
FRENCH OPEN BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

RULES OF THE CONTEST

I - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE CONTEST

The purpose of these rules and regulations is to establish the framework and smooth running of the French Open Brass Band Competition in Amboise, hereinafter referred to as OFBB.

1 - Organising association:

The OFBB in Amboise is organised by the Association des Amis du Brass Band, hereinafter referred to as: 'A.A.B.B.'

2 - Competition Steering Committee:

This committee represents the individuals who establish the rules.

a) Composition:

The organising committee is composed of:

- the President and the Honorary President of the Association des Amis du Brass Band
- two designated members of the Association's executive committee

b) Functions:

The functions of this committee are:

- 1) To study and formulate amendments to these rules,
- 2) To resolve any difficulties relating to the competition that are not covered by these rules,
- 3) To decide on procedures for future competitions..

c) Additional functions:

- 1) To organise, supervise and ensure the smooth running of the competition,
- 2) To appoint the members of the jury,
- 3) To select the groups to perform at the gala concerts and provide entertainment,
- 4) To bring together and inform volunteers about the work of the current edition.

d) Postal address:

Open de France de Brass Band

30, rue de Villedavid - 37400 AMBOISE

e-mail: opendefrancedebrassband@gmail.com

e-mail: gaudetja@wanadoo.fr

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3 - Partners:

The partners of this competition are institutional and economic:

- the Indre-et-Loire Departmental Council
- the Val d'Amboise Community of Municipalities
- the City of Amboise
- Val d'Amboise Tourist Office
- Paul Gaudet Arts Centre in Amboise
- Musical instrument makers
- Musical instrument retailers
- Indre-et-Loire Departmental Council
- Val d'Amboise Community of Communes
- The City of Amboise
- The Val d'Amboise Tourist Office
- The Paul Gaudet Arts Centre in Amboise
- Musical instrument makers
- Musical instrument retailers
- Banks and companies supporting the operations carried out by the A.A.B.B.

II - GENERAL PROVISIONS:

1 – Divisions:

The different categories participating in the Amboise Open will be divided into five divisions:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1°) CHAMPIONSHIP section - | CHAMPIONSHIP section |
| 2°) FIRST section - | First Section |
| 3°) SECOND section - | Second Section |
| 4°) THIRD section | Third Section |
| 5°) FOURTH / YOUTH section | - Fourth Section / Junior |

2 – Eligibility:

a) Entry in the category:

Ensembles with the exact instrumentation and a maximum of 35 musicians may enter the 'Brass Band' section.

b) Junior ensembles:

Junior ensembles are eligible to compete in the Brass Band category, respecting the Brass Band nomenclature where possible.

c) Registration:

All musicians taking part in the competition must be registered at least two months before the competition.

d) Universality of members:

No musician may play more than one brass instrument. However, they are permitted to play a brass instrument and complete the percussion section.

e) Conductor:

Ensembles must be conducted by a conductor during the competition. The conductor may not play an instrument during the competition with the ensemble they are conducting, and may only conduct one ensemble during the competition.

f) Presentation of the ensemble:

Participants must wear matching uniforms representing a coherent ensemble.

g) Preparation of ensembles:

No rehearsals are permitted on the day of the competition within the competition venue. However, a room located outside the competition venue will be made available to ensembles for preparation.

h) Membership:

A musician who is in the process of transferring may not play in more than one ensemble during the same competition unless expressly authorised by the Steering Committee.

3 - Composition of ensembles:

The competition will be open to ensembles composed of a maximum of 35 musicians, including percussionists, and approximating the following configuration:

1	Eb soprano cornet
10/11	Bb cornets
1	Bb flugelhorn
3	Eb altos
2	Bb baritones
2/3	Bb euphoniums
3/4	Slide trombones (including bass trombone)
4/5	Bb and Eb double basses

4 - Competition dates:

These are set each year by the A.A.B.B. Steering Committee, taking into account as many factors as possible to ensure the best possible participation of French and foreign ensembles, other events in Amboise and the availability of the expected audience.

5 - Insurance for ensembles:

Each member participating in the competition must be covered by civil liability insurance and insurance for their instruments. The competition management cannot be held responsible in any way for accidents, theft, loss or damage to instruments.

III – REGISTRATION:

1 - Registration formalities:

a) Form:

In order to participate in the competition, the ensemble must complete and return the registration form with the corresponding payment. The registration fee and the registration deadline are indicated on the form. The registration fee is non-refundable.

b) Registration fee:

A registration fee is required for each group participating in the competition. The amount is voted on each year by the A.A.B.B. Steering Committee.

This fee must accompany the registration form.

