

Washington Solo and Ensemble Contest



Proposed Rule Changes 2018 Contests



Following are the proposed rule changes for 2018 regional and state solo and ensemble contests. The proposals will be discussed and voted on at the November 2016 WMEA Board meeting. As per our rule change process, proposals can be accepted, amended or rejected. Those which are finally approved will go to the WIAA Executive Board for concurrence, amendment (which then come back for concurrence) or rejection. Teacher input for WMEA Board consideration is welcome. Email to rulechange@wmea.org by October 10, 2016.

Proposed new text is *underlined and italicized*.

Proposal Number 1

Change rules 1.6.1 and 1.6.9 to read as follows

1.6.1 The following divisions and categories will be included in the State Ensemble Contest. SMALL categories are 2-4 students plus accompaniment; LARGE categories are 5-16 students plus accompaniment:

<p><u><i>Soprano/Mezzo/Alto</i></u> Vocal Ensemble Div <u><i>Soprano/Mezzo/Alto</i></u> Vocal-Small Category <u><i>Soprano/Mezzo/Alto</i></u> Vocal-Large Category</p> <p><u><i>Tenor/Baritone/Bass</i></u> Vocal Ensemble Div <u><i>Tenor/Baritone/Bass</i></u> Vocal-Small Category <u><i>Tenor/Baritone/Bass</i></u> Vocal-Large Category</p>
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(Woodwind, Brass, Percussion, String and Mixed Vocal Ensemble Divisions and Categories would remain unchanged.)

1.6.9 A mix of vocal and instrumental solo categories, as scored, is allowed in large ensembles and will be placed in the division with the largest representation. (E.g. fourteen *tenor/baritone/bass* singers, two flutes would be *tenor/baritone/bass* Vocal-Large; six *soprano/mezzo/alto* singers, six *tenor/baritone/bass* singers, and string quartet would be Mixed Vocal-Large.) There can be no mix of voice and instrument categories in a small ensemble.

PROPOSED BY: Amy Ballard

RATIONALE: I am proposing that we eliminate the language in the vocal ensemble categories which identifies a gender. We should classify singers by their instrument, not their gender. For example, the percussion ensemble category wouldn't have a women's percussion ensemble and men's percussion ensemble. We classify entries by instrument, not gender. Mixed vocal ensemble will stay the same, because it is ANY mixture of vocal instruments. Women's should change to Soprano/Mezzo/Alto Vocal and men's should change to Tenor/Baritone/Bass Vocal. The category the students enter is based on the voice part they sing and the literature, not their genders.

Proposal Number 2

Remove rule 1.6.5

1.6.5 A participant performing on piano, guitar or harp in an instrumental ensemble must be a student that meets all student eligibility requirements. (Clarification: Between the region and state event, it is allowable to drop the piano, guitar or harp participant, but you cannot add or change.)

PROPOSED BY: Roger Garcia and Don May

RATIONALE:

1. The rule is only for instrumental ensembles and therefore is not equitable across all disciplines.
2. Since the piano part is not considered part of the ensemble (rule 1.6.4) the eligibility requirement should not be there. This holds true especially when the piano part is an accompaniment.
3. This particular rule handicaps smaller and rural schools whose school population is not very large to draw on in obtaining an accompanist that is qualified, both in eligibility and ability.
4. While choosing music without accompaniment, or easier accompaniment is an option, that path is inherently handicapping as well. It limits the quality of musical works that might otherwise be within the abilities of eligible student wind/percussion/string players.

Proposal Number 3

Add the following to rule 1.7

- 1.7 A student may qualify for the state contest in more than one instrumental solo category. If a student performs in more than one solo category, he/she must perform different literature in each category. If individual students are in more than one ensemble, they must perform different literature in each ensemble. While vocalists may compete in more than one solo category at the region contest, they may not qualify for state in more than one solo category. If vocal soloists have a preference if chosen for state in more than one category, they must notify the region contest manager *in writing one week* prior to their region event. However, final decision of which category they are assigned to sits with contest management.

PROPOSED BY: Arianna Haindfield

RATIONALE: By adding the words “in writing one week,” prior notification is better defined and eliminates a request being made as late as contest morning. This would allow contest management to better prepare and have a plan in place that best represents the region in terms of maximum possible category winners/alternates being forwarded to the state contest. While the contest manager is not obligated to ask eligible students for their preference, they would have the opportunity to confirm back to the student that their preference was received within the allowable time limit and will be considered.

Proposal Number 4

New rules 1.6.14, 1.6.14.1, 1.6.14.2

1.6.14 A single category is available for Mariachi Ensembles, which may include at least two but no more than sixteen participants. All event rules apply to the category, with these exceptions:

1.6.14.1 Instrumentation may include any combination of traditional and non-traditional mariachi instruments and vocalists.

1.6.14.2 Participants playing instruments may also sing during the entry's performance.

PROPOSED BY: Taryn Webber

RATIONALE: Mariachi is now a stand alone program in ten districts, and most of the students are of Mexican heritage. The music that they learn is of a certain instrumentation that is mixed guitar, strings, vocal, and brass families-- they don't really fit into any of the existing categories. That, along with the fact that many judges of those ensemble categories are not familiar with the mariachi style, makes it awkward for mariachi students to participate in the ensemble portion of solo/ensemble. If mariachi was a stand alone category we could have judges who knew the style and gave the students valuable feedback. We would expand our participation to more students of color, and include a folk style that is growing in popularity in the schools.

I am proposing a two year pilot program adding a mariachi ensemble category starting with 2017-2018 events.

This would be a single half day category, inclusive of all small and large mariachi ensembles numbering between two and sixteen participants.

Entries may choose to compete for an opportunity to perform at the state contest, per the existing qualifying structure that applies to all ensemble categories.

There must be a minimum of six state contest qualifying entries resulting from region competition or the ensemble category will not be offered at the state event.

After the first year of the pilot, the WMEA Board will review and make adjustments as deemed appropriate. At the conclusion of the second year, the WMEA Board will determine whether or not to continue offering the mariachi category opportunity, making the appropriate recommendation to the WIAA Board for a final decision.