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RULES FOR THE  
SHOW CONTEST



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

- Saturday July 11 and 12, 2026
- Friday 17, 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 five (5) divisions:
  - Championship Division (the highest division)
  - World Division
  - 1st Division
  - 2nd Division
  - Junior Division
  - A. The Championship Division is for bands that wish to, and are capable of challenging for the title 'WMC World Champion Show'. The Championship Division is for the most experienced bands who, in their home country compete on the highest level in Show. Only bands that compete in the Championship Division can win the title 'WMC World Champion Show'. A band that enters the Championship Division Show is required to compete in the Show Prelims.
  - B. The World Division is for bands that:
    - Compete at the highest level in their home country but are not able to compete in the prelims/finals period of July 17 – 19, 2026.
    - Compete at the highest level in their home country but have not reached the required level of the WMC Championship Division.
    - Compete at the very top of the second highest level in their home country.
  - C. The 1st Division is for bands that compete in the second highest or in the very top of the third highest level in their home country.
  - D. The 2nd Division is for bands that compete at a good basic level in their home country.
  - E. The Junior Division is for bands whose members (including drum major / band leader) have not reached the age of 18 by December 31, 2026. Documentary evidence in the form of a photo ID may be checked before the bands compete. Violation of this rule could end in possible disqualification and any winning titles removed.
- 1.2. WMC gives bands the opportunity to participate in the Show Contest 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. Each participant may choose to compete in the division in which they think they fit best.

- 1.4. All participating bands must submit their portfolio and recent video material (2023 or later) via the WMC Portal.
  - 1.5. There are 18 performance slots in the preliminary contest (Prelims) for the Championship Division Show on Friday July 17, 2026.
  - 1.6. The maximum of participants for each of the divisions are:
    - 1.6.1. Championship Division: 18 of which 12 will proceed to the Finals, numbers 13 till 15 will proceed into the World Division, number 16 and up will be offered a performance in exhibition
    - 1.6.2. World Division: 8 bands (will be joined by numbers 13-15 of the Championship Division)
    - 1.6.3. First Division: 8 bands
    - 1.6.4. Second Division: 4 bands
    - 1.6.5. Junior Division: 4 bands
- If there are more applications than slots in a division, the WMC will decide, based on the portfolio, which bands will be assigned a slot. If possible within the timeschedule the WMC can open up more slots. There is no appeal possible against this decision.
- 1.7. The final contest (Finals) of the Championship Division Show is composed of the 12 highest ranking bands of the Prelims for the Championship Division Show.
  - 1.8. WMC decides, based on the portfolio, which 18 bands can enter the Championship Division Show. No appeal is possible.
  - 1.9. WMC Kerkrade can advise or rule, based on the portfolio as to whether a band may participate in their chosen division, or that the band should participate in a lower or higher division. This can be advised (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.
  - 1.10. In case of a ruling, no appeal is possible.

## Article 2: Contest Schedule

- 2.1. The Show Contests will take place on the following dates:
  - A. World Division – Saturday 18 and Sunday July 19, 2026
  - B. 1st Division – Saturday 11 and Sunday July 12, 2026
  - C. 2nd Division – Saturday 11 and Sunday July 12, 2026
  - D. Junior Division – Saturday July 11, 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 on the number of registration.

