

# PRIDE OF PAOLI BAND CONTEST PERFORMANCES

Dear Fans of the Pride of Paoli Band:

Welcome to yet another exciting year of performances by the members of the Pride of Paoli Band program. Each year seems to get busier (or maybe the director is just getting older and is not able to work as fast) and this year is really moving by. Many people always ask for assistance in trying to comprehend this thing called band competition and I have finally gotten around to trying to explain it. Let me break it down into two areas: Procedures on how to watch a contest, and, an explanation of the judging system.

## I. BAND FAN ETIQUETTE - (or how to watch a band competition without having *Moose and Rocko* come over and throw you out of the stadium).

### A. General info:

1. Please remember that we are not at a ball game where people get up and walk around any time they please. Band performances are to be treated as any symphony concert would - very respectful of the performers who have worked extremely hard to be in this position.
2. Radios (walkie talkie, etc.) are not allowed (interfere with ISSMA electronics). Cell Phones during perf? :o)

### B. During Other Bands' Shows:

1. Don't enter and/or leave bleachers while a band is performing (do that between bands).
2. Don't talk, yell, scream, or stand up during another show.
3. Definitely don't make negative comments about another band (remember: not only do those students work hard just as ours, but their parents are just as proud and are sitting near you). Applaud each show.

### C. During Our Show and Awards Presentation:

1. Stand up and cheer (spell P-A-O-L-I, etc) when the band enters the field.
2. Definitely cheer/applaud during the highlights and exciting parts of the show.
3. Be very quiet during the soft parts of the program.
4. Sit together! (in a block if possible) like the other bands do. You will have to get there early to do this.
5. Don't compare our band to the others (see section B, # 3 above).
6. Clap for the other bands during awards.
7. Clap for Paoli, but don't yell, scream, and carry on (we want to be classy and respectful of the other bands).

### D. Preparing Our Students:

1. Help them dress, but keep *them* responsible for their own belongings.
2. Never give candy, etc., to students before a performance.
3. After the band moves toward warm up, head to the stands (the staff will take over from there).
4. Please don't bother the directors and staff with small items (Susie lost her gloves, etc.). Find a solution.

### E. Critiquing our students:

Every year we have parents and friends (mostly of the new members) who get confused on the reward/recognition system. Paoli competes with no other band other than Paoli themselves; therefore, just because we may gather a lot of trophies from time to time, that doesn't necessarily mean that we have reached our goals of performance. The staff and seniors are always working with the entire band to focus on how prepared we need to be for each week of performances and sometimes we may win shows with less than our best performance. Just ask any older student or any parents who have been around for several years and they will explain it to you. If the staff is working on your child more than you think they should, please remember that we as a staff are very committed to all of our young people and have the drive and desire to make them the best they can possibly be. Most of our students have no idea just how good they can truly be, but we do; and, we have the experience, resources, determination, and love to get them there.

## II. Adjudication of the Bands

All bands are judged in 3 main areas:

**Music** (2 judges) listening to how well the band is or is not playing their music.

**Visual** (2 judges) watching how well the band is moving (feet at the same time, correct spacing between the members, body posture, etc.).

**General Effect** (2 judges) primarily watching the entire show: drill design, sense of good programming in the music, color guard, how well the show is being performed, coordination and effectiveness.

Those 3 areas always determine the ranking of a band. Most invitational shows also hire other adjudicators to judge areas such as Drum Major, Color Guard, Percussion, and sometimes, even the Pit Crew parents who help the band set up and tear down. These caption awards have no bearing on the placement of the bands.

To progress in ISSMA competitions, a band must score a Superior rating at the District level, and then be one of the top 5 bands at the Regional level. State Finals is for ranking the bands in order only.