



Oregon School Activities Association
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TO: Band, Choir and Orchestra Directors
FROM: Mike Wallmark, Associate Executive Director
SUBJECT: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the Rule Change Applying OSAA Individual Eligibility Rules to Music Participants Starting in Fall, 2008

INTRODUCTION:

On April 14, 2008, the OSAA Delegate Assembly voted to amend the OSAA Constitution to place participants in Music and Speech under the same Individual Eligibility Rules as those that have previously been applied in athletics beginning in the Fall of 2008. Supporters of the change argued that the OSAA Individual Eligibility Rules should be the same for all competitors, regardless of the activity. The motion was unanimously adopted.

The rule change applies OSAA Individual Eligibility Rules to music competitors only.

The OSAA has received a number of inquiries requesting clarification of how the new rules will be applied. This document has been created to assist school administrators and music directors in understanding what is required as a result of the change in the OSAA Music Rules.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

1. Q: WHERE MAY I FIND THE INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY RULES WHICH MUSIC COMPETITORS ARE REQUIRED TO SATISFY?
A: All of the OSAA Individual Eligibility Rules are contained in the OSAA Handbook available on the OSAA website (www.org). The specific Individual Eligibility Rules are located in Rule 8 (starting on p. 24 in the 2008-2009 Handbook).
2. Q: ARE THERE ANY EXCEPTIONS TO THE OSAA INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY RULES THAT APPLY ONLY TO MUSIC STUDENTS?
A: Yes. There are three exceptions that the Delegate Assembly voted to retain from previous OSAA music rules-
 - Music rules continue to include a class enrollment requirement that is unique to music.
 - Music rules continue to include an exception allowing 7th and 8th graders from feeder schools to represent the 3A/2A/1A high school they will be attending in band/orchestra competitions,
 - Music rules continue to include a charter school solo music exception.All of the music exceptions may be found on p. 48 of the 2008-2009 OSAA Handbook.
3. Q: WHO WILL CONFIRM THAT THE MUSIC STUDENTS IN EACH PROGRAM ARE ELIGIBLE TO REPRESENT THE SCHOOL IN MUSIC COMPETITIONS?
A: As with all OSAA Rules, it is up to the member school to confirm eligibility of participants using whatever process has been determined for that school or district.

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4. Q: WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF MUSIC COMPETITIONS AT WHICH ATTENDEES WILL BE REQUIRED TO SATISFY THE ELIGIBILITY RULES?
A: Any performance at which judges/adjudicators provide places, scores or ratings is considered a music competition regardless of whether the performance is by a group or is a solo performance.
5. Q: WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF MUSIC PERFORMANCES THAT ARE NOT CONSIDERED COMPETITIONS, SO THE INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY RULES WILL NOT APPLY?
A: A performance by a group or soloist is not considered a music competition if there are no judges/adjudicators present OR if judges/adjudicators are present, but “comments only” (no scores or ratings) are provided to the performers. School music performances such as at concerts, pep assemblies, football games, etc., are not considered competitions, nor are pep band performances at the lower classification basketball tournaments where community representatives sometimes provide awards.
6. Q: ARE TRYOUTS FOR LEAGUE OR CONFERENCE HONOR OR MASSED BANDS, ALL-STATE, ALL-NORTHWEST OR SCHOLARSHIPS CONSIDERED MUSIC COMPETITIONS UNDER THE OSAA RULES?
A: No.
7. Q: DO THE OSAA INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY RULES APPLY TO STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN JAZZ AND MARCHING BAND COMPETITIONS?
A: The OSAA does not exercise authority over jazz or marching band competitions. The governing body for the respective competition would determine the rules to be followed.
8. Q: DO THE OSAA INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY RULES APPLY TO 7TH AND 8TH GRADE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN MUSIC COMPETITIONS?
A: No. The OSAA is an organization of high schools; competition by students prior to entering high school is not regulated by the OSAA.
9. Q: MAY A SCHOOL OR DISTRICT HAVE INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY RULES THAT ARE MORE RESTRICTIVE THAN OSAA RULES?
A: Yes. OSAA rules are baseline rules that all member schools must follow. Schools may, and most schools do, have additional local rules that govern activities participation at that school.
10. Q: IS IT ALLOWABLE UNDER THE INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY “AWARDS” RULE FOR A STUDENT MUSICIAN TO RECEIVE PAYMENT FOR A MUSICAL PERFORMANCE THAT IS NOT A COMPETITION?
A: Yes.
11. Q: DO THE OSAA INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY RULES APPLY ONLY TO MY TOP GROUP (BAND/CHOIR/ORCHESTRA)?
A: No. Any group or student who participates in a competition is governed by the Individual Eligibility Rules regardless of the performance level (top band/choir/orchestra, second band/choir/orchestra etc.)
12. Q: WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES IF AN INELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT REPRESENTS MY SCHOOL IN A MUSIC COMPETITION?
A: As is the case with participation by an ineligible participant in any OSAA sport or activity, the school would be expected to self-report the violation to the OSAA. The use of an ineligible participant would cause the school to automatically forfeit any place or award earned during the competition, and would make the school subject to fines and/or other sanctions as determined by the OSAA Executive Board.
13. Q: WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT OF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OSAA MUSIC RULES?
A: Contact Mike Wallmark at the OSAA Office: email- mikew@osaa.org; phone- 503-682-6722 x226.