

Tournament Guidelines for Basketball Pep Bands

These guidelines have been prepared to give band directors some ideas on how to make tournament experiences enjoyable and assist them with some of the expectations and challenges relating to basketball tournaments.

Most schools have established protocol for a home basketball game and how that works is up to each school. However, when a band ventures out of the “friendly confines” a few things change and the person in charge of the musicians needs to be aware of them:

Band Directors Shall:

- 1) When you arrive at the tournament location, be the first one from your group to check in at the pass gate and let them know that your group is on the way in. They will want to know how many band members and chaperones are with you. Students should receive a hand stamp.
- 2) Determine where your band will be sitting by talking to the tournament director or designee. Be sure you introduce yourself to that person and let them know where you will be if they need to contact you. Let the tournament official know that you are in charge of your students and if they have concerns about your group, they can talk directly to you and you will handle the situation.
- 3) Be aware of who is playing the Star-Spangled Banner and instruct your students on how to behave while another group is playing our national anthem.
- 4) While the group is setting up, walk over and introduce yourself to the other director and work out who will be playing between quarters and talk about time outs. Decide who will play on the first timeout?
- 5) There is a twenty-minute warm up period before the game starts. This is where you will be doing most of your playing.
 - 1) If one team is ready to take the floor before another, allow that band to play their team onto the court first.
 - 2) Bands should alternate songs. If you are not ready, indicate to the other director that they should play.
 - 3) Please limit soloing to keep songs a little shorter. Remember that both groups are there to perform.
 - 4) When it's your groups turn to perform, be ready!
 - 5) The teams are competing. The bands are entertaining. Avoid playing the same song back-to-back with the other group. Consider playing the shorter version of the fight song.

- 6) Avoid “stepping on” the other band by initiating a tune while they are playing.

- 6) During the course of the game there will be limited opportunities to perform:
 - 1) Between quarters - this should be worked out ahead of time.
 - 2) 30 second timeouts - (referee touches shoulders)
 - 3) 60 second (full) timeouts (referee extends arms out like a “T”) - stop playing at the first buzzer that calls the players back to the court.
 - 4) Do not play during a live ball situation.
 - A. It is actually not legal to play “chasers” after a basket because play has not stopped.

- 7) To avoid embarrassment to your organization, please make sure that your students only play their instruments at appropriate times.

- 8) After the game:
 - 1) The winning team plays the fight song first.
 - 2) Break down your equipment and make way for the next band as efficiently as possible.
 - 3) If you are waiting for a band to leave the area, prep your students ahead of time so that they will patiently wait for the group to leave.

Following these guidelines will help to make the tournament run smoother, make your band and school look good and ensure a great experience for your band, fans and players alike.