



Mansfield Tiger Invitational Marching Contest Procedures

Guideline Resources

These guidelines have been developed through the utilization of and influenced by the ASBOA State Marching Contest Procedures with the main goal of using the Invitational Contest as a preparation for ASBOA Region and State Contests.

Scheduling

The Mansfield Tiger Invitational Marching Contest will be a one (1) day event. The contest will be held on September 26, 2026. The grouping of the classifications will be determined after the registration deadline and will be designed to group sets of three bands each into class and size classifications. Each ensemble's performance order will be determined randomly, accounting for band size, individual requests from bands up to and including accommodations for travel distances. These requests can be made by communicating with the Mansfield Band Director.

The deadline for all registrations to be submitted will be September 11, 2026.

Pre-Performance Procedures - Check In, Warm Up

Information in addition to these procedures, including site-specific information such as bus/truck parking procedures, the location of the warm-up area, etc. will be included in the band's pre-event communications from the event host.

A representative from each band must check-in at the designated Band Check-in location. Representatives are encouraged to arrive and check in early to receive any changes to competition performance times (as it is possible for these times to change due to last minute cancellations, etc) or event procedures made after the band's last communication from the host.

Participating bands will receive arm bands for all musicians and show participants, and directors will receive director's bands to gain access to the hospitality room. Please keep in mind, we keep our band entrance fees low in order to allow bands to save money, please do not give armbands to parents or non-halftime show performers/helpers. This takes away from our ability to pay judges and run our contest in the most cost efficient way possible.

Warm-up areas will only be available at the event site and may only be used during the scheduled warm-up times at the specified warm up zones. Each band's warm-up time will be included in the final packet, made available approximately two weeks prior to the event.

Time-keeping devices such as metronomes or jam blocks, megaphones or similar voice amplification device, and audio systems may be tested and used in warm-up areas, but must be used with wire connected microphones and must remain at a reasonable volume depending on the acoustics of the warm-up area and proximity to other bands/warm-up areas, judging areas and the performance field.

The host, in their discretion, may restrict the use of specific devices (or order discontinuation of use on-site) if they believe such devices interfere with other bands in the warm-up areas or with performances in the stadium.

Band report times will be at least ten (10) minutes prior to the band's start time. Distances from warm-up areas are a good distance away and take time to reach. Bands will report to the entrance gate of the stadium with the assistance of a Band Guide. The band should be ready to enter the performance area at the designated band report time.

Only those adults with proper armbands will be allowed to enter the Performance Area with the band. Ticket holders and bus driver pass holders are not permitted to enter the Performance Area at any time. They must enter the stadium at the designated Spectator Entrance.

The band will enter the stadium at the Band Entrance gate and proceed to the Performance Area. A Band Guide will meet you at your bus location and guide you through the process from warm up to performance gate.

Staging: Typically, bands are staged for Performance Field entry in a designated end zone. Front ensembles, conductor's podium(s) and front-side props are pre-staged near the Equipment Zone closest to the concession stand and can be moved to the track area prior to performance. Please be courteous of bands leaving the Performance Field as you bring your equipment onto the field.

On-Field Procedures

On cue from a Contest Official, the band enters the field. A band is allowed four (4) minutes to set-up and warm-up anywhere in the performance area. All performers, including any members or field pass holders used for on-field staging of equipment during the performance, must enter with the group. Pre-event communications will include additional site-specific information regarding entrance areas and access. Any/all sound and/or lighting checks on the field may begin as soon as the band's four-minute setup/warm-up time begins. As an Invitational Contest, our goal is to be as flexible as possible and not apply any type of penalty for time overage within reasonable accommodation, or any other 'flaw' that may occur. Penalty should only occur in the event that a Band is not doing their best to move in the most efficient manner that they can.

