



State Jazz Championship Handbook

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Cutoff Date for Qualifying Scores/Recordings: Sunday, May 5, 2024
Jazz State Championships: Saturday, May 17-18, 2024 @ Mt. Hood Community College

OMEA State Jazz Championship Handbook

1. Eligibility

1.1 Individual Student Eligibility. An eligible music student shall be a regular participant in the class for the appropriate performing ensemble at the full member school to participate in competitive music activities. The student must be in good standing with the music department and must be currently enrolled in classes at the school.

1.2 Penalty for Use of Ineligible Participant. Use of an ineligible participant shall disqualify the group from all events in which the ineligible student participated.

1.3 Director/Ensemble Eligibility. An eligible director/ensemble must be a current OMEA member in good standing in order to participate in both qualifying and state events.

2. Qualifying for State Jazz Championships

2.1. Any group wishing to perform at the OMEA State Jazz Championships shall have qualified for participation by performing at a qualifying OSAA League/Special District, OMEA District or Invitational contest that satisfied the requirements specified in this Handbook.

2.2. Only one large jazz ensemble and one jazz combo per school may qualify. A combo is defined as any ensemble with 7 or fewer musicians.

2.3. Automatic Qualifiers. A jazz band that meets both of the following criteria will be an automatic qualifier if all other requirements are satisfied:

(a) Win your OSAA-assigned division at a qualifying festival; AND

(b) Satisfy the following score requirements:

Receive at least two ratings at the level and using the format specified below from adjudicators at the qualifying contest.

a) 6A – 75 or higher using the 6A/5A Scale.

b) 5A – 70 or higher using the 6A/5A scale.

c) 4A – 75 or higher using the 4A/3A scale.

d) 3A – 70 or higher using the 4A/3A scale.

e) 2A/1A – 75 or higher using the 2A/1A scale.

(c) Directors are responsible to meet registration deadline, including submission of registration form, required support material and verifying accuracy of all materials prior to submission.

2.4. Tape* Pool Qualifiers. *NOTE: For the purposes of this rule, “tape” refers to a recording.

2.4.1. New in 2020, tape pool applicants must have received qualifying scores from a qualifying festival in order to submit recordings. ***UPDATE: This rule is waved through the 2024 festival to accommodate for pandemic impacts.**

2.4.2. Recordings must be from a festival performance from the current school year.

2.4.3. Submit recordings, labeled with school name, along with a registration form via mail or email to:

Dan Davey or Daniel.Davey@mhcc.edu
OMEA Jazz Championship Chair
Mt. Hood Community College
26000 SE Stark St.
Gresham, OR 97030

2.4.4. Tape Pool Review Process. Tape pool entries shall be reviewed and timed by qualified adjudicators using the approved rubrics. Directors will be notified as soon the results become available.

2.4.5. New in 2024, Combo Applications. Schools may submit recordings of one combo for consideration in the Combo Division. A combo is defined as an ensemble with 7 or fewer musicians. Combo applications must follow the same guidelines for eligibility and include the requirements of 2.4 above.

3. State Qualifying Event Contest Rules and Procedures

3.1. Philosophy.

3.1.1. Large group festivals or contests such as OSAA League or Special District Contests, OMEA District Contests and Invitational Contests provide an opportunity for school performing groups to be evaluated against a standard of excellence. They also provide an opportunity to qualify for the Jazz State Championships.

3.1.2. This format provides flexibility for differing philosophies among OSAA Leagues/Special Districts and OMEA Districts and leagues, but certain requirements must be followed if groups wish to qualify for the state championships. The Large Group Festival / Contest is, however, designed to be an educational activity in itself through providing groups with an independent written and / or verbal critique of their performance strengths and weaknesses.

3.2. Entry Fees. A school must pay the entry fees determined by the Contest Director.

3.3. Performance Order. Performance order shall be scheduled randomly to the extent possible.

3.4. Literature.

3.4.1. Required Literature. There are no required literature lists for the jazz ensembles.

3.4.2. Once stage timing begins, everything that takes place, including tuning is considered to be part of the performance and may be considered by adjudicators when assigning scores.

