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# FRENCH OPEN BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

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## RULES OF THE CONTEST

### **1. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTEST**

The rules are intended to establish a general framework for the contest, hereafter known as FOBBC to enable the contest to run smoothly and efficiently.

#### **1/ Organizers**

The FOBBC Championship is organized by the AABB (Association des Amis du brass band).

#### **2/ Championship Directing Committee**

This committee represents physical people who will establish and determine the contest rules.

##### a) Setting

The Championship Directing Committee is composed of:

- The President and Vice-President of the A.A.B.B.
- The treasurer and secretary of the association.

##### b) Functions

- 1) To study and amend the rules (if and where applicable)
- 2) Solve any difficulties during the competition that are not covered in the rules
- 3) Decide on the process for future competitions of Regional Championships.
- 4) Organize, check and manage the running of the competition
- 5) Elect the adjudicators
- 6) Book Bands for Gala Concert and entertainment
- 7) Inform and organize meetings with Volunteers for running the competition.

##### c) Postal address:

French Open brass band Championship  
4, Place Richelieu  
37400 AMBOISE

Tél: + 33 6 07 23 66 63 Jacques Gaudet

Tél: + 33 2 47 57 06 97 Music school

e.mail: [coledemusique.amboise@wanadoo.fr](mailto:coledemusique.amboise@wanadoo.fr)

E-mail: [gaudetja@wanadoo.fr](mailto:gaudetja@wanadoo.fr)

#### **3/ Partners**

- Conseil Départemental d'Indre et Loire
- Communauté de Communes Val d'Amboise
- Amboise municipality
- Paul Gaudet Amboise Music school
- Amboise Harmony Orchestra

- Selected music shops and Brasswind manufacturers
- Banks and/or other sponsors

## **II. GENERAL DIPOSALS:**

### **1/ Sections**

The different categories are divided into 5 divisions:

- 1) Championship section
- 2) First section
- 3) Second section
- 4) Third section
- 5) Fourth/Youth section

### **2/ Entry**

#### *a) Rules for entry*

To be able to enter the Brass Band category, the ensemble must have the Brass Band instrumentation, up to a maximum of 35 players.

#### *b) Youth Bands*

Youth bands are permitted to compete respecting, if possible the Brass band nomenclature.

#### *c) Registration*

All musicians taking part in the championship competition must have been registered with their bands for at least 2 months before the contest.

#### *d) Universality of players*

No musician must play more than one instrument, but a player can play a brass instrument and percussion.

#### *e) The conductor*

The bands must be directed by a conductor during the competition. The conductor must not play an instrument as well as conducting during the contest.

#### *f) Presentation of the ensembles*

The participants must present themselves in uniform whilst representing their band.

#### *g) Preparation of the ensembles*

No rehearsal in the area of the contest is allowed on the day of the contest. A room outside the immediate contest area will be provided.

#### *h) Players*

Musicians can only play with one band during the contest except special authorization from the Committee.

### **3/ Composition of bands**

a) Brass Band category

A maximum of 35 players are allowed including percussion.

1	Eb Sop Cornet
10/11	Bb Cornets
1	Flugelhorn
3	Eb Tenor horns
2	Bb Baritones
2/3	Bb Euphoniums
3-4	Slide-Trombones (incl. Bass Tromb.)
4-5	EEb & BBb Tubas

### **4/ Competition dates**

These are fixed each year by the Contest Directing Committee after taking into consideration all factors to ensure that a maximum number of bands compete and also to satisfy the audience.

### **5/ Insurance**

Each competing band must have its own insurance policy for the musicians and their instruments. The contest organisers cannot be held responsible for accidents, theft, loss or damage.

## **III. REGISTRATION**

### **1/ Entry**

a) Entry form

In order to compete, the bands must complete and return the « Entry Form » with the correspondent mentions. The rules of entry and closing date are on the form.

b) Entry fee

A right to enter the contest is required to each band taking part in the contest. The standards are decided each year by the Director of the A.A.B.B. Each entry form must be completed and sent with the payment. The Directing Committee is not able to make a final decision upon accepting an entry until he has received all the relevant documents.

The entry fee is not redeemable.

c) Musicians cards

When an entry form has been accepted by the Directing Committee, an adhesion form will be sent to the participating band. The band secretary must have every player signed the form and return it with a copy of all the players cards no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March.

c) Last date for replacements

No change or additions to the signature form will be allowed during the 4 weeks prior to the contest. If changes are made, a new card must accompany the signature sheet for the players concerned. The replacements must not exceed 10% of the total number of players unless expressly authorized by the Contest Committee.

d) Confirmation of signatures

The signatures on the cards must match those on the signature registration sheet.

e) Secretary's responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the band secretary to ensure that all the registered musicians are present on the day and all registration documentation correctly completed.

