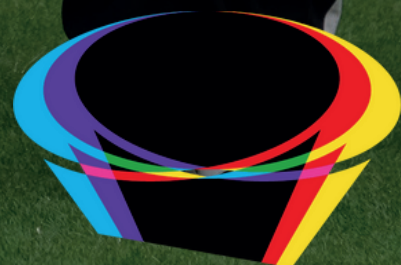


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**RULES FOR THE
MARCHING PARADE CONTEST**



The Marching Parade Contest will take place in the Parkstad Limburg Stadium on:

- Saturday 11 and Sunday July 12, 2026
- Saturday 18 and Sunday July 19, 2026

See article 2 for dates and days of contests.

Article 1: Participation and Divisions

- 1.1. Participation is possible in two (2) divisions:
 - 1.1.1. Championship Division (the highest division).
 - 1.1.2. 1st Division
 - A. The Championship Division is for bands that wish to and are capable of challenging the title 'WMC World Champion Marching Parade'. The Championship Division is for the most experienced bands who, in their home country compete on the highest level in Marching Parade. Only bands that compete in the Championship Division can win the title 'WMC World Champion Marching Parade'.
 - B. The 1st Division is meant for bands that:
 - Compete at the highest level in their country but have not reached the required level of the WMC Championship Division.
 - Compete at the second highest level in their home country.
- 1.2. WMC gives bands the opportunity to participate in the Marching Parade Contest of WMC in exhibition (without being adjudicated and given scores). Their aspiration should be to show-case their cultural background to the audience by being part of this worldwide event. Bands that are interested in an exhibition performance should contact WMC directly.
- 1.3. All participating bands must submit their portfolio with precious results and – if possible – recent video material (2023 or later) on application.
- 1.4. Each participant may choose to compete in the division in which they think they fit best.
- 1.5. The maximum of participants for each of the divisions are:
 - 1.5.1. Championship Division: 6 bands
 - 1.5.2. First Division: 5 bands
- 1.6. WMC Kerkrade can advise or rule, based on the portfolio as to whether a band may participate in the chosen division or that the band should participate in a lower or higher division. This can be an advice (in which case the band may decide themselves) or as a ruling, in which case the band will not be given the choice. The band then must participate in the ruled division.
- 1.7. In case of a ruling, no appeal is possible.

Article 2: Days and dates of contests

- 2.1. The Marching Parade Contests will take place on the following dates:
 - A. Championship Division - July 18 and 19, 2026.
 - B. 1st Division - July 11 and 12, 2026.
- 2.2. Dates and timeslots will be at the discretion of WMC Kerkrade
- 2.3. The WMC reserves the rights to cancel contest days based on the number of registrations
- 2.4. Bands that also compete in the Show Contest or Marching Contest will perform in both contests in the same weekend but not necessarily on the same day.
- 2.5. Bands, competing in the Championship Division Show (Prelims/Finals) will have their Marching Parade performance within the same weekend but not on the same day.

Article 3: Repertoire and Visual Design

Bands may perform compositions and visual designs of their own choice, suitable and representative of the division in which the band is competing. Titles and scores of all music used in competition need to be submitted to WMC Kerkrade no later than May 1, 2026. Any further changes or alterations in the scores must be brought to attention of WMC Kerkrade no later than three (3) working days prior to the performance.

Scores can be submitted as follows:

1. As a pdf in the application module (my WMC account).
2. As a hardcopy to the post box of WMC, including the band's name and registration number. A shipping label with the band's name and registration number can be downloaded from the application module (my WMC account).

Article 4: Copyrights

WMC requires all participating bands to comply with copyright laws regarding performance and/or use of arrangements of copyrighted music, visual images and other materials, as well as the use of copyrighted audio, spoken text and display of copyrighted words and images. If copyright violation is found to exist, disqualification may occur.

- 4.1. All the participating bands are required to secure permission to arrange all music involved. WMC stresses that participants do not ignore the Permission to Arrange requirement to participate in a WMC contest or event. In the My WMC Portal bands are required to submit their program. Please remember, the submission above is only a declaration of your repertoire so that your groups' copyright compliance may be tracked. Submitting your information on the form is NOT a request for Permission to Arrange.

If bands do not secure licensing prior to their performance, they may incur considerable penalties and be liable for any infringement of copyrighted materials.

Composition copyrights are typically managed by music publishers. To identify the music publisher(s) for a particular song, you could first consult a CD that contains the song. If the CD identifies the performing rights society (ASCAP, BMI or SESAC), you can go to the website for the appropriate society and search the database to find the music publisher(s). Searching for the song title in the databases should give you at least the name of the music publisher and will usually give you both the name and contact information.

Search Engines

- ASCAP Search Engine
- BMI Search Engine
- SESAC Search Engine
- Partial listing of public domain songs

- 4.2. **Spoken Word / Literary Copyrights** – Spoken word – Including movie quotes, and literary quotations, may contain copyrighted content. You should exercise care to ensure that you have permission to use any copyrighted words in your show.
- 4.3. **Visual Arts** - Visual pieces of art, including photographs, are most likely copyrighted. You should exercise care to ensure that you have permission to use any copyrighted visual image in your show.

