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**BATTLE OF THE BAND
PROGRAM RULES**

2025-2026

BATTLE OF THE BANDS PROGRAM RULES

I. OVERVIEW

Battle of the Bands is a Utah PTA program available to any 9-12th grade student from a Local PTSA in good standing. There are two categories in which qualifying students can compete: Bands, or Solos/Duets.

II. STRUCTURE

The competition path is Local --> Multi-Region --> State.

The Battle of the Bands Online Platform houses rules, registration, qualification, advancement, judging, recognition, and resources. This website is managed by Utah PTA.

The Battle of the Bands program is governed by the Utah PTA Battle of the Bands Committee, which consists of the Utah PTA Battle of the Bands Committee Chair, The Utah PTA President, and members approved by the Utah PTA Board of Directors. (The Utah PTA President-elect is invited to serve on this committee if desired.) The primary function of this committee is to ensure consistency and compliance with rules, to support facilitators of the program at all levels, and to ensure that each act has and adheres to an approved plan for their contest performance. This body makes the final decision regarding Performance Plans.

The annual program year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30 of each year. "Competition" refers collectively to the Local contests, Multi-Region contests, and State contest. The annual competition begins for each local PTSA on the date of their contest. Local Contests are to be held between December 1 and February 28. Local PTSAs advance winners to the Multi-Region level. Each Multi-Region group holds a contest in March and advances its winners to the State level. The competition year ends with the announcement of winners at the conclusion of the State contest, in April.

Each local PTSA belongs to a Multi-Region group determined by the Utah PTA Region to which it belongs. The eleven Regions are grouped into three Multi-Regions.

MULTI-REGION GROUPS

- ◆ North Multi-Region: Regions 1, 2, 3
- ◆ Central Multi-Region: Regions 4, 5, 6
- ◆ South Multi-Region: Regions 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

III. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. LOCAL PTSAs

Local PTSAs are eligible to participate if they are in compliance/good standing with Utah PTA which includes payment of state and national dues, current bylaws, insurance coverage, and various compliance documents having been turned in. Local PTSAs should consult with their Multi-Region leadership to confirm eligibility.

B. BANDS AND SOLOS/DUETS

The Utah PTA Battle of the Bands consists of two categories in which students grades 9-12 from a PTA/PTSA school in good standing are eligible to compete. These two categories are Bands and Solos/Duets.

BANDS

A band consists of three or more members. The members shall perform with live instruments. No recorded content is acceptable.

Two songs: one original and one cover. Ten minutes total performance time.

All bands must create and adhere to a Performance Plan. (See Performance Plans, IV) below.

Performance Plan approval is the final element of act eligibility. (See Performance Plans, IV). Every act's eligibility is contingent upon adherence to their approved Performance Plan.

ACTS/PARTICIPANTS

1. Participants must be enrolled in grades 9-12 upon application. Those under 18 years old at any time during the program year must have parent/guardian consent to participate in the program.
2. At least half of the members of an act must attend the school represented by the PTSA through which they compete. If the highest number of members is the same for more than one school, the act must restructure so that there is a greater number of members attending one school than any other school.
3. All acts must have one adult representative who can be reached by Local, Multi-Region, and State PTA leaders; this person is considered the Act Manager and is designated in the Battle of the Bands Online Platform. It is recommended the Act Manager be a parent of one of the students in the Band. (Students are in school during the day and often have restricted phones and email addresses. It is important that PTA leaders can reach a representative of the band during business hours.)
4. Acts must compete through the PTSA of the school for which at least half of the members attend.
5. Each act and participant may enter at only one PTSA/school. Each participant may be a part of only one act in the program year.
6. All participants and acts agree to have their name, voice, image/likeness, and performance used in any advertising or broadcasting material relating to this program without compensation or rights.
7. Acts must create a Performance Plan during the registration process in the Battle of the Bands Online Platform. Performance Plan approval is the final element of act eligibility. See Performance Plan in Section IV.
8. Each band must play one original song and one cover song; one of the songs must have lyrics. Lyrics must be appropriate for family audiences. As an example, the committee will not approve lyrics that are explicit or allude to violence, sexual behavior, or drug use. Acts are allowed to change original lyrics to meet this requirement. Every change must be approved by the Committee.
9. Each act must complete registration and submit all information exactly as indicated on the registration website, in the format requested, and by the given deadlines. If any part is incomplete the act will not be allowed to participate.
10. Only those individuals named in the registration process may participate in the competition. Each participant (except the Act Manager) must have an active role in the act and must participate in the entire performance.
11. Participants may only be a member of one act for the competition. New members may not be added and existing members may not be replaced at any point after initial registration without approval of the Utah PTA Battle of the Bands Committee. Approval will only be given for emergencies.
12. The designated Act Manager is allowed free admission and backstage access to the events in which their act is competing to assist acts at the performance site. With the exception of the PTA leaders facilitating the contest, no other individuals receive this complimentary access.

SOLOS/DUETS

A Solo/Duet act consists of one or two members. Any act featuring only one person is allowed to use a prerecorded backup track. All acts with two people must use live instruments. Solos and Duets are judged against each other in one category.

