

# Washington Solo and Ensemble Contest



## Proposed Rule Changes 2015 Contests



Following are the proposed rule changes for 2015 regional and state solo and ensemble contests. The proposals will be discussed and voted on at the November 2013 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.

Proposed new text is *underlined and italicized.*

### ***Proposal Number 1***

*Add the following to Rule 1.5.2*

1.5.2 A soloist's accompanist may be an adult or a student and may change between the regional and state contests. See Rule 3.13.3 for further information. A single accompanist on piano, guitar or harp is the only accompanist permitted. *Solo piano entries may not be accompanied.* Soloists may not accompany themselves.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Gutgesell

RATIONALE: We are only able to provide one piano per room at the state contest. To be state eligible, this would prevent teachers and participants asking region contest managers to accommodate a request for two pianos in a room as well.

### ***Proposal Number 2***

*Add the following to Rule 1.5.3*

1.5.3 The Multiple Percussion category includes students performing a combination of typical percussion instruments and accessories. *Incidental piano if scored within another percussion part,* steel drums, drum sets, and body percussion will be considered multiple percussion. *In all cases, only one piano may be used during a performance.* Multiple percussion solos or parts in ensembles must be scored parts.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Gutgesell

RATIONALE: The state contest only recognizes piano as a solo or accompanying instrument, however, by definition a piano is part of the percussion family. This would allow a multiple percussion soloist or ensemble member to perform on piano as scored in the music.

Teacher input for WMEA Board consideration is welcome. Please send to [rulechange@wmea.org](mailto:rulechange@wmea.org) by October 11, 2013.

### ***Proposal Number 3***

*Clarify language in 1.6.7*

1.6.7 Small ensembles will be limited to one performer per part. Large ensembles ~~may double on parts~~ must have at least four scored parts, which may each have multiple performers.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Gutgesell

RATIONALE: Confusion exists regarding the term “double.”

### ***Proposal Number 4***

*New rule 1.6.7, renumbering those that follow appropriately*

1.6.7 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 male singers, two flutes would be Mens Vocal-Large; six women singers, six men singers, and string quartet would be Mixed Vocal-Large.) There can be no mix of voice and instrument categories in a small ensemble.

.OR, add the following to to the end of 1.6.6

1.6.6 Ensembles may not contain a mix of vocalists and instrumentalists, other than an accompanist.

PROPOSED BY: Bruce Gutgesell

RATIONALE: While our rules document does not speak specifically to a mix of vocalists and instrumentalists in ensembles, it has been past practice to have some large vocal ensembles utilizing instruments in performance. Clarification is needed.

### ***Proposal Number 5***

*Add the following to rule 2.4*

2.4 First and second alternates will be selected in each category if two or more performers receive a “I” rating. It will be the responsibility of the adjudicator to determine which performers are alternates. In any ensemble category, no individual student may be in more than one ensemble selected as a winner, first alternate or second alternate. (Note: “+” and “-” ratings are not “official” ratings. A “I-” carries the same weight as a “I” in determining eligibility and qualifiers from a region. ALSO: the Soprano solo category will qualify TWO first alternates and TWO second alternates each.)

PROPOSED BY: Karen Helseth

RATIONALE: In the past there have been a number of incidences where multiple ensembles consisting of some of the same students are selected for more than one of the top three places at regional contests, thus earning state qualification or consideration more than once in the same category. While students should not be discouraged from participating in multiple ensembles at regional contests, allowing the top musicians to be selected for more than one state qualifying position in the same category denies another ensemble the recognition of being named first or second alternate in that category. This proposed rule change will allow more students to receive the meaningful recognition of placing in the top three at the regional contest. Furthermore, if more than one ensemble from the same region is scheduled to perform at the state contest within the same category, they will be composed of different musicians.

## “Other”

Proposed by Bruce Gutgesell, State Contest Manager

I am proposing a two year pilot program starting with 2014-2015 region events. Year one would provide an opportunity for guitar ensemble entries at the region contest level in a non-competitive format. Those ensembles could be of any size up to sixteen plus accompaniment. Participating ensembles could choose to perform for rating or comment only.

In year two that opportunity would continue at the region level but requiring a rating for state contest consideration. Those ensembles earning a superior rating would be ranked, with winners and alternates selected for the state contest following our current contest selection process. We would add a half day guitar ensemble category to the state contest, in a non-competitive format. Ensembles would perform for rating, but not ranked, and with all receiving a certificate of participation. My initial thought would be to have solos on Saturday in the AM, followed by ensembles in the PM. I suggest requiring a minimum of six state contest qualifying ensembles to justify creating the category at the state contest. After the first state event, a decision whether to go forward would be made, and if so, whether to incorporate designating first, second and third place finishers at future contests.

### Rationale:

I have long been a proponent of guitar programs in our schools, starting early during my time at Juanita High School and continuing as an executive officer of WMEA. At that time, I saw it as a way to reach a population severely underserved in our schools---those who did not choose to pursue the traditional band/choir/orchestra path in younger years. In addition, it is a way for teachers of music to better ensure employment teaching what they have been trained to teach, rather than subjects in other curricular areas, or perhaps worse, only part time.

As state contest manager, I have heard from multiple teachers expressing strong desire for a guitar ensemble category at the state contest. I, however, believe that it would be prudent to gauge the degree of interest by utilizing this two-step approach. I see this process similar to that employed by the Olympics with demonstration sports, a process created to gauge interest and promote involvement.

My hope is that offering this opportunity will serve as both reward for those who have established guitar programs, as well as to encourage even greater participation in school music programs.

I believe we can do this at very little cost to the state contest. It would mean an overnight stay and full day rather than the current half day of pay for guitar adjudicators, but we will be saving some money in future contests given that the mezzo voice category will be reduced from a full day of 44 participants to the traditional half day of 22 participants due to the reduced participation we have experienced the past three years at region events. Regardless, I truly believe it is a worthy investment on its own merits.

The guitar solo category has continued to grow each of the past few years with us now enjoying all state contest time slots being filled, and with that the opportunity to hire the full complement of three adjudicators. I believe this is the next, most appropriate step in that progression.

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