



2024 UIL Area H 5A MARCHING CONTEST

October 26, 2024

John Gupton Stadium - Leander ISD
200 Gupton Way, Cedar Park, Texas 78613

Updated July 21, 2024
(Information subject to change.)

TO: Directors of the 5A Bands participating in the Area H Marching Band Contest

FROM: Fran & Deborah Badrak, Contest Chairpersons
Rey Meza, Asst. Contest Chairman
Mike Howard, Director of Fine Arts, Leander ISD, Contest Host

SUBJECT: *October 28, 2024 Area H 5A Marching Band Contest
**In the event of inclement weather, contest will be held Monday October 28, 2024, same location.*

Congratulations on advancing to the Area H Class 5A Marching Band Contest to be held on, October 26, 2024, at John Gupton Stadium/Leander ISD in Cedar Park. Your contest site host, Mike Howard, along with the band booster clubs from Leander ISD, will do everything possible to make this a rewarding and positive experience for you and your students. Thank you in advance for reading and adhering to the policies and procedures outlined in this guide. Best wishes for a successful performance!

AREA H EXECUTIVE SEC. CONTACT INFO

Fran & Deborah Badrak
9185 N Point Dr
San Antonio, TX 78266
210-274-6651; 210-887-6705
uilmusicregion11@gmail.com
www.uilmusicregion11.com

JUDGES (Assignments TBD)

Ryan Demkovich
Greg Hayes
Andrew Lee
Mark Veenstra
Paul Worosello

ENTRY PROCESS & IMPORTANT PRE-CONTEST INFO

1. The following items available [HERE](#) need your immediate attention:
 - a. Area Marching Contest **Entry Form**. The **entry fee is \$550.00** due NLT the day of the contest.
 - b. Area H **Form W-9 and Invoice** for your district's business office.

You **do not** need to turn in the Form 1 Eligibility/Certification for Area MBC.

2. Familiarize yourself with **all** 5A Area H MBC Information found [HERE](#) and information found at: [UIL Music MBC](#).
3. Should one or more of the directors facilitate the availability of a **professional videographer** for the purpose of providing one educational use only video, please conduct all arrangements directly with the company. A designated area in the stands is available for videography; the video deck is not available. UIL Music Area H does not coordinate the availability of a professional/nonprofessional videographer and does not assume any copyright liabilities.

Note: A school must complete and submit the *Marching Band Educational Use Video Agreement* no later than seven days prior to the contest where the school wishes to video their marching band's performance. By completing the video agreement, you are permitted one camera and operator on the video area during your band's performance. Please be courteous of others who also have permission to occupy the video space. If your school previously submitted this agreement to video its band's region performance, there is no need to do so again. The form can be found here: [Video Agreement](#)

4. Contest vendors include PepWear and Southwest Emblem. Information about their merchandise is found [HERE](#). Feel free to share the merchandise fliers with your stakeholders prior to the day of contest.

CONTEST PERFORMANCE ORDER & SCHEDULE

1. Each region executive secretary draws the Area H performance numbers for their region prior to the fall region meetings. At the fall region meetings, **all** 5A band directors draw numbers for the tentative Area H prelims schedule. If you are not able to attend your fall region meeting, please assign a designee to draw for you. The tentative 5A Area H prelims schedule is emailed to you and your region executive secretary. It is also posted on the UIL Music Region 11 website at www.uilmusicregion11.com under the Area H Marching tab.
2. Following the region marching contests in Area H, the final Area H prelims schedule is published and distributed to include only the names of the schools that advance to the Area H MBC. **Tentative start time is 9:00AM.**
3. Following the **Prelims**, directors meet in the Home Field House at the south end of the stadium to verify scores and rankings. At that time, the directors of the bands advancing to finals draw for performance order. The bands advancing to finals are announced over the PA. That schedule is published and distributed immediately on site.
4. Following the finals, directors meet in the Contest Office located in the Press Box. Access the PB by using the elevator opposite the Home Side concession stand. At that time, the directors verify the scores and rankings. Once verified, results are announced. Directors of the bands advancing to UIL SMBC will draw for performance order. The Area H Executive Secretary emails the State UIL Music Office the results of the draw.
5. Should your band be certified to advance to the UIL SMBC, you can receive registration information via [UIL SMBC](#)
6. For additional information, reference **Section 1106: Area Marching Band Contest, (h) Preliminary Round and Final Round and Section 1106 (k) (6)(7) Area Notification to State** in the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules*. Link: [C&CR Sec 1106](#)