Solos/Duets perform one song, either an original or a cover. Solos/Duets are given five minutes total performance time.

C. ACTS/PARTICIPANTS

- 1) Participants must be enrolled in grades 9-12 upon application. Those under 18 years old at any time during the program year must have parent/guardian consent to participate in the program.
- 2) Solo acts are eligible to participate only through the PTSA of the school that the vocalist attends.
- 3) Each solo act must perform a song with lyrics. The song performed may be an original song or a cover song.
 - a) For solo acts only, the instrument in accompaniment may be pre-recorded.
 - b) The vocalist in a solo act is the primary performer.
 - c) The solo act must compete through the PTSA of the school that the vocalist attends.
- 4) Each duet act must perform a song with lyrics. The song performed may be an original song or a cover song.
 - a) All acts entering the Duets category must have two members.
 - b) Both members can sing or play instruments.
 - c) The Duet Act must compete through a PTSA school where one member attends, and shall compete at only one school competition.
- 5) All acts must have one adult representative who can be reached by Local, Multi-Region, and State PTA leaders; this person is considered the Act Manager and is designated in the Battle of the Bands Online Platform. It is recommended the Act Manager is a parent of one of the students. (Students are in school during the day and often have restricted phones and email addresses. It is important that PTA leaders can reach a representative of the band during business hours.)
- 6) Each act and participant may enter at only one PTSA/school. Each participant may be a part of only one act in the program year.
- 7) All participants and acts agree to have their name, voice, image/likeness, and performance used in any advertising or broadcasting material relating to this program without compensation or rights.
- 8) Acts must create a Performance Plan during the registration process in the Battle of the Bands Online Platform. Performance Plan approval is the final element of act eligibility. See Performance Plan in Section IV.
- 9) Each solo/duet act must perform a song with lyrics. The song performed may be an original song or a cover song. Lyrics must be appropriate for family audiences. As an example, the committee will not approve lyrics that are explicit or allude to violence, sexual behavior, or drug use. Acts are allowed to change original lyrics to meet this requirement. Every change must be approved by the Committee.
- 10) Each act must complete registration and submit all information exactly as indicated on the registration

website, in the format requested, and by the given deadlines. If any part is incomplete the act will not be allowed to participate.

- 11) Only those individuals named in the registration process may participate in the competition. Each participant (except the Act Manager) must have an active role in the act and must participate in the entire performance.
- 12) Participants may only be a member of one act for the competition. New members may not be added and existing members may not be replaced at any point after initial registration without approval of the Utah PTA Battle of the Bands Committee. Approval will only be given for emergencies.
- 13) The designated Act Manager is allowed free admission and backstage access to the events in which their act is competing to assist acts at the performance site. With the exception of the PTA leaders facilitating the contest, no other individuals receive this complimentary access.

IV. PERFORMANCE PLANS

- A. Performance Plan is an outline of an act's performance during the contest(s). Performance Plans are created in the Battle of the Bands Online Platform by the Act Manager.
- B. Creation of the Performance Plan within the Battle of the Bands Online Platform allows acts to determine the contents and elements of their performance and arrange them as desired. Once completed, the Performance Plan is submitted for approval by the local chair. The local chair will review the plan and either approve the plan or communicate with the Act Manager to guide them in formulating an acceptable Performance Plan.
- C. Once approved, registration is considered complete, and no changes may be made. This includes act members, songs, lyrics, instruments, etc. Acts must adhere to their Performance Plan throughout the competition and at all levels of Utah PTA Battle of the Bands Competitions.
- D. Winning entrants at the local level will need to be approved by the State Battle of the Bands Committee before advancing to the Multi-Region competition. If the song lyrics are deemed unacceptable, that act will need to modify their lyrics or they will be unable to advance and the second place act will advance instead. (Local Chairs, if you have concerns about any lyrics, please consult the State committee before your local competition.)

V. PROGRAM RULES

- A. Program rules apply to all participants, acts, Local PTSAs and Multi-Region PTAs throughout the program year. Rules specific to entities are grouped in this document. Participation in the Battle of the Bands indicates acceptance and agreement to all rules and requirements of the program. All applications and forms must be submitted using documents of the current year.
- ◆ Current Program Year: 2025-2026
- B. Any violation of rules, complication caused by an individual or act, failure to meet eligibility requirements, or failure to fulfill responsibilities may result in deduction of points, disqualification, or other penalty or consequence. Such actions are at the discretion of PTA leaders at the Multi-Region level, State level, and the Utah PTA Battle of the Bands Committee as applicable.
- C. These rules supersede all other instruction and guidance regarding the program.

