

Missouri State High School Activities Association Music Advisory Committee Meeting

May 13, 2025
MSHSAA Office
9:00 a.m.

HISTORY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The MSHSAA Board of Directors in the late 1950's was concerned with comments from coaches, music and speech directors indicating they had little voice in the administration and regulations of the respective activities they directed in their schools. To address this issue, the Board was to appoint advisory committees for music and speech to assist the Executive Director and Board of Directors in planning and administering the various activities.

The MSHSAA Constitution, after a vote of the member schools, included provisions for music and speech advisory committees. However, specific procedures for implementing the committee recommendations were not addressed. In 1959 the Music Advisory Committee was the first to become active and met with the executive director to review the regulations applied to music festivals and to make recommendations to the Board via the Executive Director for improvements in the program.

Shortly after the Music Advisory Committee became active the Speech Advisory Committee followed suit. The first significant recommendation was to include all speech activities, rather than debate only, under the jurisdiction of the MSHSAA.

The hard work and promising recommendations made by these two advisory committees prompted the Board of Directors to establish similar advisory committees in each activity under the MSHSAA jurisdiction. As new activities have been added or expanded, advisory committees have continued to be developed to meet this growth.

PURPOSE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

The advisory committees serve to provide increased communication from the "grass roots" level between the MSHSAA member schools and the MSHSAA Board of Directors. The committees shall act in an advisory capacity with the MSHSAA Board of Directors reserving the right to accept, reject or amend committee recommendations.



MSHSAA Music Advisory Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
MSHSAA Building – 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

AMEND AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of minutes of 2024 meeting
2. Review of Board action from 2024 meeting

NEW BUSINESS

3. Governance:

- a. Topic: 50% Rule – Items 1, 2, & 3
- b. Topic: State Rotation and School Assignments – Items 12, 14, 22, & 24
- c. Topic: Entry Limits, Large Schools – Item 14
- d. Topic: String Request to Participate in Different District Festival when a District Doesn't Have Enough Entries to Hire String Specialist Adjudicators – Melton
- e. Topic: Gold Medal Music School – Topic 6
- f. Topic: Adjudicator Training Rules Test Requirement – Topic 8
- g. Topic: Photocopying Music for Page Turns – Items 11 & 23
- h. Topic: Comments Only Option S/SE – Item 18
- i. Topic: Duplicated Music Form Permission Process/Requirement – Melton

4. Accompanists:

- a. Topic: State Rotation and School Assignments – Items 22 & 24
- b. Topic: Accompanist Entry Limit – Items 4, 12
- c. Topic: Registration Change and Requirements (move from email based system) – Melton
- d. Topic: Seek New Digital Accompanist Option (APPcompanist <https://www.appcompanist.com/>) – Melton
- e.

5. Event Types, Instrumentation, and Other Criteria:

- a. Topic: Piano Entry Ensemble and/or Accompanying Requirement – Item 25
- b. Topic: Penalty for Measuring Numbers Change to Fine – Item 5
- c. Topic: String Trios Original Parts Requirement – Item 9
- d. Topic: Evaluation Forms Numeric Scores – Item 13
- e. Topic: Website Usability and Music Manual Formatting – Item 15
- f. Topic: Kevlar Heads Snare Drum Solos – Item 21
- g. Topic: Equalization of Performance Time Band Entries – Melton/Music Managers

6. Sight Reading:

- a. Topic: Vocal Groups Clap Rhythms – Item 7
- b. Topic: Expanded Availability and Use of SAB Music – Items 10 & 16
- c. Topic: Singing During Preparation Period – Items 17 & 19
- d. Topic: Band Petition for Lower Class SR Due to Program – Item 20

7. Miscellaneous:

- a. Topic: Identify who is conducting ensemble – Melton
- b. Topic: Late Entry Penalties – Melton
- c. Topic: Clarification of Chamber Choir Rule 32 Members – Melton
- d.