3.5. Musical Scores. Musical scores are not required. Original scores may be presented to the adjudicators if desired.

3.6 Time Limits

3.6.1. Maximum Time on Stage. There is no maximum time limit. It is recommended that Jazz bands have a maximum of 30 minutes to enter, perform, and exit the stage; Each group must perform during its assigned time and adhere strictly to the time limit.

3.6.2 Minimum Performance Time Limits. There are no minimum performance time limits.

3.7 Division Assignments. In order to be considered for the State Jazz Championships, bands must compete within their designated OSAA classification. Bands that compete outside of their OSAA classification will not be eligible for automatic qualification, but could submit a recording to the tape pool. If the top-scoring band in the division is not eligible for automatic qualification (out of state, outside of their OSAA classification), then the highest scoring band within that classification who satisfies the requirements of section 2.3 above will receive the automatic qualification.

3.8. Adjudication.

3.8.1. Adjudication Forms. The OMEA Jazz Adjudication forms shall be used. Forms are available for download from the OMEA website under "members only." (<https://www.oregonmusic.org>)

3.8.2. Criticism.

(a) Written.

(1) Criticism shall be of a length and nature so as to aid in improving the performance.

(2) Criticism should correlate with the scores awarded.

(b) Oral. Oral criticisms are permitted and encouraged, but must not be a substitute for written criticisms unless recorded.

(c) Recorded Adjudicator's Comments. Electronic-recorded criticism may be given in lieu of detailed written criticism.

3.8.3. Number of Adjudicators. To maximize opportunity for State qualification, three performance adjudicators should be provided at State Qualifying Events.

3.8.4. Adjudicator Training. There is no formal training or certification process for jazz adjudicators. An adjudicator meeting should be held prior to the start of the festival at which the rubrics are discussed and adjudicators are informed about the state process and qualifying scores.

3.9. Awards.

3.9.1. Ranking shall be determined by the adding of scores of the three performance adjudicators.

3.9.2. Rankings shall not be posted, but will be given to directors.

(a) RECOMMENDATION: OSAA Leagues/Special Districts may determine whether names of schools shall be included on this sheet, or numbers only.

3.10. Responsibilities of State Qualifying Event Contest Director.

3.10.1. Communicate the Contest Date, Location and Entry Fees to Schools. The date must be set to allow ample time for state qualifying groups to submit Registration Forms and materials to the OMEA to be received by the OMEA established deadlines found on the OMEA website.

3.10.2. Arrange for Adjudicators. To maximize opportunity for State qualification, three performance adjudicators should be provided at State Qualifying Events. See 3.7.4 for training details.

3.10.3. Arrange for the Required Adjudication Forms. The OMEA Jazz Adjudication forms shall be used. Forms are available for download from the OMEA website under “members only” (<https://www.oregonmusic.org>). Festivals not using the required forms shall not be recognized as a qualifying event for the State Jazz Championship.

3.10.4. Arrange for Performance Recordings. In order to allow groups to submit recordings to satisfy state championships tape pool-qualifying procedures, ALL FESTIVAL / CONTEST CHAIRS MUST PROVIDE RECORDING SERVICES.

(a) For the purposes of this rule, “tape” refers to a recording.

(b) A recording of the performance shall be provided.

3.10.6. Arrange performance divisions based on OSAA classifications. Please refer to the OSAA website (<http://www.osaa.org/schools/classifications-districts>) and to section 3.7 above for specific requirements.

3.10.7. Immediately Following the Contest, complete the Jazz Ensemble report through Google Forms to Dan Davey, OMEA Jazz Chair, at Daniel.Davey@mhcc.edu. Forms are available on the OMEA website, (<https://www.oregonmusic.org/state-jazz-championships.html>)

4. State Championship Registration.

4.1. Directors are responsible to meet registration deadline, including submission of registration form, required support material and verifying accuracy of all materials prior to submission.

4.2. Directors’, whose groups qualify to participate in the state championships, shall apply using the Registration Form available on the OMEA website.

4.3. The Registration Form as well as any required recordings or other support materials must be received by the dates indicated. LATE REGISTRATION FORMS OR SUPPORT MATERIALS SHALL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

4.4. Materials to be Submitted for State Jazz Championships.

4.4.1. Automatic Qualifiers.

(a) Completed Registration Form.