By sending in your registration form you declare that you have acquired all of all the necessary rights.

Article 5: Contest Area and Performance Area

5.1. For the purpose of interpretation, the ‘Contest Area’ is defined by the area within the stadium that does not include entry ramps, hallways or seating area.

5.2. The performance has to take place on a circuit which will be marked on the field. The circuit has a street width of 9.14 meters (10 yards). This is regarded as the ‘Performance Area’ (in separate document). All lines are classed as boundaries of the Performance Area.

5.3. During the performance, the band and/or band members as well as any props/equipment need to stay within the lines of the street circuit.

5.4. **Penalties:** There will be no penalties for any boundary violation. The visual adjudicators will take any boundary violation into account in their rewarding of the performance.

Article 6: The Performance

- 6.1. The performance is to consist of a free style only.
- 6.2. There are no obligatory marching maneuvers.
- 6.3. Bands are free to choose their route, directions, formations, steps and tempos, providing that these are within the lines of the street circuit.
- 6.4. The choice of route, directions, formations, steps, tempos etc. will affect the overall assessment and must be representative to the standard of the division in which the band is competing.
- 6.5. At the end of the performance the band must come to a halt and the drum major/band leader is to give a clear visible sign that the performance has come to an end.
- 6.6. The performance:
- March on (without adjudication): upon a signal from the organization, the band marches, without playing, to a start position in the performance area (within the lines of the street circuit) and comes to a full stop. The band is free to choose where and how they will format a starting position.
 - The performance (with adjudication): as soon as the band is ready to start the performance, the drum major/band leader must clearly indicate to the announcer that they are ready to begin their performance. The announcer will then give permission to start. From that moment, as soon as the band starts to play or move, the timekeeping and adjudication will begin. At the end of the performance, the band comes to a halt. After the drum major/band leader gives a clear visible sign that the performance has come to an end, adjudication and timekeeping will simultaneously end.
 - March off (without adjudication): after the performance, the band will march off playing, via the quickest route indicated by the organization.

Article 7: Authorized Equipment and Instrumentation

- 7.1. Instruments typically utilized and recognized as part of a band or an orchestra, as well as performers such as color guard, baton twirlers, majorettes and dancers are allowed. The use of electronic instruments and/or amplification or any other electronic device is not allowed in the Marching Parade Contest.
- 7.2. The following items are not allowed in the Contest Area:
- 7.2.1. Pyrotechnics, discharge of arms, pressurized cannisters, dry ice, smoke machines, compressed air apparatuses, dangerous materials, and/or flammable liquids or gas.
 - 7.2.2. Live animals.
 - 7.2.3. Powder, dirt or any substance that remains on the Contest Area or in the air.
 - 7.2.4. Helium, including helium filled balloons.
 - 7.2.5. Motorized vehicles such as golf carts, tractors, all-terrain vehicles, etc.

- 7.2.6. Motorized wheelchairs for disabled performers are allowed.
- 7.2.7. Glass objects that may break and/or leave shards of glass in the Contest Area.
- 7.2.8. Mirrors must be of the acrylic type and cannot contain glass.
- 7.2.9. Hover boards.
- 7.2.10. Drones or any remote-controlled airborne device.

Directors are encouraged to contact the Artistic Management of WMC to inquire about the use of other equipment or material as to whether it is permissible.

- 7.3. The following safety guidelines are applicable: No participant may be lifted by another participant or placed on any portion of any prop, structure, or podium where the participant's lowest point (i.e., feet, hands, etc.) is more than 2 meters (6'6") above the Contest Area unless appropriate safety equipment is used. This must meet current Health and Safety Regulations.
- 7.4. All equipment used in competition must meet current health and safety regulations.
- 7.5. The Artistic Management of WMC and the Independent Chairman of Adjudication have the authority to prohibit the use of any prop or equipment that is deemed a public risk or a risk to public property.
- 7.6. The stadium management and government safety officials can overrule any decision of the Artistic Management if they regard the used equipment or the situation on the field a safety risk. Any direction they give or ruling they do needs to be followed up.

Directors are encouraged to contact the Artistic Management of WMC to inquire about the use of a particular prop as to whether it is permissible.

- 7.7. **Penalties:** Any violation of the safety guidelines will carry a minimum of a five-point (5.00) penalty to a maximum of disqualification. This will be at the discretion of the Independent Chairman of Adjudication.

Article 8: Time limits

- 8.1. There are two (2) time limits:
 - Overall time (entry, preparation, performance and exit) – maximum 20 minutes.
 - Performance time (the time in which the band is adjudicated) – minimum 9 minutes, maximum 13 minutes.
- 8.2. The overall time starts when the first performer enters the Performance Area (article 5). The overall time stops when the last performer and/or equipment (whichever is last) has left the Performance Area. The Performance Area is clearly marked by the lines of the street circuit.