8. MSHSAA Topics and Concerns

- a. MSHSAA Music Advisory Round Table at MMEA Conference
- b. Sight Reading Work Group - Acquisition of Materials/Compositions, Criteria and Adjudication
- c. Adjudicator Training and Qualifications Work Group – Complete update of training materials, review process for maintaining certification, improve selection and hiring process
- d. MSHSAA Music Evolution Task Force – Assemble and Gather Feedback (series of surveys and engagement with affiliate organizations and MSHSAA Member Directors)

9. State Music

- a. Statistical information
- b. Dates for 2026 – April 30, May 1, and 2nd – Rotation Group B/Thursday – C/Friday – A/Thursday
- c. Moved Three Schools – Liberty North, Park Hill, Parkway Central – from Group A to Group C

10. Open for amended agenda

- a. Recommendations from MSHSAA Music Festival Managers
 - i. Topic: Disqualifications and Rating (should a rating be given when an event is DQ)
 - ii.
- b. Recommendations from Advisory Committee Not Previously on Agenda
 - i. TBD
- c. Rules Review Points of Interest
 - i. Repetition Rules
 - ii. How and when entries may be edited
 - iii. ???

11. Outgoing Advisory Members

- a. Brad Wallace

12. Tentative Date for next year's meeting – May 12, 2026

Anyone attending a meeting of the Missouri State High School Activities Association who requires auxiliary aids or services should request such services by contacting the Executive Director of the MSHSAA, telephone 573/875-4880, no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

Topic: 1**Agenda Item:**

Section 1, Letter E, Item 1: The 50% Rule.

Rationale:

Inability to participate in MSHSAA's Large Ensemble Festival because I have more junior high students than I had high school students (10 high school students, 17 junior high school students). It is also a challenge to have enough kids for small ensembles without breaking the 50% rule.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 1, Letter E, Item 1

Submitted by: Aimee Veile

On behalf of: Melissa Groves, Miami R-1 School District

Topic: 2**Agenda Item:**

The 50/50 rule for large groups And ensembles along with the non-affiliation between JH / HS is negatively impacting my program due to how stringent it is.

Rationale:

We are a small school (80 students in grades 7-12) but we perform well at contests when we can go. We could do more with more kids if the rules weren't so stringent.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 1, Letter E, Item 1: The 50% Rule

Submitted by: Aimee Veile

On behalf of: Melissa Groves, Miami R-1 School District

Topic: 3**Agenda Item:**

Add an event type that allows combined member schools to have greater than 50% junior high participation, as long as it is less than 100% of the ensemble and would have the option to receive a rating and comments under all other festival rules or opt to receive comments only (no rating and small ensembles would not be eligible for state)

Rationale:

I was one of the schools that couldn't participate in MSHSAA's Large Ensemble Festivals because I had more junior high students than I had high school students (10 high school students, 17 junior high school students). It is also a challenge to have enough kids to participate in small ensembles without breaking the 50% rule.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 1, Letter E, Item 1: The 50% Rule

Submitted by: Aimee Veile

On behalf of: Clayton DeWitt, Smithton R-VI School District

Topic: 4

Agenda Item:

Raise the accompanist limit from 20 to 25.

Rationale:

Small change would make things a little easier on schools

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 3. B-1.

Submitted by: John Atteberry

On behalf of: Haley Adams - Aurora

Topic: 5

Agenda Item:

Change penalty for unnumbered measures from a lowered rating to a fine.

Rationale:

Having unnumbered measures is a clerical error. The penalty of lowering the rating is a musical penalty, not a clerical one. Make the penalty for any unnumbered measures a fine of \$50 instead of a lowered rating. Don't punish the student and their performance for a clerical error by the director or accompanist.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 3. A-5.

Submitted by: John Atteberry

On behalf of: Nathan Cornelius, Kickapoo High School

Topic: 6

Agenda Item:

Develop "Gold Medal Music School" status for schools that participate in large ensemble festival.

