

Festival Improvement Committee Report

January 12th, 2008

MSBOA State Office, Okemos

Motions, both passed and defeated, are included in this report. Any addition to the language of existing policies, procedures or rules is underlined. Any words deleted from existing policies will be shown as ~~stricken~~. All motions reflect page numbers and sections as found in the current 07-08 MSBOA Yearbook.

At times, motions passed by this committee change the rules governing M.S.B.O.A. festivals. These motions are marked as such in the report. Approval and implementation of any proposed rules change follows a two-step process. First, the motions are presented to the executive board. Once reviewed by the Executive Board, they vote as to whether or not the motion should be supported and presented to the general membership. If supported by executive board, it is presented at either the Fall or Winter General Membership meeting. No vote is taken at these times; the motions are simply read to allow for member discussion and consideration. Per the MSBOA bylaws, the general membership votes on any rules changes at the Spring General Membership Meeting.

The first motion looks to revise a motion made at our Fall FIC meeting. The previous motion suggested a change to the B&O rules to allow copied scores at festival when accompanied by a letter from a music publisher. The previous motion spoke of when a score is purchased which could be difficult to track. This motion represents a rules change.

1) Motion that Item 6 from the Fall FIC meeting be amended as follows – Letters from a music distributor will be accepted if the letter verifies that the scores have been ~~purchased~~ ordered and are non-refundable.

Motion Passed

2.) The FIC feels that item 1 is a legal issue and as such we direct the Executive Board to obtain a legal opinion relating to Copyright Law and the accountability of MSBOA as a governing body to maintain policies that are in compliance with that law.

The next motion seeks approval for the Open Classification Pilot Project Survey. The intent of the survey is to collect information from the participating districts. Non-Participating districts will have the opportunity to present their opinions and have them heard before any formal proposal is presented to the Executive Board. A copy of the survey is included with this report.

3) Motion to accept the Open Classification Pilot Project Survey. **Motion Passed.**

The next motion was a result of discussion on a recommendation from a member-at-large that FIC include a provision for Class D Band participation in the Open Classification Pilot Project. Any change would be implemented in the second year of the pilot project.

4) Motion that the Open Classification Pilot Project be revised to include the following provision – Class D ensembles may select their required piece from any MSBOA Band and Orchestra list the director feels is appropriate. **Motion Failed**

The next motion is serves to make the B&O rules governing visually impaired students consistent with S&E rules relating to the same impairments. This motion represents a rules change.

5) Motion that the following be added to page 49, item #2 of the Sight-reading section after the first sentence – Sight-reading will be waived for all blind or visually impaired students as determined by their director.

Motion Passed

The next two motions attempted to address the participation of 9th grade students in Solo and Ensemble festivals at both the high school and middle school/ junior high levels. This motion represents a rules change.

6) Motion that the following be added to page 16, item #4 of the Eligibility Requirements section after the first sentence – Ninth Graders may only attend the middle school/ junior high S&E festival if they are enrolled in a middle school/ junior high school. They may not attend the middle school/ junior high festival if they are enrolled in a high school. **Motion Failed**

7) Motion that the following be added to page 16, item #4 of the Eligibility Requirements section after the first sentence – Students in 9th grade may attend Solo and Ensemble festival at either the Junior or Senior level at the discretion of the director. **Motion Died for Lack of Support**

The next motion grew from yet another question from a member-at-large on the chamber ensemble section of the Solo and Ensemble Festival Rules. It appears that these rules as written are confusing to members, especially the section on doubling and numbers on a part. We discussed the phrases “common practice” as compared to “academic practice” or “historical practice.” In addition there was discussion into the history of the addition of chamber ensembles into the festival and the definition of a chamber ensemble in the areas of winds/percussion and strings. The FIC looked to clarify these rules with this motion. This motion represents a rules change.

6) Motion that the following be added to page 17, item #9 of the Eligibility Requirements in place of the second and third sentences – Chamber Ensembles may also double or use multiple players on a part at the discretion of the director, unless the composer/arranger specifies numbers of players to perform. **Motion Failed**

Further items of discussion that did not result in any motions at this time included –

- a. The class AA Orchestra list and its current listing format,*
- b. Guitar Solos at Solo and Ensemble Festival*
- c. Rating sheets and “predominance of grades” rule*
- d. Special Education Students as part of our festivals*

Please note, discussions at the FIC meetings stem from concerns from the general membership regarding practices and policies of MSBOA festivals. Please be sure to bring your concerns to either the district president or the FIC representative. Please contact me if you have any concerns you would like me to bring to the next FIC meeting, which will be in the fall.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri Powers
District VIII, FIC representative
spowers@adrian.k12.mi.us