Pre-recorded (or sequenced) and/or live music may be used for a "pre-show" within the 4-minute setup/warm-up time. Pre-recorded music must cease by the completion of the

pre-show announcement. Pre-recorded music may be used after the Performance during the allowed “two minutes to exit,” but only after the performance (live music) has ended.

Adults may enter the performance field before the performance to set up equipment and after the performance to remove equipment. Adults, including those assisting in setting up props or equipment, must be clear of the performance field for the duration of the performance. Note: This includes end zone sidelines, backfield and the backfield seating areas.

Exception: An adult may enter the performance field during the performance to attend to an issue affecting the safety of student performers or “catastrophic” equipment failure (such as failure or loss of power or connectivity to a sound system) without penalty, as determined by the Field Manager and/or Contest Director.

Timing Procedure Summary

(a) Bands are scheduled on 15 minute intervals with appropriate breaks as scheduled.

(b) Bands are permitted four minutes prior to the designated performance time to set-up and warm-up in the performance area

(c) Band will be announced at 3 minutes, 15 seconds into the four minute setup / warm up time (45 seconds prior to the designated performance time)

(d) Bands are permitted a performance time of up to eleven (11) minutes on the performance field.

(e) Bands (including students and adults), equipment and props will have two minutes to clear the field after their performance and can incur a .5 penalty if they go beyond this. Again, as an Invitational Contest, if a band is doing their best to get off of the field and not intentionally holding up a timed removal of members or equipment, rarely will a penalty be assessed. These guidelines are to help prepare for the ASBOA Guidelines for region and state contests.

(f) A band’s set up/ warm up time may overlap with the prior band’s exit time. Please be courteous of each other and the Performance space upon entrance and exit.

Three (3) minutes, fifteen (15) seconds into the four-minute set-up/warm-up time, the announcer will introduce the band as follows:

“Joining us from [School, City & State]... please welcome the [School] Marching Band!”

(Announcer pauses for audience response.)

“[School]’s musical selections include the following:”

(Announcer reads their selections.)

“The Mansfield Tiger Marching Invitational is proud to present [Drum Major(s) name(s)] and the [School] Marching ‘nickname.’”

*If the band’s drum majors are going to salute, it should occur as the announcer is reading/announcing the sentence above. However, a drum major salute is not necessary to indicate that the band is ready to start.

The performance of a pre-show during the four-minute set-up/warm-up time or any other on-field activity will not alter the time of the announcement or the timing of the performance.

Following the completion of the pre-show announcement, the first note of music or the first step or visual move (not including any drum major salute) by a member of the band will start the timing of the performance. The performance must begin within 30 seconds from completion of the pre-show announcement or timing will thereafter begin automatically.

A band is allowed a performance time of up to 11 minutes anywhere on and within the performance field. Performance timing will end with the end of live music.

Musical exits will be included in the performance time of the show. Visual exits with percussion cadence (or silence) will be included in the exit timing, and not in the time of the performance. Any cadence/music used as an exit routine must cease once the performance field is vacated.

Within two minutes of the end of the performance, bands must completely vacate the performance field past the goal line at the designated band exit. Pre-event communications will include additional site-specific information regarding exit procedures.

Electronics

Electronic units for the production or amplification of music, other sounds, lighting, and/or visual effects are permitted, provided that their use conforms to contest guidelines. Power will be available at the Home Side 50 yard line, it may be used at the band's own risk. Venue will not provide power strips or cords, just a connection to power a cord to.

All music from traditional wind and percussion instruments or electronic instruments must be performed by a student live and in real time. The use of sampled, prerecorded, or sequenced sounds of woodwind and brass instruments is not permitted. Percussion or other music must either be performed "live and in real time" or prerecorded or sequenced for playback on a "one stroke, one note" basis. Tempo specific samples and musical loops are not permitted during the performance. Non-music sounds such as narration or sound effects may be performed either through its live performance or through the playback of the recorded sound.

PENALTY – Penalty is at a minimum 1 point per infraction up to disqualification at the discretion of the contest director.

