

## Guidelines for Band Performing at Football Contests

The participation of bands at a school football contest is an exciting aspect of the event. The band contributes to the event by increasing the level of excitement and adding a 'touch of class' to the contest. In order to maintain a proper perspective and to insure equity in competition for the participating teams, a few guidelines must be followed.

- During the contest, bands are to play **ONLY** during pregame, halftime, postgame, the time between quarters, timeouts (except injury time-outs) and between plays (stopping prior to the referee's whistle for 'ready for play'). It is suggested that the band director work closely with the cheer coach and administration to create a schedule so everyone can support the team.
- Bands that are seated near the end zone should not play if the line of scrimmage is inside the 10-yard line on the end close to the band. After a touchdown, field goal, extra point, or safety, the band may play the school fight song, etc.; however, the director must be sure to stop playing when the official blows the 'ready for play' whistle to start the next play.
- When bands want to war-up prior to half-time, directors should arrange this so that it is done in an area that is not a distraction to the contest. **NOTE: No whistles may be used while the game is in progress.**
- Because the band acts as a spirit group, members should always act in a positive manner and must not do anything to distract or negatively affect the opposing team. It is the director's responsibility to prevent his/her band from playing at inappropriate times, playing inappropriate music, or taunting the opposing team and contest officials.

The band must display courtesy and respect toward the players, cheerleaders, and fans. To do anything else is not only a distraction from the contest but also reflects negatively on the band, the director, and the school. Support your school and team in a positive manner!