

# USE OF ELECTRONICS AND AMPLIFICATION IN UIL MARCHING BAND CONTEST PERFORMANCES

October 2016

Questions continue to circulate regarding the use of electronics in UIL marching contest performances. In an effort to help directors, executive secretaries and judges clearly understand the application of existing rules the UIL state office has prepared this document for distribution to all interested parties. In addition the Q&A will be posted on the UIL website.

## **THE RULE**

(4) *Electronic Equipment.* Electronic equipment may be used under the following provisions:

- (A) All electronically produced music including narration and sound effects shall be performed live and in real time by eligible students.
- (B) Pre-recorded music, instrumental or vocal, may not be used.

(5) *Amplification.* Amplification of instruments or voice may be used with the following restrictions:

- (A) All equipment must be operated by eligible students.
- (B) AC power cords and AC supplied amplification units must be located outside the sidelines and endlines.
- (C) A power generator or DC power source may be placed on the field, provided there is a protective barrier between the power unit and the turf and all cords are contained safely within close proximity to the equipment that is being supplied with power.
- (D) Wind instruments may be amplified only for solo and/or small ensemble features.

## **THE 2011 STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INTERPRETATION**

Electronic samples integrated into a UIL marching contest performance are considered to be digitally created musical effects as opposed to prerecorded music and are compliant with Section 1105 (f)(4) of the C&CR if operated and controlled by a student.

## **Q & A**

*May I use electronics to amplify soloists, sections or voice?*

**YES.** Electronics are permitted as long as they are compliant with Section 1105 (5) of the C&CR.

*May I use equipment such as a soundboard and/or mixer to support and control audio reinforcement?*

**YES.** However, remember all electronics must be operated by an eligible student.

*May I pre-record or use pre-recorded music and/or words in my contest show?*

**NO.** Pre-recorded music (representing an acoustical instrument or vocalizations) and pre-recorded narrations (one or more descript words) are prohibited. Such show elements must be performed live and in real time by an eligible student.

*Can I use digitally created sound effects (such as bird calls, animal sounds, thunder, etc.) and/or electronic samples (such as a nondescript vocalizations) during the contest show.*

**YES.** Provided they are controlled and activated by an eligible student

*Can I use applications such as a synthesized rhythmic track or pre-recorded sound loop as a part of the contest show?*

**NO.** Tracks that contain steady rhythmic content or provide pulse may not be used.

*Do these rules apply during the field entry, the 5 minute warm-up or 2 minute exit?*

**NO.** There are no rules pertaining to the use of electronics during the 5 minute prior to the contest performance.

*Is it permissible to use contemporary electronic instruments such as the MalletKAT, HandSonic, or Wavedrum?*

**YES.** The use of new electronic instruments is permitted provided that they are played in real time by an eligible student.

Questions and/or requests for clarification should be addressed to the UIL State Music Office at: [music@uiltexas.org](mailto:music@uiltexas.org)