DIRECTIONS TO JOHN GUPTON STADIUM

200 Gupton Way, Cedar Park, Texas 78613

John Gupton Stadium is located at 200 Gupton Way Dr. in Cedar Park, across from Vista Ridge HS. It can be easily accessed from 183A, FM 1431, or Parmer Ln. Bus/Truck entrance is from Vista Ridge Blvd. Spectator Entrance is from the Gupton Way entrance gate and the Park Street entrance gate. Please share this with your band families.

Also, carefully examine the maps found [HERE](#), as they are designed to familiarize you with the stadium, general vicinity, and contest flow.

ADDITIONAL STADIUM/SITE INFORMATION

John Gupton Stadium has artificial turf with painted standard markings. Any pit or prop equipment pushed or pulled on the field surface must have large inflatable tires or tires with a minimum of 8-inch wheels (pneumatic, wheels/casters). Any equipment with smaller wheels must be lifted and positioned in place.

Please share the following restrictions with your stakeholders:

- Anything that leaves a residue on the turf is prohibited. (Glitter, confetti, powder, etc.)
- Balloons are prohibited on the field and in the stands.
- Noisemakers such as air horns, cow bells, etc. are not allowed.
- Spirit signs must be positive in nature.
- Umbrellas and other shading devices must be completely closed and lowered while bands perform.

GENERAL ADMISSION & SPECTATOR PARKING

The ticket booth will open an hour before the first performance.

\$10.00 admission that covers prelims and finals.

No reserved seats.

Re-entry is allowed with intact wristband.

No free wristband replacements.

Free admission for:

Children 4 and under

Participating band members (wearing band shirt/uniform).

Administrators with UIL Pass.

**We will email you a PDF of the VIP ADMIN PASS to send to campus admin. Host will forward pass to district admin.*

No senior/military discounts.

Cash or credit cards* accepted.

**Processing fee of \$0.50 added per ticket.*

Pre-sales: Information will be emailed to you.

Spectators are not allowed to enter or park by the busses and trucks. See map for spectator parking [HERE](#).

Access in and out of the stands is restricted during each band's performance. Entrances to the seating area are closed with two minutes left on the clock of each band's setup period. Please inform your stakeholders of this courtesy and advise them to arrive with plenty of time to get seated before the entrances close.

CONTEST CHECK-IN

The check-in station is in the bus/truck parking lot where you will be welcomed by a parent or student volunteer. Arrive and check in 60 minutes prior to the start of your warm-up time. You will receive a packet of complimentary admission wristbands (1 for every 10

band members) to be given at your discretion to your chaperones and bus drivers.

Check in for finals is also in the bus/equipment truck parking lot where you will follow the same routine as you did in prelims.

A student monitor is assigned to your band for the duration of check-in to field exit. Please let the check-in volunteer and/or your monitor know if you have specific concerns or questions. You can also call Fran Badrak at **210-274-6651**, Mike Howard at **512-563-8991**, and/or Rey Meza at **210-723-7178**.

RESTROOMS/CHANGING FACILITIES

Dressing facilities are limited. Please have your students wear uniforms or change on the bus.