- 2.4. Bands, competing in the World, 1st or 2nd division, and also competing in the Marching Contest or Marching Parade Contest, will perform in both contests in the same weekend but not necessarily on the same day.
- 2.5. For bands, competing in the Championship Division Show (Prelims/Finals), the WMC aims have their marching performance or marching parade performance within the same weekend but not on the same day if possible.
- 2.6. The order of appearance in the Prelims of the Championship Division Show on Friday July 17, 2026, will be determined by a draw held on January 31, 2026 at the latest. This draw will be done publicly.
- 2.7. The order of appearance in the Finals of the Championship Division Show on Sunday July 19, 2026, will be based on the scores attained at Prelims. The 12 highest scoring bands in Prelims will proceed to the Finals and numbers 13-15 will continue in the World Division. During the prelims, scores will be announced of bands that have performed.
- 2.8. There will be six (6) competition blocks. A draw will be held for each competition block (except block 6) to determine the order of appearance in that specific competition block. The draw will be held immediately after the Prelims on Friday July 17, 2026. Competition blocks are as follows:
- Block 5 : Bands ranked 13-15
  - Block 4: Bands ranked 10- 12
  - Block 3: Bands ranked 7-9
  - Block 2: Bands ranked 4-6
  - Block 1: Bands ranked 1-3
- 2.9. Bands ranked 16 till 18 will be scheduled as performances in exhibition on Saturday 18 or Sunday July 19, 2026, at the discretion of WMC Kerkrade.
- 2.10. Bands in block 5 will compete in the World Division Show on Saturday July 18, 2026 at a designated time slot determined by the draw.
- 2.11. Blocks 1 to 4 will compete in Championship Division Finals on Sunday July 19, 2026 at a designated time slot determined by the draw.

## 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 not 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 bands 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 within the lines of an American Football field: 100 x 53.33 yards = 91.40 x 49.03 meters. The front boundary line is clearly marked. There will be a front ensemble area at the front of the field in front of the boundary line from the 50-yard line to the 20-yard line, left and right. This is regarded as the 'Performance Area' (in separate document).
- 5.3. Bands are permitted to utilize the entire designated Performance Area for their performance. All performers must always be in the Performance Area during the performance, with the exception of the conductor(s).
- 5.4. Once the performance begins, all equipment and props (including all sound equipment) must be grounded within the Contest Area.
- 5.5. Props or equipment may be staged in the Contest Area, but no choreography is permitted outside of the Performance Area.
- 5.6. Each 10-yard line will be marked on the performance Area and indicated with yard boards.
- 5.7. Penalties: All violations of boundaries will incur a point one (0.1) penalty per violation, which will be deducted from the final score.

## Article 6: Authorized Equipment and Instrumentation

- 6.1. Instruments typically utilized and recognized as part of a band or an orchestra, including the use of electronic instruments/amplification as well as performers such as color guard, baton twirlers, majorettes and dancers are allowed.
- 6.2. The organization will provide a power source (220V) at the front of the 50 yard line. Bands should provide their own extension cords.
- 6.3. Bands may manipulate their soundboard by using a remote-controlled wireless device through a self-supplied wireless network. WMC will provide an area in or near the upstairs adjudication area for one (1) designated staff member to adjust the mix using wireless technology or communicate to a performer running the sound board via wireless voice/two-way radio. The soundboard must remain in the Contest Area. If lighting is used, a performer in the Competition Area must control all lighting devices.
- 6.4. Any sound generating source, computer, synthesizer, etc. must be located in the Performance Area. The triggering/playing of this equipment must be done in the Performance Area.

- 6.5. All electronic sounds are permitted, except the direct and simultaneous duplication of parts that exist within the group's score.
- 6.6. Battery operated devices, including cell phones, cameras, MP3 players and computers are allowed.
- 6.7. The following items are not allowed in the Contest Area:
- 6.7.1. Pyrotechnics, discharge of arms, pressurized canisters, dry ice, smoke machines, compressed air apparatuses, dangerous materials, and/or flammable liquids or gas.
  - 6.7.2. Gasoline or manual powered generators.
  - 6.7.3. Live animals.
  - 6.7.4. Powder, dirt or any other substance that remains in the Contest Area in the air.
  - 6.7.5. Helium, including helium-filled balloons.
  - 6.7.6. Motorized vehicles such as golf carts, tractors, all-terrain vehicles, etc. except for transporting equipment needed during the performance. They may not enter the Performance Area. These vehicles needs to be removed and parked during the performance in a designated area.
  - 6.7.7. Motorized wheelchairs for disabled performers are allowed.
  - 6.7.8. Glass objects that may break and/or leave shards of glass in the Contest Area.
  - 6.7.9. Video monitors must utilize screen protectors.
  - 6.7.10. Mirrors must be of the acrylic type and cannot contain glass.
  - 6.7.11. Any light bulbs used must be shatter resistant safety coated.
  - 6.7.12. Hover Boards.
  - 6.7.13. Drones or any remote-controlled airborne devices.