Rationale:

Each year it seems more schools are choosing to not participate in large ensemble festivals. So I have been

reflecting on how we can incentivize schools to engage in this worthwhile event. What I have come up with is the following:

For high schools whose bands, choirs and orchestras (if they have one) participate in MSHSAA large ensemble festival, MSHSAA would recognize that school's music program as a "Gold Medal Music School". All of their music programs would need to participate; it would not recognize individual band or choir programs. You could further recognize programs based on ratings, number of large ensembles participating or other level of activity such as an active jazz band, winter guard, winter percussion, show choir, honor performances, etc as a "Gold Medal Music School, with Distinction". This would be cost free to MSHSAA. An email to administration and an icon for their school website. Maybe offer a plaque that can be ordered along with other music awards.

The question I ask myself is if this would create an incentive for directors to chose to participate? Does it also (and I am not sure if this would be considered good or bad) create a bit of pressure within the school by administration to have their directors participate?

It is important to note that this idea is not punishing any school or group that continues to not participate in MSHSAA large ensemble festivals. Nothing changes for those schools. But for the schools that ARE making the choice to support MSHSAA, they earn a recognition for those efforts.

Another idea would be to perhaps create a discounted rate on State solo/ensemble entries for those schools who participate in large ensemble festival. This may not be feasible due to the cost factor however.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 1.

Submitted by: John Atteberry

On behalf of: Craig Finger, Nixa High School

Topic: 7**Agenda Item:**

Allow students in vocal groups to clap rhythms during the sight-singing instructional time.

Rationale:

Currently, students in instrumental groups are allowed to clap rhythms during the sight reading instructional time. The instructions for vocal groups indicate that students can use a verbalize counting system and does not mention clapping.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 6. C-2b, 3, 4.

Submitted by: John Atteberry

On behalf of: Melinda Benham, Webb City High School

Topic: 8**Agenda Item:**

All adjudicators should take an annual online training course with a quiz, much like the MSHSAA training course in order to stay current on all expectations and rules.

Rationale:

An annual quiz would keep adjudicators current and improve judging consistency.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 7. A.

Submitted by: John Atteberry

On behalf of: Melinda Benham, Webb City High School

Topic: 9**Agenda Item:**

Could we consider students in string trios giving judges a set of original parts instead of a score, in the same we we allow it for string duets? There is often no original score for older string trios, and we end up needing publisher letters and generating scores ourselves. It would save a lot of work to allow the original parts when there is no score in existence. Thanks for considering.

Rationale:

There is often no original score for older string trios, and we end up needing publisher letters and generating scores ourselves. It would save a lot of work to allow the original parts when there is no score in existence. Thanks for considering.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

The handbook says all string trios must present the judge with an original score showing all 3 parts.

Submitted by: Brad Wallace

On behalf of: Sarah Dane, Kirkwood High School

Topic: 10**Agenda Item:**

Vocal Large Ensemble Sight Reading regulations- regardless of class, SAB sight reading should be an option.

Rationale:

As we all know, male singers (especially tenors) are always in short supply, whereas female singers are often plentiful. Requiring SATB sight reading forces a director to have female altos sing the tenor part which is not educationally appropriate for most students.

Example 1: 2 years ago we had 2 tenors total in our group. Having just 2 people sight read on a part against a large amount of Sopranos and Altos was difficult enough. Unfortunately, both of them became ineligible to perform in Large Ensemble. This left me to ask a handful of altos to sing tenor at the last minute. This was not a good educational model for anyone and the extra pressure they felt could have been avoided had we been allowed to sing SAB.

Example 2: Last year, we had a very small group of male voices (all of whom were baritones) and I made the decision to sing SSAB music at large ensemble. Developmentally, this was the best situation for all of my students. We were again faced with having to sight read in SATB, which was not ideal for their development.

Sight Reading should measure musical progress that is both developmentally and educationally appropriate. The current rule and format is not ideal for many groups and does not measure what we are trying to achieve."