WARM-UP

- Following check-in, your monitor escorts your band to the warm-up area at the designated time. Be prepared to move to warm-up 15 minutes before your scheduled warm-up time.
- Warm-up for bands is on the east side of Vista Ridge HS. An escort and traffic monitors will help your band cross Vista Ridge Blvd. **DO NOT PROCEED TO THE WARM-UP AREA WITHOUT YOUR BAND'S ESCORT.**
- Bands in all three warm-up areas face away from Gupton Stadium. Percussion sections should warm up closer to the school. **Amplified metronomes and speakers must face away from the stadium.**
- Guard warms up near band warm-up. Front ensemble has a separate warm-up area. Refer to map [HERE](#).
- Warm-up time is **45 minutes**. You must be there on time to have your entire warm-up period.
- **Your time includes entering and exiting the warm-up area.**
- The use of wireless transmitters (metronomes or PA's) in the warm-up areas is strictly prohibited. Amplified metronomes (**bluetooth or hard-wired**) must face away from the stadium. We reserve the right to ask bands to turn down or turn off amplified metronomes if they are heard in the stadium.
- Playing of instruments is allowed only in the warm-up areas and on the field during performance.
- Please be courteous to the monitors, as they are doing their best to help you as well as all others following you.
- The contest chairperson and the contest host make every effort to ensure non-essential wireless frequencies are turned off and any active frequencies are communicated to the participating bands in advance of the contest. **There will be no "restarts," "delays," or "do-overs" due to any issue related to electronics.**
- Wireless devices may be tested only during contest intermissions and during the 7-minute period that includes any band's 2-minute field exit and 5-minute field entrance. This includes bands in warm-up and other areas around the stadium.
- There is not a water station in the warm-up area. Band directors should prepare to have water for their students in warm-up.

ADDITIONAL FRONT ENSEMBLE INFORMATION

- Front ensemble warm-up areas are in the Visitor Parking Lot, closest to Vista Ridge HS. (This is the same lot as the equipment truck parking.)
- Absolutely no cymbals or booms during the front ensemble warm-up.
- The use of wireless transmitters (metronomes or PA's) in the warm-up areas is strictly prohibited. Amplified metronomes (**bluetooth or hard-wired**) must face away from the stadium.
- Your pit needs to have their equipment in place at the Staging Area just outside the stadium fence, 15 minutes prior to your performance.
- Each pit will have 5-10 minutes to transition from Staging Area to Ready Area while the performing band (one slot ahead of yours) is on the field. No distracting

- movements or sounds should occur while the band is performing.
- Your pit will move from the Ready Area to the field 5 minutes prior to your performance time.
- After your performance, your pit will move toward the middle of the field and toward the center tunnel between the two fields houses on the South Side of the field. You will have an uphill push. Please come prepared.

MOVEMENT TO STADIUM ENTRANCE

Field entrance for each band is located on the Visitor Side. Bands need to follow the field entrance monitor's instructions at this point.

PERFORMANCE REGULATIONS

Please familiarize yourself with the following:

(1) UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, Section 1106 (g) Area Performance Regulations: [HERE](#)

Performance regulations as listed under **Section 1105** (below) shall apply to the **area marching band** contest with the following exception: **any band that leaves the field in less than five minutes or fails to complete its performance in eight minutes shall be disqualified.**

UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, Section 1105 (h) Performance Regulations: [HERE](#)

Performance Time. Each competing band shall occupy the football field for not less than five nor more than eight minutes. ~~Any band that leaves the field in less than five minutes or fails to complete its performance in eight minutes shall be penalized one rating.~~ [SEE ABOVE EXPLANATION IN RED. Section 1105(h)(1) in its entirety applies to region marching contests only.]

(2) Movement to Field Position. The contest chair will determine the ready position each band will assume prior to entering the field of competition. The position shall provide efficient and prompt access to the football field without interfering with other bands as they perform. This location will be clearly described in the marching contest packet.

(3) Official Time

The official time for each band will be kept according to the following:

- The contest chair will designate an official timekeeper.
- In order to allow ample time for the judges to complete their critiques, bands will be scheduled with five minutes between performances and a maximum of fifteen minutes per band.
- Bands may use the five minutes prior to their performance in any way they deem appropriate in order to assume their starting position and prepare for the beginning of their show. Activities may include warm-up and/or cadence.
- Each band will be announced with 45 seconds remaining on the 5-minute clock. The beginning of their announcement will indicate that the performance time will begin in 45 seconds.
- The actual timing and adjudication for the show will begin at the end of the five minutes.
- At the conclusion of each band's performance the post script will be read while the band will have two minutes to exit the field and clear the marching surface of all equipment, instruments, and props. The use of either instrumental or verbal cadence is optional. A band that fails to be clear of the field (outside the sidelines or endlines) or continues to use instrumental or verbal cadence at the end of the two minutes will be disqualified.
- A band leaving equipment or instruments on the sideline in such a manner that these items impede the movement of the next band into its starting position will be subject to penalty in accordance with Subchapter E.