The Steering Committee will only be able to make a final decision on the acceptance of the ensemble after receiving the registration form and the fee.

c) Registration deadline:

A deadline for registration is set each year based on the date of the competition.

d) Membership form - Membership cards:

When an application is accepted by the Steering Committee, a form will be sent to the participating ensemble for signatures. It is the responsibility of the secretary of the ensemble to have this form signed by all members of the ensemble wishing to compete. The secretary must return the form with a photocopy of the personal cards of the participating musicians before the required date.

e) Deadline for replacements:

No changes or additions to the forms will be accepted less than two weeks before the date of the competitions and must be accompanied by the new cards of the musicians concerned. However, these replacements may not exceed 10% of the total number of musicians unless expressly authorised by the steering committee.

f) Identity of signatures:

The signatures on the personal registration cards will be verified and compared with those on the registration form during the signature check.

2 – Withdrawal:

Any withdrawal or non-participation of an ensemble in the competition must be notified in writing to the steering committee one month before the date of the competition. The registration fee is non-refundable.

3 - Responsibility of ensembles:

It is the responsibility of each ensemble to return the forms and rules in order to complete the registration process.

If the forms and rules for the competition are not received, it is the responsibility of the ensemble to obtain them from the steering committee. The competition organisers cannot be held responsible in any way for non-receipt. Each ensemble is responsible for all of its own equipment.

4 - Frequency of the competition:

The competition will take place every year, unless the steering committee decides otherwise after deliberation.

IV - COMPETITION PROCEDURE:

1 - Competition programme:

A detailed programme will be prepared by the steering committee and sent to the competing ensembles on site.

2 - Replacement of the conductor:

In the event of the conductor being replaced on the day of the competition, the committee must be informed by the ensemble's secretary before the start of the competition.

3 - Order of Participation:

The order of participation of the competitors will be revealed the day before the competition, in public, at the Royal Château of Amboise, at the end of the day. Ensembles that are not present or do not have a representative at the opening will have to obtain the results in order to be present during the rounds, as the competition management cannot be held responsible. The order of appearance for each brass band will begin in the morning with the lowest sections and end in the afternoon with the Championship, depending on the number of participants.

The order of appearance, in the form of a detailed schedule, will be posted at the ASHAJ, the official catering venue. Accommodation and catering are no longer managed by the AABB.

4 – Exceptional unavailability of a musician:

If a musician is unable to compete due to illness or accident, the secretary of the ensemble must immediately notify the steering committee, providing medical documents or certificates proving the unavailability. Upon acceptance, the absent person may be replaced.

5 – Signature verification:

The secretary of each group must present themselves for signature verification, bringing the personal cards of the participants at the time indicated on their file for verification. Each membership card must be signed and include the photo and name of the musician, the instrument played and the name of the ensemble to which they belong. With the agreement of the Steering Committee, identity cards may be accepted.

6 – Exemptions:

No exemptions to this procedure will be permitted, and failure to comply or the unauthorised replacement of cards may result in the ensemble being disqualified from participating.

7 - Adherence to schedules:

If an ensemble is not ready to play within 10 minutes after the end of the previous ensemble's performance, the ensemble may be disqualified by the competition jury.

8 - Equipment available:

In order to minimise the time between performances and allow competitors to concentrate fully, a percussion manufacturer will provide ensembles with a full set of equipment for the competition at the theatre, including:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| - Four concert timpani - | A full drum kit |
| - A xylophone | A vibraphone |
| - A glockenspiel - | A marimba |
| - A set of tubular bells - | A bass drum |
| - Orchestra cymbals - | A Chinese tam-tam |
| - A set of bongos | A set of congas |
| - Additional floor cymbals - | A set of timpani |
- Accessories must be provided by the competing ensembles**

9 - The Jury:

In order to ensure the seriousness and impartiality essential to the smooth running of the competition, the jury will be composed of several eminent figures from the world of music and brass specialists. The internal jury, which will sit in the theatre's mezzanine, will be isolated and will not be informed of the order of performances or the names of the competing ensembles.

10 - Programme:

The musical programme must not exceed a total duration of 25 minutes of music.

It must include the following pieces:

- A traditional brass band piece**
- A piece with a soloist of your choice**
- And, depending on the total timing, a piece of your choice** (classical transcription, variety, jazz, original composition, etc.)

The programme and set-up must not exceed 30 minutes in total.

For the Junior category, the musical programme may be reduced to 20 minutes of music.

11 - Best Soloist Award:

A prize for the best soloist in the competition will be awarded.

12 – Scores:

Ensembles participating in the competition must provide three copies of the scores of the pieces performed (including the compulsory piece) for the jury, without any annotations, at least six weeks before the date of the competition.

