 2 + 3:

- Technicality
- Rhythm and interaction
- Dynamics and sound balance
- Musical expression

Category 4:

Assessment pipers

- Tune and intonation
- Rhythm / Time
- Interpretation

Assessment drummers

- Technicality
- Rhythm
- Dynamics

Cooperation

- Balance/musicality
- Synchronicity

5.7 Rating

Each jury member gives an overall assessment after the presentation, which can range from 50 to 100 points. They only grant whole points.

The overall score is determined by the average of the three scores given by the jury.

Explanation of the scoring system can be found in the appendix «rating».

6 Big Band Competition

6.1 Categories

Admitted in the competitions are bands with a traditional Big Band instrumentation:

- min. 4 saxophones
- min. 3 trombones
- min. 3 trumpets
- Rhythm section consisting of bass, piano and percussion

Additional players with wind instruments, an expanded rhythm section and singers are admitted.

Depending on the number of participating Big Bands there may be a division into strength classes.

6.2 Course of competition and choice of literature

Every band plays for 20 minutes a self-selected repertoire of swing, jazz, funk, rock, pop or latin. Big Bands with singers play at least one instrumental piece. An equal balance of at least three different styles is required.

Original scores, which are used for the compilation of the musical presentation must be in possession of the band.

The full scores (or condensed scores) of the performance pieces must be submitted in triplicate at least 90 days before the Festival starts. Incomplete or illegible scores will be rejected.

6.3 Jury

The jury consists of three experts. These jury members are determined by an expert group of the OC WJMF.

6.4 Assessment factors

The presentations will be judged according to the following factors:

- Tune and intonation
- Sound culture and sound quality
- Phrasing / articulation
- Technical execution
- Rhythm / interaction
- Dynamics and sound balance
- Sense of style / interpretation
- Style mix / entertainment value
- Overall impression

6.5 Rating

Each jury member gives an overall assessment after the presentation, which can range from 50 to 100 points. They only grant whole points. The overall score is determined by the average of the three scores given by the jury.

Explanation of the scoring system can be found in the appendix «rating».

7 Free concerts

7.1 Open-air concerts

If the schedule allows, it is desirable that voluntary, informal open-air concert are performed

7.2 DrumLine Battles

There is also the opportunity to take part in the DrumLine Battles: Two formations compete against each other and present their skills with sticks and drums.

When registering, you can sign up for both the open-air concerts and the DrumLine Battles.

8 Appendix

8.1 «Rating»

Points	Explanation	Award
90.0 – 100.0	Outstanding performance	«Gold»
80.0 – 89.9	Very good performance	«Silver»
70.0 – 79.9	Good performance	«Bronze»
60.0 – 69.9	Sufficient performance	
50.0 – 59.9	Insufficient performance	