



## Official Contest Rules

We ask that you pay close attention to the rules that follow. All of these rules and regulations are binding for every group and penalties will be assessed for violation of specific rules. Any questions concerning the interpretation of the rules should be directed to the contest director prior to the day of the contest.

1. All students must be bonafide students of the participating school as attested by the principal on the certification form submitted.
2. The director must be a bonafide music educator of the participating music program.
3. There is no minimum or maximum number of songs a group must perform. Music does not need to be provided for the adjudicators. For high school groups, all music must be LIVE to be eligible for the "Best Band" caption award. Pre-recorded tracks or sequenced accompaniment is permitted for either high school or middle school contests, but will automatically receive a 5 in the instrumental portion of the adjudication sheets.
4. Directors may direct or play an instrument, but may not sing at any time during the performance. Other adults are permitted to play with the backup band, but will not be eligible for the "Best Band" caption award. **Directors must notify the contest director if more than one adult is playing in the band.**
5. The high school contest is by the classification based on school enrollment of 9-12 and excluding vocational students who attend a separate vocational school. Classifications are as follows:
  - a. Class C: 599 or less
  - b. Class B: 600 - 999
  - c. Class A: 1000 or more
  - d. Community groups are permitted to compete, but will automatically compete in Class A
  - e. Unisex groups are permitted to compete and will be eligible to compete in Finals in the High School Contest.
6. The middle school contest is by classification based on school enrollment of 6th-8th grade. Classification are as follows:
  - a. Class B: 549 or less
  - b. Class A: 550 or more
7. Between show choir performances, groups will have limited access to move large equipment on the side of stage area with adult assistance. As each group assembles their equipment, the Morgantown stage crew dads will ensure that the stage is clear and that your riser formation is correct and complete. **Only ONE** stage crew representative (in addition to ONE director) is permitted on stage during this transitional period before the timing begins. This is to ensure accurate formation of the risers.
8. Each choir will have **25 minutes** to complete any additional setup, perform the show, and tear down the equipment. Timing begins once a second person crosses the performance space line. Timing will be stopped while the emcee is announcing the group. Timing begins again once any part of the performance begins. Timing ends once the last person and/or piece of

equipment has exited and crossed the performance space line (including directors). Adults are permitted to assist with setup and tear down but must clear the performance area once the performance begins. Taping on the stage is only permitted if it is applied and removed within the allotted time. Failure to set-up, perform, and strike within the allotted time will result in a 5 point penalty for every 30 seconds.

9. The middle school groups will **NOT** be permitted to use full sets due to limited side stage space in the historic auditorium. Props are permitted, but large sets will not be permitted. Please speak to the contest director for any questions regarding this regulation.

10. Equipment provided in the high school contest by the Morgantown High School show choir is as follows:

- 4 - 8" Stageright Platforms (4'x8'), 4 - 16" Stageright Platforms (4'x8'), 4 - 24" Stageright Platforms (4'x8'), 4 - 32" Stageright Platforms (4'x8')
- Electric keyboard - 88 keys, weighted keys, pedal, amp for the keyboard, bench
- Drum set (by request to contest director ASAP)

**Any additional equipment must be supplied by the choir in need.**

11. Equipment provided in the middle school contest by the Morgantown High School show choir is as follows:

- 4 - 8" Platforms (4'x8'), 4 - 16" Platforms (4'x8'), 4 - 24" Platforms (4'x8'), 4 - 32" Platforms (4'x8')
- Electric keyboard - 88 keys, weighted keys, pedal, amp for the keyboard
- Drum set (by request to contest director ASAP) - we encourage this option to reduce setup hardship due to stage design.

**Any addition equipment must be supplied by the choir in need.**

12. Performers may not enter the audience space during their performance.

13. We request an informed parent sit with the sound engineer during the performance to help cue solos.

14. An informed choir volunteer may also sit with the lighting technician for any fades/blackout cues. "The Motown Showdown" is not held liable for any missed cues if choirs elect this option and must be cleared by the contest director in advance.

15. The use of fire of any kind is strictly forbidden for the safety of our performers and audience members. The use of any debris (i.e. confetti) is forbidden. Any residual debris from costumes or props (i.e. feathers, streamers, etc) must be cleaned from the stage during the 25 minute allotted time. Failure to do so will result in a 5 point penalty.

16. Special effects that obstruct the performance of any groups that follow yours is strictly forbidden. Smoke machines/hazors (liquid) is forbidden. The use of a low-lying fog machine / CO2 / dry ice is allowed. Please contact the contest director if you need clarification regarding this regulation.

17. Failure to submit ALL required forms by the given deadlines could result in a disqualification in the contest.

18. **Flash photography as well as AUDIO and VIDEO recordings ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Failure to comply with this regulation by any group or choir fan of a choir could result in automatic disqualification from the contest for the involved choir. This includes CELL PHONE, IPAD or any other device. Professional videos will be for purchase will be available at the contest. Professional photographs will be taken of each group and will be available after editing.

19. Any damage, destruction or theft to any piece of equipment or facility by any student will result in that student's group being disqualified from the contest and possible future years.