

## **CONTEST RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL—SCORING AND PLACING IN BAND COMPETITIONS**

Submitted by Sean Campbell

### **CHANGE IN METHOD OF REPORTING BAND CONTEST RESULTS AND AWARDING POINTS.**

#### **EXISTING TEXT:**

No existing text. Proposed change would be added at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph of Contest Rule 7.10.

#### **PROPOSED TEXT:**

Reporting of band scores and placement in the contest will be given by the Tally Committee according to the following specifications:

- a) If the number of competitive bands in a contest is 2 or fewer bands, no scores or placings will be reported. No official WUSPBA points or placings will be awarded to any band in the contest.
- b) If the number of competitive bands in a contest is 3 bands, the two bands ranking lowest in total score will not be placed, and their individual judging scores will not be reported. The highest-ranking band will be placed “1<sup>st</sup>” and will receive official WUSPBA points and a placing accordingly (i.e. 3 points). The official order of finish for the two lowest-ranking bands will be “2<sup>nd</sup>” for both. No official WUSPBA points or placings will be awarded to the two bands ranking lowest in total score.
- c) If the number of competitive bands in a contest is 4 bands, the two bands ranking lowest in total score will not be placed, and their individual judging scores will not be reported. The two highest-ranking bands will be placed “1<sup>st</sup>” and “2<sup>nd</sup>”, respectively, and will receive official WUSPBA points and placings accordingly (i.e. 4 points and 3 points, respectively). The official order of finish for the two lowest-ranking bands will be “3<sup>rd</sup>” for both. No official WUSPBA points or placings will be awarded to the two bands ranking lowest in total score.

d) If the number of competitive bands in a contest is no less than 5 and no greater than 7, the two bands ranking lowest in total score will not be placed, and their individual judging scores will not be reported. The highest ranking bands will be placed “1<sup>st</sup>”, “2<sup>nd</sup>”, and “3<sup>rd</sup>” respectively if 5 bands played; “1<sup>st</sup>” thru “4<sup>th</sup>” will be awarded if 6 bands played; and “1<sup>st</sup>” thru “5<sup>th</sup>” if 7 bands played. The highest ranking bands will receive official WUSPBA points and placings accordingly. The official order of finish for the two lowest-ranking bands will be “4<sup>th</sup>” for both if 5 bands played, “5<sup>th</sup>” for both if 6 bands played, and “6<sup>th</sup>” for both if 7 bands played. No official WUSPBA points or placings will be awarded to the two bands ranking lowest in total score.

e) If the number of competitive bands in a contest is 8 or more, all bands ranking below 6<sup>th</sup> in total score will not be placed, and their individual judging scores will not be reported, as in b), c) and d) above. The highest ranking bands will be awarded “1<sup>st</sup>” thru “6<sup>th</sup>” place, and will receive official WUSPBA points and placings accordingly. The official order of finish for the bands ranking below 6<sup>th</sup> place will be “7<sup>th</sup>” for all. No official WUSPBA points or placings will be awarded to these bands.

## **RATIONALE:**

This proposal would simplify band judging by bringing it more into line with what is currently done in solo events, and reduce the complexity of score reporting to WUSPBA at the end of a contest. Also, bands of lesser skill will be more likely to enter contests when there is no risk of finishing alone in last position. Bands comprised of older adults or of very young players, in particular, would benefit from having access to competitive events in order to improve their skills and develop their musicality, without the stress of seeking to beat other bands. Given that the lower grades in WUSPBA contain bands with considerable numbers of highly skilled players, this incentive is necessary to encourage more street bands and Police/Fire bands to enter the competitive arena.

Highly competitive bands would benefit from this proposal as well. Larger competitive fields would give the top bands the opportunity to earn more points. Also, highly skilled bands would have a greater opportunity and incentive to play up a grade, thus developing their ability to play

at a higher level, with fewer concerns about a discouragingly low finish. In addition, this measure would not require any changes in the way judges adjudicate band events. The requested modifications could be done entirely by the Tally Committee, with at most one additional form.

**OTHER ASSOCIATION CONTEST RULES:**

There does not appear to be any analogous rule in any other piping association. The Atlantic Canada Piping Association does, however, specify in its contest rules that only the 1st thru 5th place bands in a contest are to be ranked.

**FAILED**