Audio volumes may be controlled with a wireless device from any place in the performance area or the spectator area open to the public for the event. The host cannot guarantee the operability of such devices, including the devices' communication with other devices within the performance area. Such devices are used entirely at the risk of the user. An adult may operate these electronic devices.

Please note that allowing an adult to operate a soundboard does not grant permission for them to “contribute directly to the music or visual program.” The triggering of sound effects, lighting effects, voiceovers and the like is only permissible by a student performer. It is viewed that those aspects are the same as a musical contribution to the show and therefore should only be produced by students. Lighting devices and their triggered events (visual contribution) should similarly be produced by students.

Equipment Use

Off-road mechanized vehicles (defined as golf carts, garden tractors, small ATV all-terrain vehicles, etc.) will be allowed to pull equipment trailers, only for set up and take down, and must be kept on the track area around the field. A protective bib must be rigged underneath the vehicle so no fluids drop to the turf or carpet. Pick-up trucks, large tractors or similar vehicles are not permitted. The participating band and its school are liable and will be held responsible for any damage to a performance area or venue caused by violation of these policies and/or actions of the operators generally. The following are NOT ALLOWED in a performance or on the performance field:

- Any equipment, object, or material (including, but not limited to debris, powder, water, or other liquids) that may cause damage to the performance field or performance area, that presents a safety hazard, or that disrupts the scheduled flow of the contest
- Pyrotechnics of any kind, including fire, fireworks, or the discharge of arms
- Lights-out routines
- Animals
- Off-road mechanized vehicles (defined as golf carts, garden tractors, small ATVs, etc.)
- Drones or any remote-controlled helicopter, aircraft or similar items
- Hazardous equipment or illegal use of equipment
- Applicable only to enclosed venues (domes):
- Lighter-than-air or helium-filled balloons.
- Fog, smoke, or similar effect-generating equipment

Use of the foregoing may be permitted upon approval by the venue on a case-by-case, site-specific basis.

The following may be used in a performance, provided they are not hazardous and do not remain on the performance field or in the air following a performance:

- Powder or other airborne material
- Water or other (non-hazardous) liquids
- Paper, confetti, or other debris

General Conduct

Band directors/staff members may contact the contest director at any time with questions or concerns. Directors/staff may not contact any judge beginning twelve (12) hours prior to the start of the event, through the completion of the event. The contest director may issue warnings and/or penalties for actions and/or behaviors contrary to Mansfield High School and the ASBOA's mission and core values, and/or that violate the principles of fair play and professional and collegial behavior representative of ASBOA and its mission. Such actions and behaviors include, but are not limited to:

- Warm-up on-site by a band (or any component of a band) in areas and/or at times other than those designated.
- Failure to follow directives from the host or other event staff related to conduct in any area, including parking lots, warm-up areas, etc.
- Overstays in warm-up areas that intrude into the time and space of other participants.
- Failure to abide by guidelines involving student performance, and use of electronics and equipment.
- Behaviors that compromise the safety of participants and others and/or that may violate known stadium policies.
- Verbal remarks and behaviors (at the venue, whether in or outside the Performance Area, by students, staff and/or other badge/pass holders) that are generally disrespectful and contrary to the mission or core values of Mansfield High School and/or the ASBOA and/or general human conduct and dialogue.
- Any delay of contest, improper conduct, or infraction for which no specific rule or penalty is given. The contest director may, after review, reduce or waive any penalty issued for violation of these procedures. Any reduction or waiver will be noted on the Timing and Penalties sheet of the band and shall serve as notice that the full penalty may be issued for future, similar infractions by the band. Extreme measures may be taken for extreme circumstances, up to and including removal from future contests.

Any and all questions regarding the rules, regulations or management of the Invitational Contest can be directed to Contest Director and Mansfield High School Band Director Rob Tucker at robert.tucker@mansfieldtigers.org