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.

- 6.8. 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.
- 6.9. All equipment used in competition must meet current health and safety regulations.
- 6.10. 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.
- 6.11. 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.

6.12. 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 7: Time Limits

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. The overall time starts when the first performer enters the 'Performance Area' (see article 5). The overall time stops when the last performer and/or equipment (whichever is last) has left the 'Performance Area'. The Performance Area are clearly marked.
- 7.3. The performance time starts directly after the announcement: 'Band Name, you may take the field in competition'. The performance time stops after the drum major/band leader gives a clear visible sign that the performance has come to an end.
- 7.4. Penalties: In the case of a violation of time limits (7.1) 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.
- 7.5. The schedule for warming up, report, performance and locations will be published and called the timetable.
- 7.6. All bands are to report at the designated gates as will be communicated in the most recent time table.
- 7.7. Bands will perform according to the most recent timetable.
- 7.8. 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.
- 7.9. The Independent Chairman of Adjudication can delay a performance but cannot force the band to perform earlier than the most recent timetable.
- 7.10. The most recent timetable will be posted 24 hours before the reporting time of the previous timetable.
- 7.11. 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 8: Scoring and Awards

8.1. 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

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

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

8.4. Each band will receive a 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		

8.5. Each band will receive a score that determines the ranking in their division.

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

8.7. 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 90 and above Gold with Distinction.

8.8. The following special awards will be given out in each division, except for the Championship Division:

- Best Music Highest ranking score of Music Ensemble + Music Performance 1+2;
- Best Effect Highest ranking score in the caption Effect;
- Best Visual Highest ranking score of Visual Ensemble + Visual Performance.

8.9. The following special awards will be given out in the Championship Division on completion of Finals:

- Best Music                      Highest ranking score of Music Ensemble + Music Performance 1+2;
- Best Effect                      Highest ranking score in the caption Effect;
- Best Visual                      Highest ranking score of Visual Ensemble + Visual Performance;
- Best Brass/Winds              At the discretion of the two Music Performance adjudicators;
- Best Percussion                At the discretion of the two Music Performance adjudicators;
- Best Auxiliary                 At discretion of the Effect and Visual Ensemble adjudicators.

8.10. The Public Vote Award: At the conclusion of every competition day a Public Vote Award will be presented to the band that receives the most votes from the audience. The votes will be collected digitally through the WMC-App or online. This prize is awarded regardless division or competition (Marching, Marching Parade and Show) and will be handed out during the daily award ceremony

## Article 9: Championship, Titles and Prizes

9.1. The following championship titles will be awarded:

- Winner WMC Junior Division Show - Highest ranking band in the Youth Division.
- Winner WMC 2nd Division Show – Highest ranking band in the 2nd Division.
- Winner WMC 1st Division Show – Highest ranking band in the 1st Division.
- Winner WMC World Division Show - Highest ranking band in the World Division.
- WMC World Champion Show – Highest ranking band in the Championship Division Finals.

All Titles and Awards in the Junior Division will be presented at the Award Ceremony on Saturday July 11, 2026.

All Titles and Awards for the 2nd and 1st Division will be presented at the Award Ceremony on Sunday July 12, 2026.

All Titles and Awards for the World and Championship Division will be presented at the end of the last contest day (Sunday July 19, 2026) during the Award and Closing Ceremony.

9.2. In Championship Division the following prize money will be awarded:

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| ● WMC World Champions Show   | € 10.000,00 |
| ● First runner up Show Contest, ranked number 2 Championship Division  | € 7.500,00  |
| ● Second runner up Show Contest, ranked number 3 Championship Division | € 2.500,00  |
| ● Ranked number 4 -6 Championship Division                             | € 1.000,00  |
| ● Ranked number 7 – 9 Championship Division                            | € 750,00    |
| ● Ranked number 10 -12 Championship Division                           | € 500,00    |

## Article 10: Authorities Show Contest

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

10.2 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 11: Results and Appeal

11.1 Once publicly announced, scores are definite and binding. After this The WMC Artistic Management has the authority to adjust scores when deemed necessary.

11.2 No appeal is possible against scores.

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

### General information

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