

AGENDA
UIL Standing Committee on Music
June 16, 2020

A meeting of the UIL Standing Committee on Music will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 via teleconference beginning at the time indicated below, according to the following agenda, unless otherwise announced by the Chair.

In accordance with the waiver to certain provisions of the Texas Open Meetings Act issued by Governor Greg Abbott on March 16, 2020, and in the interest of avoiding large gatherings and promoting social distancing during this pandemic, one or more members may participate by teleconference or videoconference.

Please note that there is no physical location for this meeting in order to ensure safe social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is only accessible via live stream at <https://www.uil texas.org/policy/legislative-council>.

Time	Agenda Item	Individual Responsible
Tuesday, June 16 11:00 a.m.	<u>Business Meeting</u> A. Quorum Call B. Adoption of Meeting Rules C. Adoption of Agenda D. Approval of Minutes of October 20, 2019 E. Statement of Committee Purpose	Kevin Worthy, Chair

Purpose

The purpose of this committee is to consider proposals for changes in the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* that have music related aspects in order to report recommendations to the Legislative Council on June 17, 2020.

The meeting is a business meeting of the committee and not a public hearing. Thus, presentations may not be made by outside groups or individuals during this meeting. If one of the committee members needs clarification, questions may be asked of those in attendance. The UIL Director or a designated member of the UIL staff and Legislative Council members not assigned to this committee shall be recognized to speak on any issue.

- F. Old Business
 - 1. Staff Study/Reports
- G. New Business
 - 1. Written Proposals from the Public
 - a. A proposal to increase limits on marching band practices and performances
 - b. A proposal to keep school names anonymous at music contests
 - c. A proposal to prohibit music adjudicators from conferring until the end of a contest
 - d. Proposals to change when a band may begin marching preparation for their contest show
 - 2. Staff Proposals
 - a. A proposal to add a ranking process to 1A state marching band advancement
 - b. A proposal for mariachi events to add judges, consolidate regions, and allow only groups competing in the traditional category to advance to state
- H. Announcements
- I. Adjournment

A COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MAY GO INTO CLOSED (EXECUTIVE) SESSION ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA WHERE AUTHORIZED BY THE TEXAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, CHAPTER 551.

1. Pursuant to Government Code Section 551.071, Committee members may consult with their attorney concerning pending or contemplated litigation, and all matters identified in the agenda where the Committee members seek the advice of their attorney as privileged communications under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas.

2. Action, if any, in Open Session on items discussed in the Executive Session.

Meetings of the University Interscholastic League Legislative Council are open to the public except for any posted executive session held in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. Persons interested in a Council meeting and desiring communication or other special accommodations should contact the UIL Office at least two working days prior to the meeting. The UIL Office is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays and contact information follows: phone (512) 471-5883; fax (512) 471-5908; email policy@uilitexas.org; 1701 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78722.

Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person?

No

This rule change is for:

Music

Suggested Rule Change

Required practice outside of school should be limited to one hour per day (Sundays excluded), and potentially, should not require students to stay after the practice to get information. A "strict" clock should be kept.

IF competitions are allowed as a "second" performance, the day should be limited in length of time that a student is required to be there (perhaps six hours would be sufficient), and limited to the number allowed (such as one in a two-week period).

Alternatively, the 8-hour rule and competitions could be kept as they are, but competitions would be "count" toward the 8 hours, giving students a much-needed break.

Wording regarding maximum number of performances should be changed to indicate that homecoming parades, and community performances, in addition to football games are subject to the one performance per week rule. So if there is a performance at a football game, there is no "community performance" at some point later in the same week.

Why do you want this rule changed?

Our students are exhausted, and I believe there are many parents who are concerned. Our directors have *technically* abided by the UIL and TEC rules for practice, but it has still overtaken our lives. It is unfortunate that my children (or any student) would have to choose between excelling in school and intensive amounts of practice and performance. During the month of October, our band performed at every Friday night football game, often getting home around midnight, only to get up and be ready for a competition the next morning, and then return home after midnight on Saturday for the second night in a row. All of that, of course, occurs in addition to the 8-hour maximum practice limit and the additional time above and beyond the 8 hours that was used to talk to the students to tell them details of whatever was happening at the next competition, etc. This happened EVERY week during October, along with some in September.