(4) Electronic Equipment

Equipment Electronic equipment may be used under the following provisions: [ELECTRONICS AND AMPLIFICATION IN UIL MBC PERFORMANCES UPDATED 2022-2023](#)

- a. All electronically produced music including narration and sound effects shall be performed live and in real time by eligible students.
- b. Pre-recorded music, instrumental or vocal, or narration may not be used.
- c. Amplification: Amplification of instruments or voice may be used with the following restrictions:
- d. All equipment must be operated by eligible students.
- e. AC power cords and AC supplied amplification units must be located outside the sidelines and endlines.
- f. A power generator or DC power source may be placed on the field, provided there is a protective barrier between the power unit and the turf, and all cords are contained safely within close proximity to the equipment that is being supplied with power.
- g. Wind instruments may be amplified only for solo and/or small ensemble features.**

(5) Amplification

(A) All equipment must be operated by eligible students. Exception: A non-student may intervene solely for the purpose of addressing an equipment failure and must submit a written justification for doing so to the contest chair after the performance.

(B) All cables must be safely placed on the field and/or sidelines. Students may not cross over on-field cables, covered or not, during a performance.

(C) A power generator or DC power source may be placed on the field, provided there is a protective barrier between the power unit and the turf and all cords are contained safely within close proximity to the equipment that is being supplied with power.

(D) Wind instruments may be amplified only for solo and/or small ensemble features of up to ten performers at one time.

**** UIL defines a solo or small ensemble feature as an individual or a group of up to ten wind players within the full marching band that is featured both musically and visually. A potential violation of this rule would be a scenario where a group of musicians staged within the full band wind section is amplified, while not being featured visually. In this scenario the trained observer would likely not be able to discern which performers are being amplified and could therefore be led to believe that the full band wind section is performing the musical excerpt.**

(6) Violations

Violations will be subject to penalties in accordance with Section 27 and Section 2.

(7) Local Ground Rules Failure to comply with local ground rules and regulations outlined by and/or approved by the Region Executive Committee may be cause for disqualification or other penalties as listed in Subchapter E. Such rules should be sent to all participating schools at least 14 days prior to the contest.

(8) TIMING & CLOCK PROTOCOL CLARIFICATION

Preparation and performance time will be kept according to the *UIL Constitution and Contest Rules*, **Section 1105 (h) (3) Official Time**.

- At the designated time, a field monitor will cue your band to enter the field. At that time, the 5-minute setup period will begin, and timing will be

displayed on the stadium clock.

- With 45 seconds remaining on the 5-minute clock, the announcer will read the Opening Script which begins with, "THE (FIRST, NEXT, FINAL) BAND IN CONFERENCE 6A...."
- With 20 seconds remaining on the 5-minute clock, the next statement beginning with, "DRUM MAJORS..." will be read. **As the "DRUM MAJORS" statement is read, the stadium clock will be reset to 8 minutes.** The official timer in the press box will start the 8-minute clock at the end of the 5-minute warm-up period.
- Warm-up or pre-show is permitted during the 5-minute setup period, however, judges will be instructed that activity on the field will not be judged until they see 7:59 on the clock. If you do not wish to utilize the entire 5 minutes of setup time, you may hold your band at the field entrance to coordinate your ready time with the beginning of the announcement.

(9) PROPS

Prop staging will begin in the driveway hi-lighted in blue on the map. Move your props down the ramp toward the back of the field to the large stone wall two performances prior to your band's performance time. Monitors will assist you. All props **must enter and exit** using the ramp on that side of the stadium.