INFO FOR BATTLE OF THE BANDS CHAIRS

- D. D.LOCAL PTSAs (MULTI-REGION PTAs should follow all the same guidelines as explained in this section)
 - 1) Participating Local PTSAs must access the Battle of the Bands Online Platform and:
 - a) Opt-in to the program prior to the Fall deadline

- b) Select a contest date
 - c) Assign judges
 - d) Designate a contact person, either the Local PTSA President or a Battle of the Bands Chairperson.
- 2) Local PTSAs are responsible for ensuring they are following the rules and requirements of the current program year.
 - 3) Local PTSAs are responsible for ensuring all acts, participants, and judges complete the registration process.
 - 4) Local PTSAs are responsible for ensuring that their acts are qualified and approved in the Battle of the Bands Online Platform prior to their participation in the contest.
 - 5) Local PTSAs are responsible for ensuring that PTA leaders, participants, and acts follow the Program Rules at their contest and throughout the competition.
 - 6) Local PTSAs are responsible for securing the required judges for their contest.
 - 7) Using the Battle of the Bands Online Platform, Local PTSAs must advance their winners to the Multi Region level prior to the deadline.
 - 8) All communications should follow the competition path: Local --> Multi-Region --> State. Any issues should be brought to the attention of the Multi-Region PTA leaders, who will communicate with State leaders on behalf of the Locals, if necessary.
 - 9) Local PTSAs must ensure their local contest event is covered by their insurance policy.

E. JUDGES

- 1) At the State Level, each act will be judged by at least three live Performance Judges, one Timing Judge, and one Compliance Judge. The timing and compliance judge can be one or two people. At the Local and Multi-Region level they may have 3 or 5 Performance Judges as well as one Timing Judge, and one Compliance Judge. The timing and compliance judge can be one or two people. Each act in a given contest will have the same judges as all other acts in that contest. Judges may not be changed at any point during the contest. If, for any reason, a judge must discontinue judging, all that judge's scores for that contest will be discarded.
- 2) Judges must complete the registration process on the Battle of the Bands Online Platform.
- 3) Judges must use the judging tool on the Battle of the Bands Online Platform to record their scores for the event. See Judging Rules. (If online access is not available during the competition, the paper judging forms available on utahpta.org must be used and the scores should be entered online once internet access is available.)
- 4) Judges shall assign points, penalties, or disqualification in accordance with the Judging Rubric and Scoring Rules.
- 5) Judges shall be totally impartial.
 - a) Judges should be willing to provide constructive feedback using positive language to all acts.
 - b) No person may serve as Performance Judge for more than one contest throughout the competition.
 - c) Judges must be physically present at the contest for which they are judging.

- d) Additional rules applying to judges can be found in the Battle of the Bands Judging/Scoring Rules document.

F. CONTESTS/PERFORMANCE

- 1) Each competing act will be allowed an equal and predetermined amount of time for a sound check on the day of the Multi-Region and State contests. This allotment includes setup/breakdown time. If more time is needed, the act must wait until all other acts have received their allotted sound check time before resuming their sound check.
- 2) The entire performance must be family-friendly. This includes lyrics, behavior, clothing, props, etc. All behavior, lyrics, communications, and spoken words must be violence-free, obscenity-free, discrimination-free, and family-friendly. The performance must follow the approved Performance Plan. (See IV)
- 3) All acts must provide their own equipment such as instruments, amplifiers, cables, cords, etc. All items should be labeled with ownership identification. If any equipment will be made available to all acts during any contest, the PTA leaders providing that contest will notify all participants. Participants are responsible for their own equipment. Utah PTA, Multi-Region PTAs, and local PTSAs are not responsible for any damaged, lost, or stolen equipment.
- 4) All acts must play live at the venue site and all participants (except the Act Manager) must be active participants for the entire performance.
- 5) Band acts are allotted ten minutes on stage; solo acts are allotted five minutes on stage.
 - a) The timing begins when the band starts speaking, playing, or performing according to the approved Performance Plan. All items included in the Performance plan are counted in the allotted time. Time ends either when the emcee speaks or when the Timing Judge determines the act is over. See Timing Judging.

G. AWARDS & ADVANCEMENT

- 1) Each local PTSA may advance one band and one solo act to the Multi-Region contest. If a local PTSA has more than one band or solo act applying to compete they must hold a local contest.
- 2) Each Local and Multi-Region must award First Place, Second Place, and Third Place awards to their three highest-scoring band and solo acts, respectively.
 - a) Each Local shall advance their First Place band act and First Place solo act to the Multi-Region contest using the Battle of the Bands Online Platform. Any Local with six or more entrants in one category (bands or solos) may advance their first and second place winners in that category to the Multi-Region contest for that category.
 - b) Each Multi-Region shall advance their First Place, Second Place, and Third Place band acts to the State contest using the Battle of the Bands Online Platform.
 - c) Each Multi-Region shall advance the First Place, Second Place, and Third Place solo acts to the State contest using the Battle of the Bands Online Platform.
 - d) Local PTSAs may not offer awards in excess of \$200 per act. Local PTSAs should consult with Multi-Region PTAs to ensure that their awards do not exceed Multi-Region or State awards.
 - e) Multi-Region PTAs may not offer awards in excess of \$300 per act. Multi-Region leaders should consult with state and local leaders to ensure that Multi-Region awards are lower than state awards and that local awards are lower than Multi-Region awards.