While I want students to have the opportunity to be in an extra-curricular, it should not be taxing on their mental health. I have watched this happen for the last two years with my own children. This week, they are being asked to do auditions until 11:00 PM on a school night and then two nights later perform at a football game on a school night, both of which will likely have them home after midnight before returning to school in the morning. I have already reached out to the Region coordinators to ask that auditions be broken up so as not to go late into the evening. This is on top of having to make up work (which they are struggling to find time to do) for school from other days missed for band.

Unfortunately, high school band directors feel that they must be competitive, so they use up every second they are given based on the current rules because they feel they have to. The only realistic way the demand will change to something reasonable is to set stricter limits on the time the students are allowed to practice and/or perform. Because sets have become so expensive (I remember a day when the marching was the best part of the show rather a production), they must hold a competition to fund them. And then they go to everyone else's competitions to get that extra practice outside of the 8 hours, which is allowable since it is technically a contest instead of practice or performance. The immense amount of time required to be in this activity has gotten out of hand. I want our students to enjoy it, and most importantly, learn life skills from it rather than feel burdened and behind because of it. I'm hoping that you will in all sincerity consider this change. Please feel free to contact me.

Name

Angela Pace

Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person? No

This rule change is for: Music

Suggested Rule Change

The school name of all performing bands, choirs and orchestras for concert and sight reading performances should be replaced by an anonymous number.

Why do you want this rule changed?

The possibility of positive or negative bias of schools, districts, directors can be reduced if the judges are unaware of the performing school and/or director.

Name Dr. Ronnie Sanders

Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person? No

This rule change is for: Music

Suggested Rule Change

All UIL judges for band, choir or orchestra UIL performances in concert and sight reading shall know, compare, observe, or hear ratings from other judges on the same panel ONLY after the last group has performed for that contest.

Another way to say it:

All UIL judges are prohibited from knowing the ratings given by the other judges on the same panel of any contest ONLY until after the last group has performed for that contest.

Why do you want this rule changed?

Currently, judges may compare scores between themselves during the course of a contest. Inevitably, this can lead to a judge reducing or increasing his/her own rubric for what constitutes a division I - V rating.

Once a contest is complete, and every judge has turned in their scores, only then should judges compare their scores with the other judges on their panel.

For example, if judge 1 hears a very good band, and rates that band a II (TWO) and finds out that the other two judges both gave the same band a division I (One) rating, judge number 1 may feel peer pressure to alter his ratings for bands he will hear shortly.

By NOT allowing judges to know how the other judges are scoring UNTIL AFTER the last group performs will ensure the judges' personal calibrations of artistry are not challenged or altered for the entire contest.

Name Dr. Ronnie Sanders

Additional Questions or Comments

For example:

There is a band contest scheduled to last two days. The first band performs on-stage at 9:00 AM on day one.

Judges on the concert panels and sight-reading panels hear twelve bands on day one, then hear 14 bands on day two. Once the last band performs on day two, the judges may then look and see what the other judges have scored from days one and two.

Because judges are prohibited from knowing what the other judges have scored during the contest, the personal judging rubrics were not threatened or changed.

Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person? No

This rule change is for: Music

Suggested Rule Change

Section 1105(d) DIRECTOR’S COMPLIANCE STATEMENT. Each entry in the UIL region marching band contest shall be accompanied by the following statement signed by the director and school principal:

(1) “The members of this marching band or any of its components did not begin the marching preparation for this UIL contest presentation PRIOR TO 26 DAYS BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. In addition, no more than 10 hours of supervised instructional time was devoted to marching fundamentals between the end of the previous school term AND THE FIRST DAY OF MARCHING INSTRUCTION.” Exception: Auxiliary camps, leadership training and preparation for special summer events such as civic parades, professional football game appearances and other non-competitive performances are not considered a violation of this limitation.

Section 1105(e) MARCHING BAND REHEARSALS DURING SEASON. Effective THE FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION OF THE SCHOOL YEAR a marching band and its auxiliary components are limited to a maximum of eight hours of rehearsal outside the academic school day per calendar week.

Why do you want this rule changed?

