2026 UIL Area H 5A Marching Contest

Oct. 24, 2026
D.W. Rutledge Stadium
900 S Seguin Rd, Converse, TX 78109

To: Directors of 5A Bands Participating in the Area H Marching Band Contest

From:
Fran Badrak, Contest Chairperson
Raul Cisneros, Director of Bands, Wagner HS
Raul Perez, Director of Fine Arts, Judson ISD

Subject: October 24, 2026, Area H Class 5A Marching Band Contest

Congratulations on advancing to the Area H Class 5A Marching Band Contest on October 24, 2026, at D.W. Rutledge Stadium in Converse, Texas. Your contest host, Raul Cisneros, his staff, and the Wagner HS Band Booster Club will do everything possible to make this a rewarding and positive experience for you and your students. Thank you in advance for carefully reviewing and following the policies and procedures outlined in this guide. Best wishes for a successful performance!

Note: In the event of inclement weather, contest will be held Monday, October 26, 2026, at same location.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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AREA H EXECUTIVE SECRETARY CONTACT INFO

Fran Badrak
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San Antonio, TX 78266
210-274-6651
Email: uilmusicregion11@gmail.com
www.uilmusicregion11.org

JUDGES (Assignments TBD)

- Gary Barnard
- Jerriald Dillard
- Andrew Eldridge
- Ryan Johnstone
- Andy Sealy

ENTRY PROCESS & IMPORTANT PRE-CONTEST INFO

1. The following items, available HERE, require your immediate attention:

1. Complete the Area Marching Contest Entry Form
2. Pay entry fee of $595.00 due *no later than* the day of the contest.
3. Submit Area H **Form W-9** and **Invoice** to your district's business office.
4. You **do not need** to turn in the Form 1 Eligibility/Certification for Area MBC.

2. Familiarize yourself with **all** Area H 5A MBC information found HERE and on the UIL Music MBC page: UIL Music MBC.

3. If one or more directors arrange for a **professional videographer** to provide one educational-use-only video, **please coordinate 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 professional or nonprofessional videography and does not assume any copyright liability.

Note: A school must complete and submit the **Marching Band Educational Use Video Agreement** no later than seven days before the contest if the school wishes to record its marching band's performance. Completing the agreement permits one camera and one operator in the designated video area during the band's performance. Please be courteous to others who also have permission to occupy the video space. If your school previously submitted this agreement to record its region performance, you do not need to submit it 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 flyers with your stakeholders before contest day.

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 cannot 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 found HERE 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 schools that advance to the 5A Area H MBC. **Tentative start time is 9:00 AM.**

Finals Pre-Draw at Band Check-In

3. All directors will pre-draw a finals position upon arrival at Band Check-In. This draw will establish the potential finals performance order for all participating bands. After the preliminary competition concludes

and the ten finalists are identified, the determined draw order will be used to set the finals schedule, allowing us to promptly communicate the finalized schedule to directors and spectators.

4. Bands that place 6th through 10th in the prelims will be placed in the first five finals performance slots based on this draw order. Bands that place 1st through 5th will be placed in the last five finals performance slots based on this draw order. ***Please note that the "top five/bottom five draw" is a new policy per the UIL Marching Rules Advisory Committee and will be utilized at all Area Marching Contests.***

5. Following the **Prelims**, directors meet in the Visitor Field House at the north end of the stadium to verify scores and rankings. The bands advancing to finals are announced over the PA. The schedule is published and distributed immediately on site.

6. Following the finals, directors meet in the Contest Office located on the 2nd floor of the Press Box. 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.

7. Should your band be certified to advance to the UIL SMBC, you can receive registration information via UIL SMBC.

8. 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 THE STADIUM

Address: D.W. Rutledge Stadium, 900 S. Seguin Rd., Converse, TX 78109
Carefully review the maps HERE, as they are designed to familiarize you with the stadium, parking, and contest flow.

STADIUM FIELD GUIDELINES FOR PROPS AND PIT EQUIPMENT

D.W. Rutledge 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 wheels/casters with a minimum diameter of 8 inches. 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 one hour before the first performance.
- $10.00 admission covers prelims and finals. No reserved seats.
- Re-entry is allowed with an intact wristband. *Free wristband replacements are not available.*
- Senior and military discounts are not available.
- Cash and credit cards are accepted. **Processing fee of $1.00 added per ticket.**
- Pre-sale information will be emailed to directors.

Free admission for:

- Children 4 and under.
- Participating band members wearing a band shirt or uniform, and administrators with a UIL pass.
- *A PDF of the VIP Admin Pass will be emailed for campus administrators. The host will forward the pass to district administrators.*

Note: D.W. Rutledge Stadium has a "NO PURSES. NO BAGS." policy. Please refer HERE for specific information. Consider sharing it with parents, administrators, and other stakeholders. Band directors do not need to use clear bags.

Spectators are not allowed to enter or park by the buses and trucks; they are also not allowed to set up cookers or grills on Judson ISD property. See HERE for spectator parking.

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

CONTEST CHECK-IN

The check-in station is in the bus/equipment truck parking lot, where you will be welcomed by a parent or student volunteer. We recommend arriving 60 minutes before the start of your warm-up time. You will receive a packet of complimentary admission wristbands—one for every 10 band members—to distribute at your discretion to chaperones and bus drivers.

