

Minnesota Band Directors Association Pep Band and Marching Band PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES at ATHLETIC EVENTS

Introduction

There are many changes in society that are having dramatic impact on bands in the 1990s. The Minnesota Department of Education and the Office of the Attorney General have filed civil rights “Athletic Compliance Reports” to some Minnesota high schools relating to gender equity in athletics. School districts have been cited for inequities in the number of boys and girls athletic events play be pep and marching bands. The state has mandated that imbalances “must be readjusted.” Taking into account many additional Minnesota State High School League regular and post-season athletic events and state gender equity mandates, the Minnesota Band Directors Association has formulated this brochure outlining philosophies and guidelines regarding band performances for athletic events.

The 1990s are not the 1960s!

In the 1960s bands played for only 3 events: football, boys’ hockey and boys’ basketball. Only 2 of those teams, basketball and hockey, had region and state tournaments. In the past 30 years the Minnesota State High School League has added many major athletic programs for boys and girls, which have been beneficial for the student athletes involved. However, the expectation for pep bands to play for most regular season, regional and state tournament games is still a 1960s mentality.

In the 1990s bands are often expected to play for football, girls’ soccer, boys’ soccer, girls’ hockey, boys’ hockey, girls’ basketball, boys’ basketball, and sometimes events like girls’ volleyball, wrestling, girls’ swimming and boys’ swimming. In the 1990s there are more than 30 possible post season region and state tournament games that the band must be “on call” for, above and beyond their regular season commitments! Due to this increased number of boys and girls region and state tournament games, it is necessary to limit the extent of post season band performances.

Overview

The primary goal of school bands, orchestras and choirs is to focus teaching on long term intrinsic values. The core of the music program is the concert band, concert orchestra and concert choir. It is important that adjunct service obligations, such as pep band performances, be kept in balance with the concert band, concert orchestra and concert choir performances.

Purpose

High school band students give tremendous performance service to school, community and athletic events. When appreciated and not overused, band students give their time generously. It is the intent of this document:

1. to give schools guidelines to meet Minnesota Department of Education gender equity mandates for athletic performances;
2. to provide statewide guidelines which promote consistent pep band and marching band performance expectations for athletic events; and
3. to insure realistic time commitments for band students covering many different athletic events.

Minnesota Band Directors Association Pep Band and Marching Band Performance Guidelines at Athletic Events

Regular Season Performance Guidelines

1. The number of band events should not exceed 15 per year excluding post season games. A limit of one performance in a week should be observed with no performances during vacation periods.
2. Pep Bands should not be expected to perform at a scheduled athletic event if unavoidable conflicts with other activities would not allow the remaining students to perform in a manner representative of that band program.
3. Pep Bands or Marching Bands should not be required to perform at outdoor functions when the temperature is below 40 degrees.
4. Bands should not be expected to perform past half-time at home athletic events.
5. It is recommended that junior high/middle school band not be held responsible for performing at pep assemblies and athletic events.
6. The band director in consultation with the athletic director/activities coordinator should be responsible for scheduling bands at athletic events.
7. The band director should coordinate and be consulted for any musical performance at an athletic event involving high school band members.
8. Bands should perform for equal number of boys and girls athletic events.
9. All performing band personnel admission fees and transportation costs to athletic events should be paid by the school district or athletic department.

Post Season Performance Guidelines

1. With the addition of many sports in both boys' and girls' athletics, pep bands should perform only at the finals of regional playoffs.

2. Pep bands should perform at post season football games rather than entire marching bands.
3. Pep bands should only perform for State Tournament winning bracket games.
4. All performing band personnel admission fees and transportation costs to athletic events, including all post season events, should be paid for the school district or athletic department.