## **2/ Withdrawals**

Any band wishing to withdraw must notify the Committee in writing 1 month before the contest. The entry fee will not be settled back.

## **3/ Bands responsibility**

It is the responsibility of each band to obtain the necessary registration forms and also the competition rules. The band must sign an acknowledgement receipt of the rules to be registered as competitor.

## **4/ Frequency of contest**

The contest will be held each year unless the Organizing Committee decides otherwise.

# **IV. COMPETITION EVENTS**

## **1/ Program**

A detailed program of events will be sent to each competing band by the Committee.

## **2/ Replacing a Conductor**

If a conductor needs to be replaced on the day of the contest, the Contest Committee must be advised before the contest starts.

## **3/ Order of play**

The order of play is drawn on the evening immediately before the day of the contest. The draw takes place in public at the Royal Castle of Amboise.

Any band not represented at the draw must make sure that it finds out the details for the contest day in order that it arrives at the contest on time. The contest organisers

cannot be held responsible if a band does not arrive at the contest at the correct time to play.

The order of play will be advised on posters in various locations around the site of the contest.

#### **4/ Inability of musician to play**

If a musician is unable to compete due to illness or an accident, the band secretary must notify to the Committee immediately and provide a medical certificate.

On acceptance of the certificate by the Committee, a replacement player will be allowed to perform.

#### **5/ Registration office**

The band secretary of each band must be present at the registration office together with all the registration cards at least 45 minutes before the contest starts.

Each card must be signed and show the musician name and the name of its band.

For the U/K members, UK cards are suitable.

#### **6/ Disqualification**

Any falsifying of documents or details will not be tolerated and out of date cards will not be accepted.

#### **7/ Time keeping**

If a band is not ready to play 10 minutes before the preceding band leaving the stage, they may be disqualified by the Contest judges.

#### **8/ Percussion**

The following items of percussion are available for each band:

- 4 Bergerault Concert Timpani's
- Xylophone Bergerault
- Glockenspiel Bergerault
- Tubular bells Bergerault
- Orchestra Cymbals Istanbul
- A bongos set LP- Mambos Bells
- Extra Hanged cymbals
- Accessories (tambourine, triangle, maracas, shaker, rainmaker, vibraslap, whip, rain rods...) are not supplied and should be provided by each band.
- Complete drums Mapex
- Vibraphone Bergerault
- Marimba Bergerault
- Concert Bass drum Bergerault
- Chinese Tam tam (90cm)
- a congas set Supercussion
- one set of timbales LP

#### **9/ The jury**

The jury is made up of eminent personalities from the world of music and particularly brass specialists.

The Committee decides who is invited to be a judge.

The jury for the indoor contest will be isolated (closed adjudication) and will not be advised of the order of play.

### 10/ Contest program (indoor theatre program)

Each band's program must not exceed 25 minutes of music in total.

The following pieces must be played:

- A traditional Brass Band Work (compulsory test piece)
- A soloist piece
- Function of the total time a free choice piece e.g., (popular, jazz, classical transcription or original composition).

Musical program and setting up of the band on stage should not exceed 30 minutes.

For the youth category, the music program (20 minutes maximum) is all free choice and it must be submitted to the Contest Committee 2 months before the contest for approval.

### 11/ Best Soloist prize

On special adjudicator vote, a best Soloist prize will be given to the best Soloist of the contest.

### 12/ Scores

Each band must supply 3 sets of music scores for the jury, **at least six weeks before the competition date**. The copies must not contain any annotations or extra notes.

### 13/ Points system

The jury will take the following elements into account when awarding points:

- Sound
- Expression
- Rhythm and tempo

Points:

Compulsory Test piece.....:	60 points
Free choice pieces .....	max. 60 points

(Divided in function of the number of pieces plaid)

The final points awarded are calculated by taking an average of all the adjudicator's total points.

The first prize in each section is only given when the minimum of 108 points is reached.

Ascending is decided by the adjudicators.

The title of Champion of the year is given to the Brass band of division CHAMPIONSHIP having the higher numbers of point with a minimum of 111 points on 120.

### 14/ Music March Competition

It takes place Saturday morning from 9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. in *Place Michel Debré* and is compulsory. The bands start at Espace Henri d'Orléans marching and playing an easy march not quoted for 150 / 200 meters and then form up to play in front of the cabin judge. The way back is identical. The jury is closed for this contest.

