

## CBA Classification Proposal

Author:

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Sponsors:

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**Proposal:**

I propose a move to a classification system based on ~~the number of instrumentalists~~ **total band size.** (amended 12/9/23 Marching Affairs Committee meeting)

**Rationale:**

As the marching arts continue to evolve it is evident that costs are increasing exponentially for competitive programs (costuming, props, transportation, staffing, etc). Marching bands are generally funded per pupil and this can create large disparities between programs within a class as larger bands are able to spread the higher costs out over more students (fundraising helps to offset this, but is not always feasible). There are many factors that determine the number of students in a band - some are within the director's control, many more are not.

**Not to be considered based on the amended proposal**

~~Grouping bands based on the number of instrumentalists will benefit our judges as they will have similar sample sizes of musicians to compare within each class. Color Guard/Auxiliary would not be included in the count as there are many more variables that affect their size. It is more straightforward for visual judges to compare bands of varying sizes than music judges. Using instrumentalists numbers better aligns with our scoring system of 60/40 Music to Visual and 60/40 GE to Performance (2 Music GE judges).~~

Furthermore, I believe that this change would improve the quality of all programs. The balancing of musicians would empower programs to achieve at a higher level and raise the competition within each class.

**Protocol:**

At the beginning of the summer (end of previous school year) each director will report the number of instrumentalists registered for their marching band. These numbers will be used to

place bands into one of the 5 classes. At the beginning of the school year directors will resubmit their numbers to confirm their class. The CBA Marching Committee could be used to check with school administrators to confirm these numbers as well.

**Classification System:**

Option A) Establish a preset range of instrumentalists for each class (i.e 1A = 1-10 instrumentalists, 2A=11-20, etc.). The range for each class can be the same or they can be expanded for larger classes.

Option B) Divide all of the bands into 5 equal classes based on their final numbers. Ranges would vary year to year.

**Considerations:**

CBA would need to consider adding language to the rulebook regarding auditions for marching band. This proposal is against adding auditions for marching bands and recommends programs continue with their enrollment as is. Furthermore, a committee should be formed to facilitate the transition to this classification system.