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 6 A

Submitted by: Brad Wallace

On behalf of: Jenny Frazer, Ft. Zumwalt East High School

Topic: 11**Agenda Item:**

Allow photocopies to facilitate page turns in string books.

Rationale:

According to several websites, including MTNA, photocopies of purchased solo music books to facilitate difficult page turns IS, in fact, allowed under copyright law. -

https://www.mtna.org/MTNA/Learn/Copyright_FAQs.aspx.

There is no reason for a student or school to purchase 4-5 solo books for ONE student to use for ONE solo, and have to use 3-4 music stands for that student to put all of the books on. Furthermore, this one student has to put their fingerings and bowings into these several different books for the corresponding page on the various music stands. It's crazy. This has happened to several of my students who have long solos from one solo book. Other state competitions and universities allow photocopied page turns.

Thank you for considering.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 3-A-6: Duplicated Copyright Music and Scores

Submitted by: Brad Wallace

On behalf of: Lucy Arbin, Parkway South High School

Topic: 12**Agenda Item:**

State Solo and Ensemble assigned days should consider impact on accompanists.

Rationale:

Small schools typically share accompanists with other area schools. With the current rotation of schools at the State Music Festival, these accompanists are asked to travel to Columbia on multiple days. This makes it difficult for small schools to find accompanists willing to work with us.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

N/A

Submitted by: Brad Wallace

On behalf of: Anna Seim, Whitfield School

Topic: 13**Agenda Item:**

Development of more objective evaluation tools:

- Create a set of adjudication sheets which involve numeric scores per category and a total bottom line score that indicates the overall rating
- Create detailed descriptors/rubric to assist in a fair and consistent assessment of groups across multiple contest sites

Rationale:

This proposed change to the MSHSAA large group evaluation process would bring both educational and practical benefits. Using rubrics with numeric scores and clear descriptors gives students and directors more specific, helpful feedback, making it easier to identify strengths and areas for growth. It also creates more transparency—everyone knows exactly what’s being evaluated and what the expectations are. From a logistical standpoint, standardized scoring helps ensure consistency across different sites and judges, making the process fairer and easier to trust. It also simplifies judge training and allows for better data collection to improve the festival in the future. Overall, it makes the experience more meaningful for students and more reliable for educators.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 3-C

Submitted by: Brad Wallace

On behalf of: Jeremy Loui, Rockwood Summit High School

Topic: 14**Agenda Item:**

Limitation on entries for large schools/programs.

Rationale:

There is a limitation on entries in the music manual that was placed originally to alleviate State Entries. As we have had to shift schools to different dates this year at the state level, it would seem the limitation does not do what it was set in place to do, and instead punishes schools that want to allow as many students to participate at the district level as possible. We would like to recommend a committee to look into the positive and negative impact of this rule since it has been implemented.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 2D: Limitations on Entries

Submitted by: Brad Wallace

On behalf of: Chelsea Silvermintz, Lindbergh High School

Topic: 15**Agenda Item:**

Website usability revision & Music Manual formatting.

Rationale:

The following is likely low on the totem pole compared to 'policy', and to some it might be perceived as negligible. Two practical issues make the use of MSHSAA information challenging, at least as it relates to music.

Website, including the Festival Manager. Usability is pretty low. When one gets penalized because of a tool's low usability -- one published by the authority -- on something we might use once or twice a year in differing capacities, the extra steps and unclear workflow of the current situation are off-putting, and the results can appear unjust.

Music Manual. All rule books become full of a thousand qualifications, and both the tax code and Music Manual seem afoul of Occam's Razor. I get why it happens. But if we are not to simplify things, we can at least have formatting that is not overly busy, easy to read, and more helpful in the promotion of discernment. We are no longer printing the phone book, and digital space and resources are plentiful. A clean version of the Music Manual seems possible. Certainly, there is someone whose talents and joys in their work include digital formatting. For the sake of the corporation of users, investment in those talents with the pursuit of helpful readability is worthwhile.