To be noted, the music march must be played in integrality including Da Capos.

## **15/ Mini-entertainment concert**

In order to make the event even more popular, after performing their contest music indoors, each band is asked to perform a compulsory outdoor program to the general public. This takes the form of a mini-concert in an open-air location in Amboise, (castle place and Tour Heurtault place), the timing should be followed. On each place are drums, xylophone and music stands and chairs. It is made for the entertainment price.

## **V. PRACTICALITIES**

### **1/ Accommodation and food**

#### *a) Accommodation*

Each band will be helped by the Committee, which is trying to get support from local hotels and business people to contribute towards the accommodation costs.

A list of Hotels near the competition is available near the association.

### **2/ Welcome reception**

The welcome reception for all the bands will be held in the Royal Amboise Castle on Friday at 6:30 p.m. where the order of play will be drawn. Free drinks and refreshments will be offered to everyone attending.

### **4/ Prizes**

Please see attached list.

**To avoid excessive bank charges for foreign Brass Bands, the AABB has decided to pay the prize by transfer within one week after the proclamation of the results.**

**It is imperative that each Band communicates to us his bank details in order to make the wire, indicating clearly the name of your Band.**

### **5/ Announcing the results**

The results will be announced by the president of the A.A.B.B. in the presence of the Jury and the Directing Committee, the Mayor of Amboise. All prize giving and announcements of results will take place during the Gala Concert, on Saturday at 9 p.m. in the *Salle Claude Ménéard*.

### **6/ The Gala Concert**

The Gala Concert will close the contest. The guest band will be a band of a very high standard. Each year, the guest band will be different and it does not necessarily have to compete at the contest.

Band members taking part to the competition will attend this Gala concert with free entrance **but they should give an entrance ticket given by the organization at the end of the draw.**

**It is necessary that a minimum of 10 people from each band competing should be present at the Gala Concert for proclaim of results and prizes.** If no representative of the band is physically present at the Gala concert during the prize-giving, no awards (diploma, trophy, prizes) will be given after the manifestation.

## VI. SUMMARY

Friday	<i>6:30 p.m.</i>	Reception in the Castle Draw and submit registration cards. Announcement of timings for Saturday contest
Saturday	<i>10.00 a.m.</i>	Marching Competition <i>Place Michel Debré</i>
	<i>08.30 a.m.</i>	French National Bras Band Championship (All day outdoor mini concerts)
	<i>09.00 p.m.</i>	Closing Gala Concert and results ceremony
Sunday	<i>11.30 a.m.</i>	Concert show Michel Debré place



## **V. APPEALS**

### **1/ Objection**

Any objection regarding the rules or the contest must be made in writing to the Directing Committee before the prize giving ceremony. Each complaint must be accompanied by a fee of Euros 50, which will be refunded if the appeal is upheld.

No complaints or appeals are allowed after the prize giving ceremony.

### **2/ Revision**

If the Directing Committee discovers an error in the results, it can revise the prizes and awards.

### **3/ Irregularities**

If the Directing Committee detects any irregularities in the contest, it may take a sanction as one reduction in the obtained note(mark), to see even a downgrading(displacement).

### **4/ Disciplinary sanctions**

Disciplinary sanctions are assessed by the Directing Committee regarding false signatures or unauthorized players.

If, in the opinion of the Directing Committee, the action of a player or a conductor regarding signatures etc... brings the FOBBC in to disrepute, the band could be disqualified and deprived of the cash prize and trophy.

### **5/ Appeals**

Any appeals against disciplinary action must be made in writing.

On receipt of the appeal, the musician will be asked to attend a meeting with the Committee to present his explanation.

The decision of the Committee will be advised in writing within 7 days of the meeting.

The decision will be final and no further appeals will be accepted.

## **PRIZES**

### **CHAMPIONSHIP Section**

The Brass Band with the highest total of points will receive:

- Wire
- Champion of the Year Trophy

The second Brass Band will receive:

- a prize in the form of a wire or a gift voucher
- a trophy

The Third Brass Band will receive:

- a prize in the form of a wire or a gift voucher
- a trophy

### **First Section**

### **Second Section**

### **Third Section**

### **Fourth / Youth Section**

The Brass Band with the highest total of points will receive:

- Wire
- First price trophy

The second Brass Band will receive:

- a prize in the form of a gift voucher
- a trophy

The Third Brass Band will receive:

- a prize in the form of a gift voucher
- a trophy