

# A BAND & COLOR GUARD PARENT GUIDE TO MARCHING BAND FIELD SHOW TOURNAMENTS!

## I. Our Los Osos philosophy as it applies to competition in the arts:

**ON “WINNING”** – Our band and color guard program has never been about and will never be about winning. This activity is not like that of the sports activity. In order for a true competitive environment to exist, all of the bands would have to play the same exact musical arrangements, march the same exact drill formations, have the same exact number of people, etc. (you get the point). The field show tournament adjudicators would then be in a position to make a fair assessment of comparison between the various marching bands. But, this is not how it works. We each choose our own show. We design our own drill moves and we all have different numbers of instruments and color guard performers on the field. Our bands are made up of 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders, with no “varsity” versus “J.V.” status given. All performers are on the field at all times, with no one to pull from the bench, like in sports. So, in this activity, we are not in competition with other marching bands. Rather, we are in competition with ourselves. Our goal is to improve our show and refine our program each and every time we put on the uniform and take to the field. We are striving for individual (and thus collective) success of the organization as a whole. Our goal is to never move backwards from one performance to the next, but rather to always see individual and collective improvement. This is how we measure our success. The adjudicators at field show tournaments are asked to compare bands of similar size and to make assessments based upon what they see and hear. The obvious challenge with this is that each marching band will be doing a completely different show. This is an “apples and oranges” situation in many cases. So, we the performers must focus on only those things which are in our control. We are in control of how well we know and are able to perform our show. This is our focus. We do not focus on “beating” other marching bands, because this may be impossible. The reason for this is because sometimes the judges will prefer the type of music that another band plays over ours. Or perhaps they will like the flag and uniform colors better, and so forth. Furthermore, we are a respectable group, and not only are we not in competition with other bands, but we encourage their success as well. After all, better groups all around means more success for the overall activity, and more support for music education.

Accordingly, we:

- 1) Focus on what we can control (ourselves and our show).
- 2) Enjoy the journey as much as the destination (a good rehearsal is as enjoyable as a fine-tuned performance). AND, we spend MUCH more time in rehearsal than performance, right?
- 3) Keep in mind always that we are in competition only with ourselves. This is our motivation to work hard and to achieve, both for ourselves and for the others in our organization.

## II. How Marching Bands are Adjudicated by the SCSBOA:

- Peer judging system.
  - Our adjudicators are all current or retired band directors or color guard or percussion instructors.
  - Our adjudicators undergo yearly training sessions and strive to be fair and consistent.
  - Criteria reference language on the back of each score sheet provides words to articulate how a group has been ranked.
    - Think of this like a report card.
      - Box 1 = “F” (you shouldn’t be in the marching band activity. Please sell your instrument immediately and try doing something else).
      - Box 2 = “D” (your work is below standard)
      - Box 3 = “C” (your work is average)
      - Box 4 = “B” (excellent work)
      - Box 5 = “A” (superior work – you are among the best groups out there).
- Recap Score Sheets
  - Our recaps and score sheets from each tournament will be posted in the Band Hall and readily accessible for parents and students. We encourage folks to peruse these and see what the adjudicators had to say about our work.
  - Each weekend Mr. Encina reviews the recordings and sheets and makes a list of things to correct or add to the show in the upcoming week of rehearsals.
- The SCSBOA Championships grid is located at [www.scsboa.org](http://www.scsboa.org)
  - Weekly updates of scores for each division.
  - Recaps (minus adjudicator names) for each past tournament this season.

### III. **Field Show Audience Etiquette: We want to uphold our reputation as a “classy” group!**

- Admission cost can be as high as \$12.00 per person.
  - Children usually receive a discounted rate.
  - Most tournaments are cash-only (no debit or credit cards). Please plan ahead!
- Please follow and observe the signage regarding parking. Please show respect and appreciation to the volunteers who run these huge events. It is tricky to park these many school buses, equipment vehicles, and fans on an average high school campus!
- Held in a football stadium, but treated like an indoor concert. For everyone to fully enjoy the performances, we ask that you obey the following guidelines. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!
  - No talking during performances!
  - Please silence your phones.
  - We only cheer and clap, no air horns or noise-makers allowed (can result in judging penalty!) We do not “boo” anything, ever! Audience members play an important role in making a great performance truly great. Cheer on each group as you would your own – imagine that unforgettable moment your child will experience with hundreds of people cheering them on. Lead by example, every student deserves applause for his or her tremendous amount of time, effort, and talent.
  - No smoking in or around the stadium.
  - Audience members are not permitted to enter/exit the grandstands during performances; only in between performances.
- Wear your Los Osos gear and scarves!
  - Please sit together as a cheering group.
  - If seated in front of the pressbox, please remain seated so as to not block the line of sight for the judges and refrain from applause or cheering that overlaps the music on the field. If the judges can't hear us, they mark us down!
- Remember, all performers from all groups work hard. We only say positive things aloud and we keep negative comments to ourselves. We are representing the school and community when wearing our colors abroad, and we take that very seriously.
- Parents do not talk with the field show adjudicators. Please speak with the band director if you have any questions about scores, placement, etc.

- When possible we give complimentary wristbands to our bus-riding chaperones and pit crew.
  - These wristbands allow admission to the visitor side of the stadium. Chaperones/pit crew parents need to purchase their own admission for home side seating if they wish to sit on that side.
  - Some tournaments give us more wristbands than other tournaments do. This is not up to us. Please be flexible and understanding that we are the guests, and this is not our decision. Chaperones and pit crew should be prepared to pay full admission if necessary.
  
- Please avoid (and ask your students to avoid) posting on online forums including but not limited to the “World of Pageantry” website. These pages are for marching band fanatics. The dialogue located there is often very competitive and overly-dramatic and often negative. It’s not in line with our philosophy stated above. Classy folks don’t post like that. It has become a bit of a joke in the band director inner-circle. Please don’t represent us there! Our kids work too hard for that!

**THANK YOU** for supporting our students in this huge endeavor. We have all worked very hard to make this happen and now it’s time to *enjoy the show!*

**Questions? Contact Mr. Encina @ [Solomon.encina@cjuhsd.net](mailto:Solomon.encina@cjuhsd.net)**