The prioritizing of such things would bring great service to the members. Bringing enhanced usability and accuracy in their use would certainly help our friends at MSHSAA and make their job easier. As this is the goal of MSHSAA policy: a quality experience for the students and all who work with them, it would seem to be a reasonable ask for the dedication of some resources to these two items.

Thanks for your consideration!

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

N/A

Submitted by: Brad Wallace

On behalf of: Eric Gargrave, Westminster Christian Academy

Topic: 16**Agenda Item:**

Availability to use SAB Choral Music for All Classes

Rationale:

Some Class 4 or 5 schools have choirs that aren't able to perform SATB music due to low personnel and therefore cannot participate in the MSHSAA Large Ensemble Festivals because the SAB option in the sight reading room is only for class 1, 2, and 3 schools. Might this rule be altered to allow smaller programs with mixed choirs from class 4 and/or 5 schools to participate with the SAB option?

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Music Manual Section 6, Part A

Submitted by: Brad Wallace

On behalf of: Todd Oberlin, McCluer North High School

Topic: 17**Agenda Item:**

Sight Reading Procedure Change

Rationale:

Not allowing students to sing during the preparation period is opposite of how a lot of us prepare for sightreading in the classroom. It is really beneficial for students to sing their part within their section or sing to themselves. A lot of kids struggle with developing their audiation skills. This would increase confidence on the sightreading portion at festival. A lot of anxiety has been created around this portion of contest.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

6.C.2.b

Submitted by: Brad Wallace

On behalf of: Pamela Cajka, Francis Howell High School

Topic: 18**Agenda Item:**

Comments-only option for Solo/Small Ensemble

Rationale:

I have a lot of students that would benefit from a comments-only option for their first attempt (or subsequent attempts) at attending solo/ensemble contest. Freshmen or first timers, would be more encouraged to participate if the first go was unrated. Our IEP students who would not ever receive a Exemplary or Outstanding rating deserve to have a setting where they can receive positive feedback from a judge in the areas where they excel in their performance without receiving a rating titled "Satisfactory", "Developing", or "Ineffective". Those ratings can be really damaging and discouraging for those kids. I know some districts already do a smaller version of solo/ensemble in house, but not everyone has the capability or funds to do that.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

3.C

Submitted by: Brad Wallace

On behalf of: Pamela Cajka, Francis Howell High School

Topic: 19**Agenda Item:**

Allow for singing or humming from students during the four minute instructional time period.

Rationale:

Vocalists should be allowed to sing or hum to themselves for establishing various intervals within the sight reading. The expectation of no sound from instrumentalists makes sense, as it allows them to still move their fingers and hands through space and rely on some muscle memory. Vocalists are being asked to divide themselves from their instrument during this portion.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Music Manuel Pg. 24, Section 6: C. 2. b.

Submitted by: Rebecca Cooper

On behalf of: Sara Kurz

Topic: 20**Agenda Item:**

Allow Class 5 bands with significant personnel, program, and/or instrumentation issues to petition for a more realistic sight-reading experience. (ex. down a class based on instrumentation and/or prepared music grading)

Rationale:

Please consider the discrepancy in equity among Class 5 schools in sight reading. If a student were to come from a Class 5 school with enough students to fill 2-3 ensembles, a class 5 student may only be asked to read to the instrumentation and rubric of a Class 3 or Class 2 student. However, if another class 5 school has been unable to support a healthy music program, the students available to fill out a single ensemble will be asked to read at the Class 5 rubric, regardless of whether they have the instrumentation to do so successfully. There is already a condition in place for Class 5 groups of varying capabilities within the sight-reading rules as the second and third ensembles (with acknowledgement of the accommodations for students enrolled in multiple ensembles). I hope we can find a way to allow underserved students at these large schools to have a more representative sight-reading evaluation, either by classifying the prepared music they are bringing, or by instrumentation.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Section 5. B. 3. Regulations for Second and Third Bands: b.

