



**Victorian
Bands' League Inc**

BYLAW: VBL Contest Rules

VERSION: 1.0

EFFECTIVE DATE: 31st January 2010

Table of Contents

Part 1 – Introduction	3
1. REPLACEMENT OF PREVIOUS RULES.....	3
2. AUTHORITY OF NEW RULES.....	3
3. FUTURE REVIEW & AMENDMENTS	3
Part 2 – Applicability	4
4. BANDS.....	4
5. SCHOOLS.....	4
6. INDIVIDUALS	4
7. AGE LIMITS	4
Part 3 – Individual Member Registration	5
8. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS	5
Part 4 – Band Contests	6
9. CONDUCT OF CONTESTS.....	6
10. PLAYER NUMBERS AND INSTRUMENTATION	6
12. CONTEST NOMINATIONS	7
13. EMERGENCY PLAYERS.....	7
14. MUSIC PROGRAM & TIME LIMITS	8
15. EXCEEDING TIME LIMITS	9
16. ADJUDICATION.....	9
19. BANDS PLAYING IN OTHER GRADES.....	9
20. PENALTIES	10
21. APPEALS	10
22. CONTEST SUPERVISOR.....	10
23. CONTESTS CONDUCTED BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS	10
24. TROPHIES	11
Part 5 – Band Grading.....	11
25. APPLICABILITY.....	11
26. CLASSIFICATION & GRADING	11
27. GRADING ASSESSMENT	11
28. GRADING CONTESTS.....	11
Part 6 – Solo & Ensemble Contests	12
29. APPLICABILITY.....	12
30. SEPARATE CONTESTS	12
31. ELIGIBILITY.....	12
32. SOLO & ENSEMBLE SECTIONS	12
33. NOVICE	12
34. CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS	13
35. MUSIC PROGRAM & TIME LIMITS	13
36. SOLO MUSIC	13
37. PENALTIES	13
38. TROPHIES	13
39. DEFINITIONS.....	14
40. APPENDIX – RULE AMENDMENTS	15

Part 1 – Introduction

1. REPLACEMENT OF PREVIOUS RULES

- 1.1. This document replaces any and all prior versions, electronic or printed, authorised or unauthorised, of the Victorian Bands' League Inc. (VBL) band contest bylaws, rules or regulations, or any terminology or versions in practice used to describe such rules.

2. AUTHORITY OF NEW RULES

- 2.1. This bylaw shall be known as: VBL Contest Rules.
- 2.2. This bylaw was adopted by resolution of the Delegates at a meeting held on: 25th October 2009.
- 2.3. This bylaw applies from: 1st January 2010.

3. FUTURE REVIEW & AMENDMENTS

- 3.1. The VBL shall periodically review and amend these rules at least every two (2) years. Any future versions shall replace any and all prior versions in their entirety. Such future versions shall be annotated with incremental version control in the format X.Y, where X represents the number of a major version change to the bylaw, and Y represents the number of an amendment to one or some existing rules. In all cases, the applicable date shall be annotated to reinforce the applicability of the current version. The version number and effective date shall be on the first page (cover page) and also within the footer of this document.
- 3.2. Any and all amendments shall highlight the amendment(s) and carry the date upon which the amendment(s) became effective.
- 3.3. The President of the VBL, as Executive Officer, is responsible for ensuring all amendments and alterations occur to this bylaw in accordance with Part 1, Section 3, and that all amendments and alterations are detailed in an appendix to this bylaw.

Part 2 – Applicability

4. BANDS

- 4.1. These rules apply to all financial member bands of the VBL (hereafter referred to as bands).

5. SCHOOLS

- 5.1. These rules apply to all financial member schools of the VBL (hereafter referred to as schools).
- 5.2. Schools are not required to provide details of bands within the school for the purpose of membership (i.e. the school is a member, not the bands/ensembles within the school).

6. INDIVIDUALS

- 6.1. These rules apply to all financial individual members of the VBL (hereafter referred to as individuals).
- 6.2. Individuals shall be categorised as follows:
- 6.2.1. A Player is a person who plays an instrument or instruments.
 - 6.2.2. A Conductor is a person who directs or leads the musical performance of a band.
 - 6.2.3. A Drum Major is a person who directs or leads the marching performance of a band.
 - 6.2.4. Where alternate terms are used to describe the above categories, those terms have the same meaning as the above categories.

