

CBA Classification Review Committee

Meeting Minutes - 2/19/24

1. Order: Rick Shaw called the meeting of the Colorado Bandmasters Association *Classification Review Committee* to order at 7:01pm.

2. Members Present: Trey Tafoya, Benjamin Corneliusen, Stoney Black, Sean Cartner, Sean Hedding, Aaron Herman, Bryce Melaragno, Tyler Vandermeer WL Whaley; CBA Chief Judge, Rick Shaw; CBA Chairman of Marching Affairs, Becky Paschke; CBA President

3. Beginning of Meeting/Reflections on Data Collection:

- **Rick Shaw** gave some reflections on his previous experience as a director, the view of winning, diminishing of work ethic, and what is best for kids - how the directors taught and what the students took away from their experiences in marching band
- **Sean Hedding** brought up the theme & suggested point of discussion regarding resources and budget from many directors as data was gathered over the past month - **Tyler Vandermeer** & **Sean Cartner** seconded the initiative. "There will always be programs that have and programs that are searching for the resources they need, and both types exist across the 5 current divisions of CBA marching - changing classification size would not eradicate these problems."
- **Bryce Melaragno** posited that CBA should not be the arbiter of financial situations for programs & echoed Rick Shaw and said the focus for CBA should be how the directors teach and what the students take away from their time in instrumental music
- **WL Whaley** agreed that it is not about the outcome, but the process - how kids feel about their time in band... whether they win or lost doesn't matter, but hard work is fun. Being good is fun - wondering if some folks have lost touch of that - maybe we are looking at reclassification, but that may not be the problem
- **Tyler Vandermeer** echoed that the classification may not be the thing that needs to be fixed, but may be the process - how we seed bands, or the locations of festivals - how we accommodate and equate opportunities for all bands regardless of location and resources
- **Rick Shaw** parking lotted a few items that were proposed on the CRC Data Collection tool

- **Stoney Black** stated some confusion from directors while gathering data that the conversation was surrounding the bigger problem - our direction tonight may lead to more equity conversations rather than reclassification as a whole
- **Sean Cartner** brought up access to competitions equity - access for bands for scheduling blocks, locations; some programs want that experience but don't feel like they're at that point to go all-in for a competitive circuit with the scores, etc.
- **Rick Shaw** acknowledged the need to make playing for comments/rating-only more visible and echoed Stoney Black that as we go into main discussion, the conversation may surround opportunity/equity more than a true classification review.
- **WL Whaley:** only 1 group over the last 6+ years have taken advantage of comments/ratings-only at any show
- **Aaron Herman** asked if there was a desire for more access/comments-only/etc., where's the disconnect? Is there something that we're not doing well enough to get the word out? Or do people know this is an option and not taking advantage?
- **Aaron Herman** suggested the potentiality to move schedules around to allow for equity in performing times and not always go 1A starting to 5A finishing
- **Rick Shaw** suggested the option of a show that is randomly drawn 4-band blocks for scheduling, awards still done by class... parking lotted till after main discussion

4. Main Discussion:

- **Rick Shaw** asked for more input regarding the classification proposal, as he felt the scales were tipping away from a conversation regarding classification and more towards equity & scheduling and changing the innards of the current system, etc.
- **Sean Hedding** brought up some discrepancies even with more comparable size analyses, you still have a huge percentage discrepancy between smallest and largest band - will it really even help out? Feels a bit like 4A/5A schools who aren't beating Fossil Ridge, for example, are just "looking for someone to beat"
- **Stoney Black, Benjamin Corneliusen, and Bryce Melaragno** brought up some comments regarding growth & development being the main goal, not just winning a trophy
 - Disconnect between CBA's mission and vision for students and how directors have portrayed to their students

- **Trey Tafoya** reiterated that one of the disconnects may be the way that directors project the judges comments and scores to their kids. It is on the director to represent the judging process in its entirety and purest form, not swayed one way or another (as that creates division within the program and thus the circuit)
- **Aaron Herman** referenced some of his past experience in South Carolina, and brought up an idea for potential recognition of bands who don't place very high in current classification system:
 - Keeping everything the same, except having classes be flexible throughout the season and are based on show based on band size - you can have a 1st-3rd place band in each class (not giving everyone a participation trophy, but...) seeing opportunity for a small band program to bring a trophy home at least once in their season...
- **Rick Shaw** parking lotted that idea as it might not give a true answer to what is best for all students - making sure we're giving the full process everything that it is due
 - Maybe the school size/band size is not the problem, maybe how we run the circuit and how we run events etc. is the problem
- **Sean Cartner** shared that he has found through this process that regardless of school size/band size, you'll have the same problems. Maybe another conversation needs to be had. How we approach the current classification system may be the real root, not the classification system itself. The conversation just needed to happen.
- Rick Shaw summed up that the conversation had shown that the issues lie not within the classification system itself and probably should remain as School Size as it currently stays.
- **Rick Shaw proposed/asked for comments regarding moving forward keeping our classification as School Size, and conversation should now shift to equitable practices to make our competitions and season more achievable across the board - scheduling blocks, locations, etc.**
 - **No objections. School Size Classification will stand, our CRC conversation will shift to gathering data/making decisions regarding equitable practice**
- **Stoney Black** proposed the need for best practices/understanding CBA Marching better, as many conversations that were had during Data Gathering tended to turn into "griping sessions"

- **Rick Shaw** talked about CBA Summer Convention and how to integrate this conversation into it
- **Sean Cartner** brought up accessibility issues from directors on Western Slope as CBA Convention tends to be held in Metro area each year - Rick Shaw said a solution will be pursued
- **WL Whaley:**
 - **Scheduling Thoughts:** “Scheduling is really challenging. We have a weighted draw for scheduling; how you finished last year, in a class size, in a block. That may have caused some inequities in the eye of a director. It’s easy for a judge to hold a number from 10am to 3pm. They’re good enough to do that. What’s challenging is you don’t have ‘neighborhoods’ of bands. With that said, maybe we should look at how we do CBA-sanctioned events - we can think about random draws. All of that will take pen and pencil and time to think about what is best for kids, the show, and Colorado - but that is a project we should look at. Want to get more 1A-3A bands into the State Championships event. We should look at it and talk openly about it”
- **More conversation regarding 1A-3A shortening blocks to 13 minutes for State to incorporate more total bands and thus more students getting this experience.**
 - **Rick Shaw & WL Whaley** asked for input from small school directors
 - **Sean Cartner, Sean Hedding, Benjamin Corneliusen** supported the idea, potential push to 1A-3A directors to make a decision among the CBA Marching Affairs Committee

5. Wrap-Up

- **Rick Shaw:** School Size Classification will stand, our CRC conversation will shift to gathering data/making decisions regarding equitable practice
- **Rick Shaw:** Will send everyone a Google Form to provide answers and thoughts regarding discussion tonight and ideas moving forward. Next meeting March 5th at 7:30pm.
- Thanks to **Trey & Bryce** for spearheading analyses.
- Thanks to all for being a listening ear to CBA marching directors & membership.
- **Sean Cartner:** New things to be thinking about for gathering more data:
 - blind draw for shows
 - equal % of State qualifying bands across

- director education across the State
- open vs scholastic

6. Adjournment: Rick Shaw adjourned the meeting of the Colorado Bandmasters Association *Classification Review Committee* at 8:14pm.