

Adjudicator's Comment Sheet

CONCERT BAND

Selections:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Officials will include a + or – by the subdivisions, which mean they are noticeably good or noticeably needing improvement as related to the letter grade assigned. The absence of any marks indicates a performance consistent with the letter assigned. After completing the previous, enter an A, B, C, D, or E to indicate the level of performance in each category. Average the three letter grades in each category to arrive at a final letter grade. Average the three final grades to arrive at the FINAL RATING.

(Including: Stage Presence, Discipline, Posture, Instrumentation, Strong Points, Weak Points – Continue on Reverse Side→)

Rev 12/10

C. STANDARDS FOR RATINGS

We, as Adjudicators, should make an effort to employ ALL the rating categories available when appropriate. Ratings should be literally interpreted by the titles, i.e., SUPERIOR, EXCELLENT, GOOD, FAIR and POOR. We should remember that success is not only by a SUPERIOR rating; the other ratings have credibility and should be used in a positive and constructive way.

1. "SUPERIOR"

The rating is comparable to the grade of "A". This rating reflects the finest conceivable performance for the event and class of participants being evaluated - worthy of the distinction of being recognized as among the very best. While the adjudicator may find some minor points to criticize and make helpful suggestions for improvement, his/her comments sheet would show a majority of "A's" for each category, and his/her remarks would be generally complimentary for outstanding work.

2. "EXCELLENT"

The rating is comparable to a grade of "B". This rating reflects an unusually high level of performance in many respects, but one not worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects. Yet it is a performance of distinctive quality. The band receiving this rating usually shows the results of sound fundamental training, but the performance lacks the polish and finesse to qualify for a Superior rating. The squares on the Comment Sheet should contain a majority of "B's", with the possibility of one "A" or one "C", but with an overall "B" average. It is usually very easy for an adjudicator to comment on such a performance since the weaknesses stand out clearly in a generally first-rate performance, and suggestions can be focused on something specific and helpful.

3. "GOOD"

The rating would be comparable to a grade of "C". This rating is awarded for a good performance, but one that is not outstanding. It shows accomplishment and marked promise and potential, but is lacking in one or more essential qualities. This rating indicates much room for improvement in many of the fundamental areas listed on the Comment Sheet, and the Sheet would show a majority of "C's". There probably would not be enough time or space to record each specific error as it occurred, but the group would exhibit some basically fine qualities. The adjudicator should find ample opportunities to make suggestions for improvement in those fundamental factors which were revealed as weaknesses during the performance.

4. "FAIR"

This rating is comparable to a grade of "D", and describes a performance that shows obvious weaknesses. These MAY reflect handicaps in the way of instrumentation or lack of rehearsal time, but generally represents a performance that is weak or uncertain - containing numerous errors, and revealing basic flaws in most of the fundamental factors listed on the Comment Sheet. The Sheet would show a majority of "D's". Probably not much space or time will be spent pointing out specific errors in the selections performed, but will focus on overall fundamental deficiencies. Comments, however,

should be encouraging and contain many suggestions for improvement - possibly in the areas of rehearsal time and use, emphasis on individual practice and sectional rehearsals, careful screening of players, recommendations for ensemble and individual studies and methods books, and exercises and techniques which would contribute to the development of the individual players and the band as a whole.

5. "POOR"

This rating indicates a performance that reveals much room for improvement. The director of such a group should re-evaluate his/her methods of teaching and compare them to those of directors who achieve the higher ratings with their bands. This rating is rarely used by even the most critical adjudicators. It indicates that there is almost a complete lack of preparedness and understanding. In some cases this may be due to immature students attempting music which is far too advanced for their present capabilities. In others it may be due to an accumulation of careless and poor playing habits which only tend to become accentuated and more noticeable as the players grow older and are faced with more demanding literature. The Comment Sheet would be filled with a majority of "E's", but comments should be very tactful and encouraging. Any commendable features of the performance should be singled out and emphasized - such as any outstanding players who could serve as models for the group. Sometimes only stage deportment and appearance are favorable, but positive comments on these may offer some comfort.

The Florida Bandmasters Association adjudicator should be honest and forthright, but should not resort to sarcasm or unduly harsh criticism. Above all, urge the participants and director to strive for improvement and for the realization of their potential, remembering our purpose is to promote and encourage exceptional musical performance.