7. AGE LIMITS

- 7.1. Where age limits are specified in these rules, the following shall apply:
- 7.1.1. A Juvenile means a player who, at the commencement of a contest, is not yet fifteen (15) years of age.
 - 7.1.2. A Junior means a player who, at the commencement of a contest, is not yet nineteen (19) years of age.
 - 7.1.3. A Master means a person who, at the commencement of a contest, is sixty (60) years of age or older.
- 7.2. Players may be required to provide suitable identification.

Part 3 – Individual Member Registration

8. REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- 8.1. Individuals shall register directly with the VBL by completing an application for registration and paying a registration fee as determined by the VBL.
- 8.2. Individuals may register as players, conductors and/or drum majors.
- 8.3. All individual member registrations expire on 31st December each year.
- 8.4. The registration fee is payable by each individual member, regardless of age, with the exception of full-time students participating as a student member of their school.
- 8.5. All full-time students of a school, when participating as student members of the school, may participate in VBL contests without registering or paying any registration fee beyond that due by the school.
- 8.6. Students so exempted from the registration requirement, however, are to register and pay a registration fee if they are to participate in a VBL contest (including solo/ensemble contest) as a nominated member of an Open or Junior Grade Band or as individual contestants in solo or ensemble contests.
- 8.7. Any individual member of the VBL is required to have their principal place of residence within the State of Victoria, or within a distance of 50kms beyond the Victorian border.
- 8.8. Individuals may be required to provide proof of their principal place of residence (Electoral Roll details).
- 8.9. Individuals may be required to provide proof of identity.
- 8.10. Where an individual has an outstanding debt to a band and/or failed to returned band assets, the band shall issue a Letter of Demand to the individual, and forward a copy to the VBL.
 - 8.10.1. Where a copy of the Letter of Demand is received a minimum of twenty eight (28) days prior to the commencement date of a competition, the VBL shall immediately suspend the individual's registration and notify the individual in writing of their suspension.
 - 8.10.2. Where a copy of the Letter of Demand is received within twenty eight (28) days of the commencement date of a competition, the VBL shall suspend the individual's registration immediately following the conclusion of the contest and notify the individual in writing of their suspension.

- 8.10.3. Upon payment of the outstanding debt and/or return of the band assets, the band shall immediately notify the VBL and the individual's registration shall be reinstated.

Part 4 – Band Contests

9. CONDUCT OF CONTESTS

- 9.1. These contest rules apply to all band contests:
- a) conducted by the VBL; or
 - b) conducted with the approval of the VBL by any organisation.
- 9.2. Contests may provide for competition in the following grades:
- 9.2.1. Open Brass Bands – A, B, C, D grades
 - 9.2.2. Junior Brass Bands – A, B, C grades
 - 9.2.3. Open Concert Bands – A, B, C, D grades
 - 9.2.4. Junior Concert Bands – A, B, C grades
 - 9.2.5. School Brass Bands – Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Novice grades
 - 9.2.6. School Concert Bands – Senior, Intermediate, Junior, Novice grades
 - 9.2.7. Primary School Bands

10. PLAYER NUMBERS AND INSTRUMENTATION

- 10.1. The following player numbers and instrumentation shall apply:
- 10.1.1. Brass Bands: minimum of 16 players, plus Conductor if required. For the purpose of these rules, a brass band shall consist of any brass and percussion instruments. Any other instruments may be added as specifically indicated by the composer and/or arranger on the published score.
 - 10.1.2. Concert Bands: minimum of 16 players, plus Conductor if required. For the purpose of these rules, a concert band shall consist of any brass, woodwind and percussion instruments. Any other instruments may be added as specifically indicated by the composer and/or arranger on the published score.
 - 10.1.3. Primary School Bands: any instrumentation permitted, with no constraints on player numbers.
- 10.2. There shall be no maximum number of players.