13 - Scoring – Ranking:

- Scoring

The performance of each of the works referred to in Article 10 shall be scored by each member of the jury, taking into account the following criteria:

- Accuracy – tone – consistency
- Nuances and expression
- Tempo and rhythm

The scoring scale is as follows:

- Compulsory traditional brass band piece / 60 points
- Free choice pieces / 60 points
(distributed according to the number of pieces played).

The average score obtained for the compulsory piece and the other pieces is calculated by each member of the jury. The total of these averages constitutes the overall score. The ranking is determined by the jury.

- Classification

Taking into account the number of bands per level, a classification is established based on the average score obtained (1st prize, 2nd prize, 3rd prize).

The first prize in each section can only be awarded with a minimum of 108 points out of 120. The other prizes are awarded in descending order.

The title of Champion of the Year is awarded to the brass band in the Championship category that has obtained the highest number of points with a minimum of 111 points out of 120. In order to maintain momentum, it is desirable that the winner return the following year to defend their title.

14 - The Marching Music Competition

This competition is compulsory and takes place on Saturday morning on Place Michel Debré. Ensembles must start at Espace Henri d'Orléans and march 150 to 200 metres, then take their place in front of the jury booth to play a march from their repertoire. The return is in the same manner.

The jury will only judge the piece performed in front of the booth. A ranking will be made out of 100 points and prizes will be awarded to the top three competitors.

In order to be judged and eligible for a prize, the piece must be played in its entirety, including all repeats, returns and Da Capo.

15 – Outdoor performance:

Each competitor is also required to give an outdoor performance in the form of a mini-concert in an open-air venue in the city.

This performance is an integral part of the Competition and the performance times communicated to the competitors must be respected.

The instruments provided are: drums, xylophone and music stands only, for the sake of fairness.

These performances will be eligible for the audience prize.

Each participating brass band is responsible for its own equipment. Only the ensemble performing the gala concert is exempt from this requirement.

V - PRACTICAL INFORMATION:

1 - Accommodation – Food:

The various ensembles taking part must plan to stay on site during the French Open.

Ensembles can book meals for their members on Friday evening, Saturday lunchtime and/or Saturday evening.

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

2 – Welcome:

Participants will be welcomed at the Royal Château of Amboise on Friday evening, where the order of performance will be announced. A welcome drink will be offered to competing brass bands by the Royal Château.

4 - Prizes:

In all divisions:

Brass bands will receive:

- International competition: A trophy and a cash prize for the Championship, 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.
- Marching music competition: A cup and a cash prize for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes.
- Best soloist prize: A cup and a cash prize
- Audience prize: A cup and a cash prize or a voucher

5 - Announcement of results:

The results will be announced by the President and Honorary President of the A.A.B.B. in the presence of the members of the jury, the Competition Steering Committee and the dignitaries attending the Gala Concert that will close the Competition.

6 - Gala Concert:

A Gala Concert will close the Competition and will be given by a guest Brass Band of a very high standard.

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

Members of the ensembles that have participated in the competition will attend this concert free of charge for the announcement of the results and the award ceremony, but must present an exempt ticket.

At least 10 members of each brass band must be present at the closing concert to receive their prizes when they are called. If no representatives are present at the prize-giving ceremony, no prizes (certificates, trophies, cash prizes) may be collected or claimed at a later date.

VI - DISCIPLINE - APPEAL:

- 1) Any objection to these rules must be submitted in writing to the steering committee before the prizes are awarded. Each appeal will be subject to a cash deposit of 50 euros, which will only be refunded if the appeal is accepted by the steering committee and is justified.
- 2) The jury's decisions are final.
- 3) If the steering committee discovers that there has been an error in the results, it may revise the list of prizes and awards and request a different distribution of these in agreement with the President of the jury.
- 4) If the Steering Committee detects an irregularity in the conduct of the competition, the entry may be penalised in its score or even disqualified.
- 5) Penalties will be imposed by the competition's steering committee on musicians and/or ensembles who provide false signatures or fraudulently replace an unavailable participant.
- 6) Any participating ensemble may be penalised with penalty points for any breach of the rules, disruption to the smooth running of the competition, or disrespect towards other competitors.
- 7) It should be noted that the conviviality desired during the competition, during or after performances, does not in any way give the right to disorderly behaviour or incivility in the town, in accommodation or in restaurants.

Let us remain courteous and respectful throughout this event.

- 8) Any appeal concerning such a disciplinary decision must be made in writing to the competition management. The procedure will be as follows:
 - a) The musician or representative of the orchestra making the appeal will be invited to appear before the steering committee on the scheduled date to explain themselves.
 - 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.