

To: Marching Committee Members  
From: Chris Ulery, Secretary

What a wonderful weekend! Please help me in thanking Bob and WCU for their hard work and willingness to help. Now the work begins. This is a little long and tedious, so try to bear with me.

### **Work on our sheets/changes**

Percussion – We are going to use the sheet that Dennis De Lucia proved with the following changes:

- Remove the words content and demand and replace with word composition
- Add a box written by Dennis similar to the boxes on the other sheets
- Hopefully Dennis will be able to provide criteria reference for the back before we have to print our sheets

### **Guard**

- Add the same box to the front of the guard sheets that is on the percussion sheet
- Hopefully Nola Jones will have criteria reference done for the back of the guard sheets before we have to print them.

### **Ratings**

Our rating scale is as follows:

75- 100 – Superior                      60-74.9 – Excellent                      50-59.9 – Good

We agreed that no band should earn a score below 50 points.

Mark Beamish agreed to provide a judge's evaluation form of our sheets and system

Chris Ulery will provide contest host info forms

Neil Underwood will provide band director feedback forms

Bob will provide a script to help each judge understand their responsibilities.

### **Band sheets**

I have attached a music effect front and back to this email. If it asks you for a password it is – gocats (just for Mark) I made the following changes:

- I removed the ratings box at the bottom of the sheets
- I made the subcaption boxes have box numbers instead of ratings

Those of us who were present on Sunday morning experienced some confusion. I spent about 2 hours with Bob and Bruce Burrit after the meeting. Their understanding was very different from what I and I believe most of the committee understood at our meeting. It wasn't the best environment for our meeting and we were certainly pressed for time. Please read this carefully and give me some feedback.

The boxes on the back of the sheets are for the judges to use to determine scores – they are unrelated to ratings.

Contest hosts will receive a scale to use after tabulations for ratings.

If we do not adjust the scale on the sheets, no one will be placed in box 1 or 2. Our scale will stop in the middle of box 3. There are definitely bands in our state that will fall into the criteria of box 1 and 2. The judge needs to be able to give feedback to a band that falls in to these boxes. If we take them off, we will prohibit a judge from using them by not allowing him/her to use those numbers - we are removing the part of our system that will help bands improve. While ensuring that a band does not receive a Fair rating may be seen as helpful this first year, not providing them with an accurate opinion/evaluation of their performance does not serve to help anyone.

The sheets that are included in this email have the scale adjusted so that the lowest score a judge can give is a 50, or 50% of the points of the subcaption. This allows the judge to use the full range of the instrument and provide feedback to the director. This also will help in number management.

As an educator, this will give me a more realistic evaluation of my band. It also inflates scores, which we all agree is necessary for this first year especially. Not very many bands in our state fit into box 5, even at the end of October. This protects the ratings driven folks, yet gives the judge the tool to provide honest feedback. It also gives everyone something to strive for with the criteria on the back being defined and able to be used by the judge.

I know this has to be a little confusing. I included the sheets to help. Bruce and Bob spent an hour drawing pictures for me – which was a great help. I believe that if we are going to adjust for ratings (I agree) that this is the best tool for the judge to use to give an evaluation to a band to help it improve. Either way the ratings will not line up with the boxes – and some people will not understand. I believe that adjusting the scale on the sheets is worth any confusion and problems that we may encounter.

Reply please!

Chris