- 8.3. The performance time starts after the announcement: 'Band Name, you may take the field in competition'.
- 8.4. The performance time stops after the drum major/band leader gives a clear visible sign that the performance has come to an end.
- 8.5. Penalties: In the case of a violation of time limits (8.1) which are under or over the indicated limits, the Independent Chairman of Adjudication will add a penalty of 0,05 points per second to the overall score.
- 8.6. The schedule for warming up, report, performance and locations will be published and called the timetable.
- 8.7. All bands are to report at the designated gates as will be communicated in the most recent timetable.
- 8.8. Bands will perform according to the most recent timetable.
- 8.9. If a band misses its scheduled performance time, the artistic management of WMC can grant them a new time slot, **but only if this is possible.**
- 8.10. The Independent Chairman of Adjudication can delay a performance but cannot force the band to perform earlier than the most recent timetable.
- 8.11. The most recent timetable will be posted 24 hours before the reporting time of the previous timetable.
- 8.12. **Penalties:** Any timetable violation will carry a minimum of a two-point (2.00) penalty to a maximum of disqualification. This will be at the discretion of the Independent Chairman of Adjudication.

Article 9: Scoring and Awards

9.1. The performance will be rewarded by an international team of seven (7) adjudicators. The team will be supervised by an Independent Chairman of Adjudication. The following captions will be adjudicated

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| ● Effect Visual | 100,00 points, one adjudicator |
| ● Effect Music | 100,00 points, one adjudicator |
| ● Music Ensemble | 100,00 points, one adjudicator |
| ● Music Performance | 100,00 points, two adjudicators |
| ● Visual Ensemble | 100,00 points, one adjudicator |
| ● Visual Performance | 100,00 points, one adjudicator |

9.2. The captions Music Performance and Visual Performance will be adjudicated on field level. All other captions will be adjudicated from the top of the audience viewing area in the Grandstand.

9.3. Each caption consists of two sub-captions. The top sub-caption represents the WHAT (vocabulary) and the bottom sub-caption represents the HOW (excellence).

9.4. Each band will receive a final score calculated as follows:

Caption	Adjudicator #	Sub Caption What	Sub Caption How	Total Sub Captions	Caption Score	Weight	Total Score
Effect Music	1	100	100	200	200:2 = 100	200:2 = 100	300:3 = 100
Effect Visual	2	100	100	200	200:2 = 100		
Music Ensemble	3	100	100	200	200:2 = 100	200:2 = 100	
Music Performance 1	4	100	100	200:2 = 100	200:2 = 100		
Music Performance 2	5	100	100	200:2 = 100	200:2 = 100	200:2 = 100	
Visual Ensemble	6	100	100	200	200:2 = 100		
Visual Performance	7	100	100	200	200:2 = 100		

9.5. Each band will receive a score that determinates the ranking in their division.

9.6. All adjudicators will give recorded comments of the performance for their caption.

9.7. Next to the ranking in the divisions, each band receives an award based on the total score:

- Score up to 59,99 WMC Participant
- Score 60,00 – 69,99 Bronze
- Score 70,00 – 79,99 Silver
- Score 80,00 – 89,99 Gold
- Score above 90,00 Gold with Distinction

9.8. The Audience Favorite Award: At the conclusion of every competition day an Audience Favorite Award will be presented to the band that receives the most votes from the audience. The votes will be collected digitally. This prize is awarded regardless division and contest (Marching, Marching Parade and Show) and will be handed out during the daily award ceremony.

Article 10: Championship, Titles and Prizes

10.1. The following championship titles will be awarded:

- Winner WMC 1st Division Marching Parade – Highest ranking band in 1st Division.
- WMC World Champion Marching Parade – Highest ranking band in Championship division.

All Titles and Awards in the 1st Division will be presented at the end of the last contest day of the 1st Division (July 12, 2026) during the Award ceremony.

All Titles and Awards in the Championship Division will be presented at the end of the last contest day of the Championship Division (July 19, 2026) during the Award ceremony.

10.2. In the Championship the following prize money will be awarded:

- WMC World Champion Marching Parade Contest € 1.000,00
- First runner up Marching Parade Contest (ranked number 2) € 750,00
- Second runner up Marching Parade Contest (ranked nr. 3) € 500,00
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Article 11: Authorities Marching Parade Contest

11.1 The WMC Artistic Management is artistically responsible for all contests in the Parkstad Limburg Stadium.

11.2 The Independent Chairman of Adjudication is responsible for the correct application of the adjudication system. The Independent Chairman of Adjudication reports directly to the WMC Artistic Management.

Article 12: Results and appeal

12.1 Once publicly announced, scores are definite and binding. After this only WMC Kerkrade has the authority to adjust scores when deemed necessary.

12.2 No appeal is possible against scores.

12.3 In case of unforeseen circumstances which these rules do not apply, WMC Kerkrade reserves the right to make decisions that are binding. No appeal is possible.

General information

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