
FRENCH OPEN BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

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.
- Two member designed by the AABB board.

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.

c) Additional functions

- 1) Organize, check and manage the running of the competition
- 2) Elect the adjudicators
- 3) Book Bands for Gala Concert and entertainment
- 4) Inform and organize meetings with Volunteers for running the competition.

d) Postal address:

French Open brass band Championship
30, rue de Villedavid - 37400 AMBOISE
Tél: + 33 2 47 57 06 97 Music school
Tél: + 33 6 07 23 66 63 Jacques Gaudet
e.mail : amboiseaabb@gmail.com
e-mail : gaudetja@wanadoo.fr
e-mail : vbarroue@yahoo.fr
e-mail : lebrunfred85@sfr.fr

3 - Partners :

The competition's partners are institutions and businesses:

- Conseil Départemental d'Indre et Loire
- Communauté de Communes Val d'Amboise
- Amboise municipality
- Pôle des Arts Paul Gaudetl
- Amboise Harmony Orchestra
- Brasswinds manufacturers
- Music shops
- Banks and other sponsors supporting A.A.B.B. projects.

II - GENERAL INFORMATION :

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 with a number of players exceeding 35 players

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 ensemble :

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

Brass Band category

A maximum of 35 players are allowed including percussion.

1	E♭ Sop Cornet
10/11	B♭ Cornets
1	Flugelhorn
3	E♭ Tenor horns
2	B♭ Baritones
2/3	B♭ Euphoniums
3-4	Slide-Trombones (incl. Bass Tromb.)
4-5	E♭ & B♭ 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) Application deadline :

An application deadline is set each year according to the competition date.

d) 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 31st March.

e) 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.

f) Confirmation of signatures :

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

g) 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 months 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 result of this draw, in the form of a detailed timetable, will be displayed at the accommodation and catering venues of the ensembles, as **accommodation and catering are no longer managed by the AABB.**

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

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 (bandstand) :

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, the timing should be followed. On each place are drums, xylophone, music stands and chairs. It is made for the entertainment price.

V – PRACTICALITIES :

1 - Accommodation and food :

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

Participating ensembles must plan to stay on site during the French Open.

Ensembles may reserve meals for their members on Friday evening, Saturday lunchtime and/or evening.

Meals ordered must be paid for in full at the time of registration; meals not consumed are non-refundable.

2 - Welcome reception :

The welcome reception for all the bands will be held in the Royal Amboise Castle on Friday. 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 price by transfer.

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

In all divisions:

Brass bands will receive:

- **International competition:** A trophy and a cash prize for the Championships, 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.
- **Marching band competition:** A cup and a cash prize for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.
- **Best soloist prize:** One cup and one cash prize.
- **Audience prize:** One cup and a cash prize or a gift voucher.

5 - Announcing the results :

The results will be announced by the President of the A.A.B.B. in the presence of the members of the jury, the Steering Committee of the Competition, and the personalities present at the Gala Concert which will close the Competition on the Saturday evening.

6 - The Gala Concert :

A Gala Concert will bring the Competition to a close, featuring a guest Brass Band of the highest calibre.

This ensemble will be different each year, and will be chosen by the Competition Steering Committee.

Members of participating ensembles will attend this concert free of charge for the announcement of results and prize-giving ceremony, but only on presentation of an exempt ticket.

A minimum of 10 members of each brass band must be present at the closing concert to receive the prizes when the awards are called. In the absence of representatives at the prize-giving ceremony, no awards (diplomas, trophies, cash prizes) can be withdrawn or claimed afterwards.

VI - DISCIPLINE - APPEALS :

1) Any objection concerning these rules must be submitted in writing to the Management Committee before the prizes are distributed. Each objection will be subject to a cash deposit of 50 Euros, which will be refunded only if accepted by the Management Committee if the objection is justified.

2) The jury is sovereign in its decisions.

3) If the Steering Committee realises that there has been an error in the results, it may revise the list of prizes and awards and ask for them to be distributed differently, in agreement with the Chairman of the Jury.
running of the competition, the ensemble may be penalised or even relegated.

5) Sanctions will be taken by the Competition Committee against musicians and/or ensembles providing false signatures or fraudulently replacing an unavailable participant.

6) Any participating ensemble may be penalised by penalty points for any breach of the rules, the proper running of the competition or disrespect towards other competitors.

7) Any appeal against such a disciplinary decision must be made in writing to the competition management. The procedure will be as follows

a) The musician or orchestra representative making the appeal will be invited to appear to explain himself/herself before the management committee on the scheduled date.

b) The committee's decision will be communicated in writing within 7 clear days, explaining the reasons for its decision.

c) This decision shall be final and not subject to any further appeal or legal proceedings.