11. VISITING BANDS

- 11.1. Any band the member of another recognised Australasian band association may enter VBL contests. The registration and permit rules of the visiting band's association shall apply to the visiting band.

12. CONTEST NOMINATIONS

- 12.1. Players, conductors and drum majors shall be nominated by bands to perform at contests.
- 12.2. Nomination (under clause 12.1) may be for only one (1) band in each grade at a contest, except for:
 - 12.2.1. Open D Grade – nomination may be for any number of Open D Grade bands.
 - 12.2.2. Percussion – any player, conductor or drum major may play percussion in any number of bands in any grade.
 - 12.2.3. Junior Grades – age limits apply.
- 12.3. Each competing band shall provide to the VBL office, a list of nominated players and the conductor (and drum major if applicable) participating in their band at the contest.
- 12.4. The nomination list is to be accompanied by a signed Contest Declaration, confirming that all players and the conductor (and drum major if applicable) are bona fide registered members of the VBL or another recognised band association within Australasia.
- 12.5. A band may nominate up to two (2) assisting musicians (players) who are currently registered with another recognised Australasian band association to play in their band at a VBL contest.
- 12.6. A band may nominate a conductor (or drum major if applicable) who is currently registered with another recognised Australasian band association to lead their band at a VBL contest.
- 12.7. Bands are required to provide proof of registration of the nominated assisting musicians, conductor and/or drum major.
- 12.8. Nomination Lists and Contest Declarations are required no later than fourteen (14) Days before the commencement date of the contest.
- 12.9. All players must be able to provide suitable identification at the contest.
- 12.10. The Registrar or delegated nominee may request a band to prove a player's identity.

13. EMERGENCY PLAYERS

- 13.1. An emergency player shall be allowed to compete with a band in a contest in the event of the sudden death of, or serious medical emergency or other unavoidable circumstance in relation to, a nominated player no earlier than 48 hours before the band's performance.

- 13.2. In consultation with the conductor of the affected band, the Contest Supervisor will attempt to organise a suitable emergency player from another band in the contest.
- 13.3. A band seeking an emergency player shall provide a Medical Certificate from a registered Medical Practitioner and a Statutory Declaration.
- 13.4. The final decision shall be made by the Contest Supervisor.

14. MUSIC PROGRAM & TIME LIMITS

- 14.1. For the annual Victorian State Band Championships, the program and time limits shall be:
 - 14.1.1. Open Grade Brass Bands:
Major Work, March, Sacred Item, Concert Item
(Total playing time 40 minutes)
 - 14.1.2. Junior Grade Brass Bands:
Major Work, two (2) contrasting Concert Items
(Total playing time 25 minutes)
 - 14.1.3. Open Grade Concert Bands
Major Work, two (2) contrasting Concert Items
(Total playing time 40 minutes)
 - 14.1.4. Junior Grade Concert Bands
Major Work, two (2) contrasting Concert Items
(Total playing time 25 minutes)
 - 14.1.5. School Brass Bands
Own choice program – three (3) contrasting Concert Items
(Total playing time 20 minutes)
 - 14.1.6. School Concert Bands
Own choice program – three (3) contrasting Concert Items
(Total playing time 20 minutes)
 - 14.1.7. Primary School Bands
Own choice program – three (3) contrasting Concert Items
(Total playing time 15 minutes)
- 14.2. The order of the Band's program shall be at the discretion of the Conductor.
- 14.3. Upon recommendation of the Music Advisory Board, the Executive Council shall decide whether the Major Work is a Set Piece or Own Choice. All other items shall be Own Choice.
- 14.4. The band gaining the highest aggregate points in each grade will be declared the Victorian State Champion band in that grade for that year.
- 14.5. An open grade band which has won an item shall not, after a period of twenty eight (28) days, play the same music at any succeeding VBL contest until the expiration of thirteen (13) months after the date of the contest at which the item was won. This does not apply where the music is subsequently chosen by a contesting authority as a test piece.

- 14.6. For other Band Contests conducted under these rules the format shall be determined by the organisations conducting the contests, in consultation with the VBL.

