

Festival Improvement Committee Report
September 13th, 2008
MSBOA State Office, Okemos

Below are the minutes submitted by FIC chair Eric Joslin from the Fall meeting

Please note all motions, passed and defeated, are included in this report. In addition, any additions to the language of existing policies, procedures or rules are underlined. Also every attempt has been made to reproduce the motions in the chronological order in which they were addressed in the meeting. Finally, since you may not yet have the new yearbook, I will be referring to locations within the 2007-08 purple yearbook.

Our day began with work on clarifying the consequences for violations of the eligibility requirements listed for the Solo and Ensemble festival. I presented a first draft of a proposal created with Paul Lichau for the consideration of the committee and as a starting point. Our work continued up to lunch when the first motion was presented.

Motion #1

It is moved by Eric Olson and seconded by JoAnn Gross that the eligibility issue under discussion be tabled until after lunch when a draft reflecting the changes made is printed and presented for all to review.

Motion Passed

The committee continued with discussion resulting in three motions reflecting the need for clarification within the Band and Orchestra eligibility requirements. The first motion sought to refine the language in Eligibility item number four (4) on page 47 by adding the term "performing" and changing "organization" to "ensemble." The second and third were represented attempts to place in our yearbook an eligibility rule allowing the accepted practice of using winds and percussion players from the band with the orchestra at festival.

Motion #2

It is moved by Amy Boerma and seconded by Elizabeth Hering that sentence one (1) of item 4, Eligibility Requirements, page 47, be changed to read, "No band or orchestra may use players in the festival who are not permanent performing members of that ~~organization~~ ensemble; all members must also be permanently enrolled members of that organization.

Motion Failed

Motion #3

It is moved by Amy Boerma and seconded by JoAnn Gross that the following item be added to the Eligibility Requirements on page 47, "Permanent members of an ensemble that plays during the same hour may be used for instrumentation purposes.

Motion Tabled until January FIC Meeting

Motion #4

It is moved by Elizabeth Hering and seconded by Amy Boerma that the following item be added to the Eligibility requirements found on page 47 as item 5, "Band and Orchestras may us non-permanent student members of the ensemble to perform piano, organ, celeste, harp or harpsichord at District or State Band and Orchestra festival." All subsequent items will reflect a numbering change.

Motion Tabled until January FIC Meeting

The committee, aware of the upcoming definitions sub-committee meeting and it implications upon the language in these motions, decided that it would be wise to table these motions until the next meeting when the definitions sub-committee will present its list of proposed definitions. Motion #5 contained that motion which, obviously, passed.

At this point in the meeting the eligibility proposal was returned to the table for consideration.

Motion #6

It is moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the following paragraphs be added to page 16, Rules, before the heading Eligibility, after the sentence regarding the application of the S&E rules,

"In the event a member school is found to have violated any of the following eligibility requirements, the member school will be prohibited from entering all solo and ensemble festivals the following academic school year.

In the following paragraphs, the term "Vice President for Solo and Ensemble" shall mean the District Vice President for Solo and Ensemble for a District Solo and Ensemble Festival and the State Vice President of Solo and

Ensemble for the State Solo and Ensemble Festival. The term "Executive Board" shall mean the District Executive Board for a District Solo and Ensemble Festival and the State Executive Board for the State Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Any suspected violation of eligibility rules at a Solo and Ensemble Festival must be reported first to the Vice President for Solo and Ensemble. The Vice President for Solo and Ensemble will investigate the suspected violation.

If the Vice President for Solo and Ensemble finds that the violation occurred, the event is reported to the Executive Board and the director in question will be notified by the Executive Board, via a letter outlining the violation. The director will have fourteen days to respond to the violation.

The Executive Board will discuss and further examine the suspected violation before rendering a decision. Should the Executive Board find the member school did violate eligibility rules, the member school will be notified of its exclusion from participation in all Solo and Ensemble Festivals the following academic school year. Notification will be sent to both the director(s) and the administration of the member school."

Motion Passed

The next motion was a result of further examination of the Solo and Ensemble Rules and an effort to place items under the appropriate heading or section.

Motion #7

It is moved by JoAnn Gross and seconded by Amy Boerma that item 2, Eligibility Requirements, page 16, which reads "Directors, Parents and students are not to take adjudicators to task for any reason" be moved to section B, Performance Rules, page 17.

Motion Tabled until January FIC Meeting

At this point in the meeting, President Chris Blackmer presented to the committee the steps being taken with a member district as a result of festival rules violations. The directive from his office was for the FIC to look into all the festival rules and be sure there is consistency between sections and all consequences are clearly spelled out. As a result of the discussion, a motion was turned in to me who, because of time, did not presented to the committee for a second and discussion. This motion, which attempted to make the handbook language consistent with the language of our invoices, will be held until the next meeting when it will be introduced.

Concerns from Districts

- 1. District 8 member Joel Shaner, State Vice President for Band and Orchestra, brought up a concern regarding the tri-mester schedule and its impact on eligibility due to membership changes at the start of new terms. At the heart of the issue is that some deadlines for MSBOA festivals/activities come before a student is enrolled in the class, especially when the student is not taking all three terms of the band class.*
- 2. From District 12 there was a concern raised about scheduling Orchestra only sites for Band and Orchestra Festival. The scheduling of festival sites is falls to the State Vice President of Band and Orchestra, who just so happened to be at the meeting. There has been an effort in the past to schedule orchestra only sites. Two items were mentioned that influence that type of scheduling; 1) MSBOA needs schools to offer their facilities for festival use and 2) making sure the site is full to be sure the expense of the site is not wasted.*
- 3. From District 1 a concern was raised regarding Jazz Festival scheduling.*

Finally, the FIC Definitions Sub-Committee will meet to create a "glossary" of terms from the MSBOA yearbook. This document would be inserted into the current and future forms of the handbook to aid with the consistency of yearbook interpretation. To assist with the creation of these terms, we will be requesting a list of most troublesome terms from current and past executive board members. This will assist the sub-committee in prioritizing their work. Members of the committee are: Amy Boerma, JoAnn Gross, Eric Olsen, Paul Lichau and Eric Joslin have planned to meet January 9th at the MSBOA State Office.

Please let me know if there are any items you would like me to take back to the January 10 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Powers
FIC Representative, District 8