I believe that this rule change is a better work-around for band programs in District of Innovation districts than the current rules, which allow unlimited practice time until the official start date from the State of Texas for public schools. Currently there is no limit on how early a school district classified as a District of Innovation can choose to start. The earliest start date I have found is Tuloso-Midway ISD in Corpus Christi, which started school on July 16th this past year. I came up with the 26 days by looking at the start date for school in the Texas Education Code and seeing the most advantageous calendar we could get, which would be August 1st falling on a Tuesday. In a district that uses the state's start day, that allows 26 potential days of marching band camp, which is effectively less because of staff inservice requirements of teachers. The change to Section 1105 (e) is the same wording as was used in the 2016-2017 UIL CCR, which was still available on the UIL website.

Name Dallas Dees

Additional Questions or Comments

Even if the number of days of camp before school starts is shortened from what is in this proposal, I would recommend that the rule changes to let the start date for band camp be determined by the start date of the local school district, not the date set by the state which is usually waived for Districts of Innovation. For documentation, I suggest another statement be added in the Form 1A that Principals or Superintendents must already sign for UIL Marching competitions that certifies that marching instruction for the show did not happen any sooner than 26 days before the first day of school.

Will you attend the Legislative Council Meeting to make this proposal in person? No

This rule change is for: Music

Suggested Rule Change

Change to marching band rules, allowing schools to rehearse and set drill prior to August 1st. I would like to propose schools can host camps and learn drill 3 weeks prior to the first day of school.

Why do you want this rule changed?

Many schools are becoming districts of innovation, which has included an earlier start date in August. Now, with schools altering calendars to include breaks for possible COVID-19 outbreaks, some schools are starting the 1st week of August. My school and others around us are starting August 4th, completely eliminating the possibility of utilizing camps to help learn drill. I believe this change to the rules will allow schools the ability to keep excelling and growing, and ensure the best learning environments for all students.

Name Joe Walker

**Proposed Amendment to the
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Recommendation

Similar to what is in rule for the other five conferences, this amendment to Section 1105, *Region Marching Band Contest*, would add a ranking process to the ratings process that is already in rule for 1A marching bands to advance to the state contest.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

Unlike the other five conferences, current rule advances any 1A varsity marching band receiving a division one rating at the region contest directly to the state contest. The other five conferences have ranked contests to determine the bands that will advance to state. Designed to account for the small number of 1A Bands in the state compared to the other conferences, the current 1A advancement structure began in the fall of 2015 after UIL expanded to six conferences. Under current rule, the number of 1A bands at the state contest has grown almost fifty percent in four years from thirteen bands in 2015 to nineteen bands in 2019. And, the nineteen bands at the 2019 1A state contest comprised almost fifty percent of the forty-one total 1A bands in the state. In contrast, the seventeen 2A bands at their last state contest were selected from one hundred thirty-eight 2A bands in the state.

C. Proposed Recommendation

Section 1105(k) of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* would be amended as follows, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

Section 1105: REGION MARCHING BAND CONTEST

(k) REGION CERTIFICATION TO STATE.

- (1) *Advancement*. Conference 1A bands will advance to state in odd numbered years.
- (2) *Certification for Advancement*. ON ELIGIBLE YEARS 1A REGION CONTESTS MAY NOT BE ZONED AND EACH MUSIC REGION SHALL CERTIFY BANDS UNDER THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:
 - (A) SHOULD THREE OR FEWER 1A VARSITY BANDS IN A REGION RECEIVE A DIVISION 1 RATING, any conference 1A varsity band that has followed the procedures established by the Region Executive Committee to indicate to the Region Executive Secretary the intent to advance to state and that receives a Division 1 rating at the region contest shall be certified for advancement to the state contest.
 - (B) SHOULD FOUR OR MORE 1A VARSITY BANDS IN A REGION RECEIVE A DIVISION 1 RATING, ALL 1A VARSITY BANDS IN THE REGION RECEIVING A DIVISION 1 RATING SHALL BE RANKED USING THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED ON THE UIL WEBSITE AND THE THREE 1A VARSITY BANDS RECEIVING THE HIGHEST RANKING SHALL BE CERTIFIED FOR ADVANCEMENT TO THE STATE CONTEST. IN ADDITION, ONE BAND FOR EACH TWO BANDS RECEIVING A DIVISION 1 RATING RANKED BELOW THIRD PLACE SHALL BE CERTIFIED FOR ADVANCEMENT TO THE STATE CONTEST.