Submitted by: Rebecca Cooper

On behalf of: Rebecca Cooper

Topic: 21**Agenda Item:**

I would like to propose a rule revision in Section 5. D. of the music manual stating that all snare solo and any ensembles using snare drum must be performed on mylar drum heads, and the use of kevlar would result in an automatic disqualification. Now that percussion solos/ensembles are in the Sinquefield Music Center and are no longer in Memorial Union, I don't see any rational reason as to why we are enforcing this rule. The notion that mylar drum heads would create lower decibels in an enclosed space is simply not true, and I made a video with a student in the Spring of 2024 to prove this. See the link to that video below:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gpJQv6HqnIDYLjiX7mfd2nNn1ob_iYdY/view?usp=sharing

Rationale:

The modern snare repertoire that is on our state list was written to be performed on kevlar heads, and I believe we are doing a disservice to our students by forcing them to play on an instrument that makes it harder to read the density and clarity of these modern solos. That can also be observed with the brief excerpt performed by Nathan in my video.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Music Manual Section 5-D

Submitted by: Tim Allshouse

On behalf of: Shane Batchelor - Grain Valley HS

Topic: 22**Agenda Item:**

STATE MUSIC FESTIVAL ROTATION - Same District All Schools

Rationale:

We continue to have issues with district-area/close region accompanists being available for multiple schools in the same district because schools in the same school district or Solo/Small Ensemble District are on different days at State. It is very difficult to find good accompanists anyway and this makes it much harder.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Music Manual 2-E - adjust schools

Submitted by: Tim Allshouse

On behalf of: Stephanie Hill - Lee's Summit West HS

Topic: 23**Agenda Item:**

DISTRICT AND STATE MUSIC FESTIVALS- COPIES FOR PAGE TURNS

Rationale:

Allowing a one-page copy for a page turn makes the performance better for the kids and the judge without strange pauses or having to buy multiple copies. Since it is only a small percentage of the work that is copied and will obviously be attached to the original (proving it is in the owner's possession), I would think that would be "fair use" as I read the copyright guidelines.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Musica Manual 3-A-6

Submitted by: Tim Allshouse

On behalf of: Stephanie Hills - Lee's Summit West HS

Topic: 24**Agenda Item:**

State Solo and Ensemble Festival: Can we reexamine the division of school districts in the State Solo/Ensemble Festival schedule?

Rationale:

Rotating the dates every year is great, but having school district split on different days is a strain on transportation and accompanists. Often, school districts use the same accompanists. When different high schools attend on different days, accompanist must either 1) take multiple days off work to travel to Columbia or 2) pick a day and leave the other school scrambling for an accompanist. Is there a way to have the entirety of one school district attend on State Day A and find a similarly sized school district to attend on State Day B and/or C to keep the numbers relatively even?

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Music Manual 2-E

Submitted by: Tim Allshouse

On behalf of: Paige Lewis (no school listed)

Topic: 25**Agenda Item:**

I would like to suggest that the rule about pianists being required to be in a performing ensemble be re-

evaluated. I know this has been a long standing rule-since I was in high school 20 years ago, but I knew then and see now some negative effects on students.

Recommendation: Pianists be allowed to participate in MSHSAA solo and small ensemble festival if they

a) meet all eligibility requirements to participate in a school's ensemble

b) an ensemble director is willing to sponsor their performance/attendance at festival.

Rationale:

We have a number of pianists in our small school and a very tight/limited schedule. Students who would like to take a piano solo to festival every year, can not do so in our school unless they choose to participate in choir each year which would exempt them from every getting to take studio art or photojournalism in high school. Not all of our pianists have the time or skill to prepare for festival AND accompany another student, but many of them are engaged in our student body by accompanying our grammar school chapel hymns, and playing in our worship team sporadically through the year. It would be a blessing to give our pianists a chance to be a part of this if they choose a different fine art course during our school day.

By-law or Rule Referenced by Agenda Item:

Music Manual 4-C & 5-D

Submitted by: Tim Allshouse

On behalf of: Whitney Standlea - FCA Classical