Finals check-in is also located in the bus/equipment truck parking lot and will follow the same routine used for prelims.

A student monitor is assigned to your band from check-in through field exit. Please notify the check-in volunteer and/or your monitor if you have specific concerns or questions. You may also call Fran Badrak at **210-274-6651**.

RESTROOMS & CHANGING FACILITIES

Students may use the restrooms located under the Visitor Side bleachers to change. Please provide chaperones to assist the students with leaving the facilities free of litter, uniform bags, personal items, etc.

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.
- Guard may warm up near the band. Front ensemble has a separate warm-up area. Refer to map HERE for location of all warm-up areas.
- Warm-up time is 45 minutes and includes entering and exiting the 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.
- The contest chairperson and 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.
- 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.

ADDITIONAL FRONT ENSEMBLE INFORMATION

- 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 just outside the Visitor Side band entry gate 15 minutes prior to your performance. The front ensemble will advance to the 20-yard line during the 2-minute exit of the previous band's performance.

MOVEMENT TO STADIUM ENTRANCE

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

PERFORMANCE REGULATIONS

Please review and familiarize yourself with the following regulations:

UIL CONSTITUTION AND CONTEST RULES

(1) 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

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.

(3) OFFICIAL TIME

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

(A) The contest chair will designate an official timekeeper.

(B) 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.

(C) Bands may use the five minutes prior to their performance in any way they deem appropriate to assume their starting position and prepare for the beginning of their show. Activities may include warm-up and/or cadence.

(D) 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.

(E) The actual timing and adjudication for the show will begin at the end of the five minutes.

(F) At the conclusion of each band's performance the postscript 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.

(G) 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 AND AMPLIFICATION

Electronics & Amplification in UIL Marching Band Contest Performances

Electronic equipment and amplification may be used only under the following conditions:

a. All electronically produced music, narration, and sound effects must be performed live and in real time by eligible students; pre-recorded music, vocals, or narration may not be used.

b. All equipment must be operated by eligible students, except that a non-student may intervene solely to address an equipment failure and must submit written justification to the contest chair after the performance.

c. AC power cords and AC-supplied amplification units must remain outside the sidelines and endlines.

d. Power generators or DC power sources may be placed on the field only with a protective barrier between

the power unit and turf, and cords must be safely contained near the powered equipment.
e. All cables must be safely placed on the field and/or sidelines; students may not cross on-field cables during a performance.
f. Wind instruments may be amplified only for solo 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.

(5) VIOLATIONS
Violations will be subject to penalties in accordance with Section 27 and Section 29.

(6) 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.

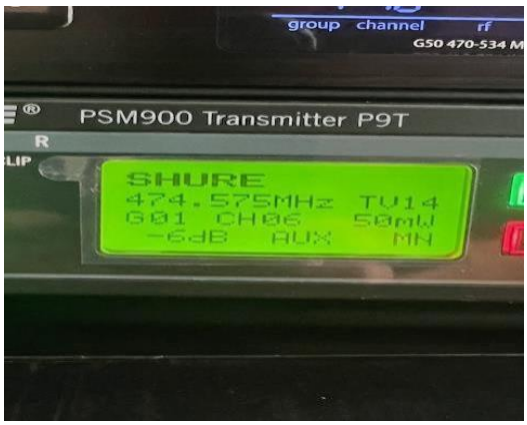
(7) TIMING & CLOCK PROTOCOL CLARIFICATION
Preparation and performance time will be kept according to the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules, Section 1105 (h) (3) Official Time.

- 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 5A.
- 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.

(8) PROPS
Assemble and stage props outside the stadium. All props must enter through the band entrance gate on the visitor side and exit with the band.
Refer to the following guidelines for UIL regulations regarding props: HERE

A. 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.
B. 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.
C. All props must comply with local stadium ground rules and therefore must fit into the stadium where the performance is being held.
D. UIL contest chairs will minimize the amount of time that props are stored in the endzone before and after a 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. Being aware of these frequencies may help you avoid interference with your band's wireless system.

A good practice is to perform a sound check of your wireless equipment during your 5 -minute setup. The 5-minute clock will not stop 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 both the front and back sidelines at the 50-yard line. Use is 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 is provided at the First Aid Station located in the Visitor Side locker room.

Please follow standard emergency protocol:

1. Director/Contest staff member escorts/transports 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. Water stations are available at warm-up locations and field exit.

CONCESSIONS

Please encourage your students and stakeholders to visit the concession stands located under the home side bleachers.

INSTRUMENT REPAIR

No instrument repair will be provided.

RECORDED ADJUDICATOR COMMENTS

Judges use Competition Suite for scoring and digital 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 return to your buses 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.

DRUM MAJORS RETREAT

At the conclusion of the final band's performance in both prelims and finals, drum majors from all competing bands should gather in performance order at the North End Zone, where a contest official will direct them in preparing for announcements. At the prelims retreat, all bands are announced in performance order, followed by the announcement of bands advancing to finals and their performance times. At the finals retreat, results are announced. The number of bands certified to advance to the SMBC depends on the total number of bands

participating in prelims.

AWARDS

Non-finalist bands receive a participation plaque. Finalist bands receive a finals plaque.

PRESS BOX ACCESS

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

VERIFICATION PROCESS

End of prelims:

- Directors meet at the Visitor Side fieldhouse. Directors receive rankings, 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 rankings, 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.