15. EXCEEDING TIME LIMITS

- 15.1. A timekeeper shall be appointed by the Contest Supervisor and shall record the total playing time of each band's performance.
- 15.2. When a band reaches the maximum allowable playing time, the timekeeper shall ring a bell, indicating that the time limit has been exceeded. A band exceeding the time limit shall have ten (10) points deducted from their aggregate score.

16. ADJUDICATION

- 16.1. For State Band Championships, adjudicators shall be appointed by the Executive Council.
- 16.2. For all other contests, adjudicators will be appointed by the organisations conducting the contests, in consultation with VBL.
- 16.3. Adjudicators may be screened for State Band Championships. Screening of adjudicators at other band contests will be at the discretion of the organisations conducting those contests.

17. ALLOCATION OF POINTS

- 17.1. For the annual State Band Championships, the allocation of points shall be:
- 17.1.1. Major Work – maximum 100 points
 - 17.1.2. Other Items – maximum 50 points per item
- 17.2. For other band contests, the allocation of points will be determined by the organisation conducting the contest, in consultation with the VBL.

18. PLAYING ORDER DRAW

- 18.1. The draw for the State Band Championships shall be made by a panel comprising the Contest Supervisor, an Executive Councillor and an independent person, as soon as practicable after the close of entries. Draws for other contests shall be made by the organisation conducting the contest.
- 18.2. Bands shall be advised of all drawn positions within their respective grade.
- 18.3. Each band shall accept their drawn position.

19. BANDS PLAYING IN OTHER GRADES

- 19.1. Open grade bands may compete in the grade immediately above their current grade, provided that the band also competes in its own grade at the same contest.
- 19.2. Junior grade bands may also compete in Open D Grade, provided that the band also competes in its own grade at the same contest.
- 19.3. A band playing in another grade shall not perform in its own grade any of the band's program items from the other grade.

20. PENALTIES

- 20.1. If a competing band is found to be in breach of these contest rules, the band shall be disqualified from the contest. In addition, a monetary penalty equivalent to ten (10) times the entry fee shall be imposed. The band shall not be permitted to participate in any VBL contests until and unless the fine is paid.

21. APPEALS

- 21.1. Any band, having been penalised under these rules, may appeal to the Executive Council. If unsatisfied with the decision of the Executive Council, the band may then appeal to the Delegates.
- 21.2. The initial appeal shall be lodged with the VBL within fourteen (14) days of the penalty being imposed. The appeal shall be heard at the first available meeting of the Executive Council.

22. CONTEST SUPERVISOR

- 22.1. The VBL shall appoint a Contest Supervisor for each band contest conducted under these rules. The Contest Supervisor is responsible for ensuring adherence to the contest rules and shall have the power to waive compliance with these rules as he/she thinks fit.

23. CONTESTS CONDUCTED BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- 23.1. Any organisation seeking to conduct a band contest under these rules and with the approval of the VBL shall make written application to the VBL at least two (2) months prior to the date of the proposed contest and these VBL contesting rules shall not apply to such contest unless the VBL has confirmed in writing that such contest is approved and subject to these rules.
- 23.2. All organisations conducting contests under these rules and with the approval of the VBL shall furnish to the VBL a complete listing of results and all music performed by bands within fourteen (14) days of the contest.

24. TROPHIES

- 24.1. For the annual State Band Championships, trophies and awards shall be struck by the Executive Council.
- 24.2. For other Band Contests, trophies and awards shall be struck by the organisations conducting the contests, in consultation with the VBL.

Part 5 – Band Grading

25. APPLICABILITY

- 25.1. These band grading rules shall apply to all bands.

26. CLASSIFICATION & GRADING

- 26.1. Bands shall be classified and graded as follows:

- 26.1.1. Open Grade Brass Bands – A, B, C & D
- 26.1.2. Junior Grade Brass Bands – A, B & C
- 26.1.3. Open Grade Concert Bands – A, B, C & D
- 26.1.4. Junior Grade Concert Bands – A, B & C
- 26.1.5. School Bands – Brass & Concert

27. GRADING ASSESSMENT

- 27.1. The Music Advisory Board (MAB) shall conduct a grading assessment of all bands at the conclusion of each year.
- 27.2. The MAB shall recommend to the Executive Council any grading changes.
- 27.3. The Executive Council shall accept or reject the recommended grading changes and advise bands affected by any changes.
- 27.4. Bands so affected have a right of appeal to the Executive Council.
- 27.5. Notwithstanding the annual grading assessments, bands not competing in a VBL contest (or equivalent) within a two (2) year period shall be automatically regraded to the next lower grade.

28. GRADING CONTESTS

- 28.1. Any and all contests in which bands compete shall be taken into consideration for the purpose of grading assessment.

Part 6 – Solo & Ensemble Contests

29. APPLICABILITY

- 29.1. These contest rules apply to all solo and ensemble contests conducted either by the VBL, or by any other organisation under the auspice of the VBL.

30. SEPARATE CONTESTS

- 30.1. A Solo & Ensemble Contest may be held in conjunction with a Band Contest, but is to be regarded as a separate contest.

31. ELIGIBILITY

- 31.1. An individual must be registered with the VBL or any other recognised Australasian band association to play in any solo or ensemble contest conducted under these rules.

32. SOLO & ENSEMBLE SECTIONS

- 32.1. The annual State Solo & Ensemble Championships may provide competition for the following Solo & Ensemble sections:
- 32.1.1. Open, Junior, Juvenile and Novice sections for each brass, woodwind and percussion instrument
 - 32.1.2. Open, Junior and Masters Slow Melody sections
 - 32.1.3. Open, Junior and Juvenile Champion of Champions sections
 - 32.1.4. Open and Junior Duet/Trio
 - 32.1.5. Open and Junior Quartet/Quintet
 - 32.1.6. Open and Junior Ensemble (6 to 15 players)
- 32.2. No competitor is permitted to play any item in more than one section, except if the repetition is when playing in the Champion of Champions sections.

33. NOVICE

- 33.1. Novice sections are only for players who have not previously won a solo section (brass/woodwind) at any solo contest.
- 33.1.1. A brass player can enter a novice woodwind section if they have not previously won a solo woodwind section.
 - 33.1.2. A woodwind player can enter a novice brass section if they have not previously won a solo brass section.

34. CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

- 34.1. To qualify for the Champion of Champions section, the winner of each championship brass and woodwind section must be awarded the minimum qualifying points:
- 34.1.1. Open – 90 points
 - 34.1.2. Junior – 80 points
 - 34.1.3. Juvenile – 75 points

35. MUSIC PROGRAM & TIME LIMITS

- 35.1. The following time limits apply to sections of the Victorian State Solo & Ensemble Contest:
- 35.1.1. Juvenile 5 Minutes
 - 35.1.2. Junior 7 Minutes
 - 35.1.3. Open 9 Minutes
 - 35.1.4. VCE/IB 12 Minutes

36. SOLO MUSIC

- 36.1. A soloist who has won an item shall not, after a period on twenty eight (28) days, play the same music at any subsequent solo contest until the expiration of thirteen (13) months after the date of the contest at which the item was won.
- 36.2. A player will be permitted, however, to play the same music in the Champion of Champions section of the same contest or if the music is subsequently chosen as a test piece in a subsequent contest.
- 36.3. A soloist may play in any sections in a solo contest for which they are eligible, but shall play different music in each section.

37. PENALTIES

- 37.1. If a competing soloist or ensemble is found to be in breach of these contest rules, the competitor/s may (in the discretion of the Contest Supervisor) be disqualified from the contest. In addition, a monetary penalty up to the equivalent to ten (10) times the entry fee may be imposed. The player/s shall not be permitted to participate in any VBL contests until and unless the fine is paid.

38. TROPHIES

- 38.1. For State Solo & Ensemble Championships, trophies and awards shall be struck by the Executive Council.

38.2. For other Solo & Ensemble Contests, trophies and awards shall be struck by the organisations conducting the contests, in consultation with the VBL.

39. DEFINITIONS

39.1 "Recognised Australasian Band Association" shall mean and include:

- a) N.S.W Band Association;
- b) Queensland Band Association;
- c) National Band Council of Australia;
- d) Tasmanian Bands League;
- e) Western Australian Band Association;
- f) South Australian Band Association;
- g) New Zealand Band Association.