(b) Two Adjudicator Score Sheets from the State Qualifying Event where automatic qualification was achieved.

4.4.2. Tape Pool Qualifiers.

(a) Completed Registration Form.

(b) Good, festival-quality recording of your jazz ensemble.

5. State Championship Rules and Procedures.

5.1. Philosophy.

5.1.1. This event is a limited championship to recognize musical excellence in Oregon's most outstanding high school jazz bands. It provides an opportunity for these accomplished groups to perform before each other and the public as a showcase representing the highest level of high school musicianship in the state.

5.1.2. This event aims to provide a stimulating and educational experience for student musicians and their directors, as an extension of their local instructional program. Qualifying to perform indicates a high level of achievement in music, and further recognition shall be afforded those groups who receive awards. Only one large jazz ensemble and one jazz combo per school may participate.

5.2. Place and Date. The OMEA State Jazz Championships shall be held on a date and at a site designated by OMEA.

5.3. Group Performance Order. Group performance order shall be set by OMEA. Requests will be considered for general performance times (i.e., "as early as possible," "mid-morning", "afternoon", etc.) for groups with school event conflicts, special travel considerations due to distance, etc., if a request is made on the application form. However, it may not be possible to honor all requests. Order shall be scheduled with priority given to automatic qualifiers.

5.4. Literature.

5.4.1. Required Literature. Each group shall perform three selections of contrasting style (Ex: swing, ballad, latin). NOTE: There is no required music list for jazz ensembles.

5.5. Musical Scores. Musical scores are not required. Original scores may be presented to the adjudicators if desired.

5.6 Time Limits

5.6.1. Maximum Time on Stage. Jazz bands shall have 25 minutes to enter, perform, and exit the stage. Each group must perform during its assigned time and adhere strictly to the time limit.

(a) Onstage time shall begin with the first step on the stage or first note of music (whichever occurs first), and shall end when the last participant steps off the stage.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS:** Members of the percussion section and adults and students designated by the director may enter ahead of the full group to assist in stage set up prior to the first step on the stage that starts the onstage clock. In addition, the designated adults and students may help in removal of all percussion equipment after the performance, exiting from the front of the stage.

(c) **Maximum Time Limit Violations - Penalty.** Groups exceeding the maximum allowed time on stage shall have five points deducted from the combined total of the points awarded by the adjudicators.

5.6.2. Minimum Performance Time Limits. There is no minimum performance time limit.

5.7. Warm-up. Warm-up shall be allowed only in the designated warm-up area during the assigned warm-up time.

5.8. Adjudication.

5.8.1. Adjudication Forms. The OMEA Jazz Adjudication forms shall be used. Forms are available for download from the OMEA website under "members only." (<https://www.oregonmusic.org>)

5.8.2. Criticism.

(a) Written.

(1) Criticism shall be of a length and nature so as to aid in improving the performance.

(2) Criticism should correlate with the scores awarded.

(a) **Oral.** Oral criticisms are permitted and encouraged, but must not be a substitute for written criticisms unless recorded.

(b) **Recorded Adjudicator's Comments.** Electronic-recorded criticism may be given in lieu of detailed written criticism.

5.8.3. Number of Adjudicators. To maximize opportunity for State qualification, three performance adjudicators should be provided at State Qualifying Events.

5.9. Awards.

5.9.1. Student Certificates. Student members of all groups shall receive certificates in recognition of participation at the state championships.

5.9.2. Determination of Winners. The three performance adjudicators' scores shall be totaled to determine the winners in each classification.

5.10. Distribution. Adjudicators' comments shall be made available to directors following the awards assembly. A "masked" score array including score totals only with school names removed shall be posted on the website.

5.11. Equipment. All ensembles will use the house sound system, piano, drum set, and amplifiers. The drum set will include bass, snare/stand, 2-3 toms, and throne. Directors are responsible for bringing their own cymbals and cymbal hardware, including hi-hat. Directors may bring their own snare drum.

5.12. Divisions. All large jazz ensembles will be placed in their appropriate OSAA Division (1A-6A). All jazz combos (7 or fewer musicians) will be placed in one Combo Division and evaluated based on the 5A/6A rubric.