D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools

None.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2021.

1A Band Region Contest Ranking Process - as referenced in this rule proposal and to be placed on the website

- (1) In contests with three or fewer bands receiving an overall division one rating, each band receiving an overall division one rating shall be certified to advance to the state contest. For other scenarios, proceed to (2).
- (2) In contests with four or more bands receiving an overall division one rating any band receiving ratings of 1-1-1 shall be ranked first, followed by any band receiving ratings of 1-1-2, 1-1-3, 1-1-4, and 1-1-5 – in that order. Should ratings ties need to be broken to determine advancement, proceed to (3).
- (3) At the end of the contest each judge shall rank all bands receiving ratings of 1-1-1 by using the numbers 1, 2, 3, etc. and adding the rankings of all three judges for each band. The band with the lowest sum total shall be ranked first within this group. The band with the second lowest sum total shall be ranked second within this group, etc. Exception: Any band receiving two first place rankings within a group will be ranked first within that group. Second place within this group shall then be determined according to next lowest sum total. If necessary to determine advancement, each judge shall then use the same process to rank all bands receiving ratings of 1-1-2 and those bands will then be ranked behind the bands receiving ratings of 1-1-1. Should more ratings ties need to be broken to determine advancement, each judge shall then rank all bands receiving ratings of 1-1-3 and those bands will be ranked behind the bands receiving ratings of 1-1-2. If necessary, this process continues with bands receiving ratings of 1-1-4 and 1-1-5.
- (4) Ranking sum total ties shall be broken by judges' preference. For example, if Band A has rankings of 1, 3, 4 (Sum total of 8) and Band B has rankings of 4, 1, 3 (Sum Total of 8) Band B would rank ahead of Band A due to judge 2 and 3 having that band ranked higher out of the two. Should more than two bands tie for a place that determines advancement, the procedures found at the following link shall be followed: <http://www.uiltexas.org/music/marching-band/marching-band-scoring-and-advancement-procedure>

**Proposed Amendment to the
University Interscholastic League Constitution and Contest Rules**

A. Brief Explanation of Proposed Recommendation

This amendment to the manual referenced in Section 1115, *State Mariachi Festival*, would increase the number of judges for all mariachis at the region contest from one to three, send all mariachis to one of five regional sites, and allow only traditional mariachis to advance to state.

B. Factual and Policy Justifications

In 2020 there were one hundred and eight experimental and traditional mariachis in all conferences in the state that were assigned to eighteen different regional sites and evaluated by only one judge at each site. These groups are unevenly located across the state, creating a scenario of as many as twenty-four at one site and as few as one at other sites. Assigning every mariachi to one of five regional sites in the state, having every group evaluated by a panel of three judges, and advancing only traditional mariachis receiving a division 1 rating to state will more evenly distribute the schools to contest locations, improve the overall educational and competitive experience for all schools, and increase the quality of the state festival.

C. Proposed Recommendation

The State Mariachi Festival Manual, referenced in Section 1115 of the UIL *Constitution and Contest Rules* would be amended as follows, pending approval by the Commissioner of Education:

Section 1115: STATE MARIACHI FESTIVAL

- (a) CONTEST SCHEDULE. The State Mariachi Festival will be held annually. All rules and procedures regarding the event shall be followed, as defined in the State Mariachi Festival Manual.

From the State Mariachi Festival Manual:

ELIGIBILITY. Any high school may enter one TRADITIONAL mariachi group —~~traditional or experimental~~— in the State Mariachi Festival, provided that the group earns a Division 1 rating FROM A PANEL OF THREE ADJUDICATORS at the current year's ASSIGNED region medium ensemble contest.

D. Potential Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Rule to Member Schools

This proposed amendment should have minimal fiscal impact on member schools.

E. Legislative Council Consideration; Effective Date

If approved by the Legislative Council and the Commissioner of Education, this amendment shall be effective August 1, 2021.