Refer to the following guidelines for UIL regulations regarding props: [HERE](#)

1. The use of props is not part of the UIL marching band adjudication process. Therefore, props are not addressed on any of the adjudication sheets.
2. Props may be assembled, held, and/or moved by eligible student participants and/or non-students during the 5-minute show set-up, the 8-minute show, and the 2-minute field exit.
3. All props must comply with local stadium ground rules and therefore must fit into the stadium where the performance is being held.
4. UIL contest chairs are to make an effort to minimize the amount of time that props are stored in the end zone before and after a band's performance.
5. UIL contest chairs are to make an effort to restrict the assembly of props in the audience's line of site during another band's performance.

STADIUM WIRELESS FREQUENCIES

Stadiums typically provide the use of a wireless microphone system for officials at football games or for on-field presentations. Most often, these systems are powered on even when not in use, creating the potential for interference in the form of unwanted audio. John Gupton Stadium's wireless frequency is: **534.598 MHz**

There will be no "restarts," "delays," or "do-overs" due to any issue related to electronics.

A good practice is to perform a sound check of your wireless equipment during your 5-minute setup. The 5-minute clock **will not** be stopped if you experience electronic issues of any kind. You are still expected to start your show performance at the 8-minute mark.

ELECTRICAL SUPPLY

At field level, the stadium has one quad 110-volt junction box on the front and back sidelines at the 50-yard line to be used at your own risk. Generators are permitted, provided there is a protective barrier between the power unit and the turf.

FIRST AID & WATER STATIONS

Professional medical assistance will be provided at the First Aid Station located in the Home Side Field House. A Water station will be available at the field exit.

Please follow standard emergency protocol:

1. Director/Contest staff member escorts/transport student to First Aid Station.

- Director must be informed ASAP if a student needs first aid.
2. Assessment is made and treatment protocol followed.
 3. If EMS transport is needed, first aid staff contacts student's band director and/or student's parent/guardian.
 4. Director/Contest staff member notifies Executive Secretary of the situation.

CONCESSIONS

Please encourage your students and stakeholders to visit the concession stands located under the Home Side bleachers. Doing so supports the Leander ISD Band Booster Clubs whose members work hard to contribute to the success of the contest.

INSTRUMENT REPAIR

No instrument repair will be provided.

RECORDED ADJUDICATOR COMMENTS

Judges will utilize Competition Suite for all recorded adjudicator comments. Digital comments and scores are available after the prelims and finals competitions.

POST PERFORMANCE

After your monitor escorts the band through the field exit, you will return to your busses and equipment truck(s). Students may reenter the stadium if they are in uniform or wearing a band shirt. Student seating is on the Visitor Side; however, they may visit the vendor booths and concession stand on the Home Side by exiting the stadium and re-entering on the Home Side. Students are expected to follow their school's conduct policy as well as the stadium policies.

DRUM MAJORS RETREAT

At the conclusion of the final band's performance in both the prelims and finals, drums majors from all competing bands are asked to gather in performance order at the South End Zone where a contest official directs them to prepare for the announcements. At the prelims retreat, all bands are announced in performance order, followed by the announcement of bands advancing to Area H Finals and their performance times. At the finals retreat, results are announced. The determination of how many bands are certified to advance to the SMBC depends on the total number of bands participating in the prelims.

AWARDS

Non-finalist bands: participation plaque

Finalist bands: finals plaque

PRESS BOX ACCESS

Press box access is limited to essential contest staff and personnel. The only entrance to the press box is by elevator. Before the results of the finals are announced, directors from each band are called to the contest office located in the press box for the verification process. No pass is required.

VERIFICATION PROCESS

End of Prelims:

Directors meet at Home Side fieldhouse.

Directors receive ranking, results, and plaques.

Directors of bands advancing to finals draw for finals performance order.

Directors of bands advancing to finals receive finals schedule.

End of finals:

Directors meet in the 2nd level press box.

Directors receive ranking, results, and plaques.

Directors of bands advancing to SMBC draw for State performance order.

Directors of bands advancing to SMBC receive information about the entry process.

Notes: