

Victorian Bands' League Inc.

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Dear Band Secretary/Delegate,

At the most recent meeting of the Delegates in July 2011, I was very pleased to accept a nomination to the position of Registrar of the VBL. In the coming years I hope to assist bands and band secretaries in making the administrative side of band competitions as hassle free as possible.

During my first two contests in the role of Registrar (Ballarat & Traralgon 2010), I have noticed that there is still some confusion about the responsibilities and requirements to comply with the new VBL contest rules (effective 31 Jan 2010). The information contained in this letter is intended as a guide to assist you in preparing the administrative requirements for band contests run under the auspice of the VBL. **Please note that this information does not relate to the Australian National Band Championships, or any other contest run by any another governing body - it is for VBL contests only.**

The processes that need to be adhered to by bands to comply with the VBL Contest Rules in regard to player registrations are outlined below.

Under clause 12.8, "Nomination Lists and Contest Declarations are required no later than fourteen (14) days before the commencement date of the contest".

Please note that only those players named on the Player Nomination List will be allowed to compete on the day of the contest. It is strongly recommended that you have another member of your band/committee check the Player Nomination List to ensure that no one has been omitted from the Player Nomination List. At both recent contests some players were not named on the Player Nomination List and unfortunately this meant they were deemed ineligible to compete. It is advisable to include all of the players registered with your band on the Player Nomination List and they can be crossed off on the day of the contest if they are not competing.

Please also ensure that all players on the Player Nomination List are bona fide registered members of the VBL. If you are unsure about the registration status of a player you intend to nominate, please feel free to email me for assistance. Unfortunately, there were also instances at the two most recent contests where a nominated players' registration had lapsed, meaning they were also unfortunately ineligible to compete.

Please note that any new applications for registration must be received at the VBL office prior to 14 days before a contest for that player to be eligible to perform. If the Player Nomination List is received exactly 14 days before the contest and there is a discrepancy with a registration, there is insufficient time to make application for a new registration.

An updated Player Nomination List is now available on the VBL Website. This updated list includes an area called “Assisting Musicians”. Under the current rules, bands can only use players who are registered with the VBL, but bands may nominate up to two (2) assisting musicians who are registered with another Australasian Band Association to play in their band at a VBL contest. Please note that if you are nominating an “Assisting Musician”, it is the responsibility of the band to provide proof of registration of the nominated assisting musicians.

All of these rules can be found in section 12 of the VBL Contest Rules (effective 31 Jan 2010). The full publication can be found on the VBL website in the Publications area.

I hope that this letter serves to clarify any doubts or confusion that may exist with regard to nomination of players for VBL contests. The administrative requirements of band competitions can seem to be onerous at times, but the new rules (effective 31 Jan 2010) serve to simplify what was previously in existence.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the requirements of player registrations for contests.

I look forward to seeing you at a contest in the near future.

Yours in banding,

Brenton Burley
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