



January 2019

TO: Band, Choir, and Orchestra Directors  
FROM: OSAA Staff  
SUBJECT: Answers to FAQs Regarding How OSAA Individual Eligibility Rules Apply to Music Participants

#### **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 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 each of the OSAA specific music handbooks available on the OSAA website (<http://www.osaa.org/governance/handbooks>).
2. Q: ARE THERE ANY EXCEPTIONS TO THE OSAA INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY RULES THAT APPLY ONLY TO MUSIC STUDENTS?  
A: Yes. There are two 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders from feeder schools to represent the 3A/2A/1A high school they will be attending in band/orchestra/choir competitions.All of the music exceptions may be found in the Rules section of the OSAA Handbook under Music Rules.
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.
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 declare a winner and publish rankings of performance that include the identification of the performers*** 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:
  - 1) there are no judges / adjudicators present,***
  - 2) judges / adjudicators are present and performers receive "comments only" (no score is given),***
  - 3) judges / adjudicators are present, scores are given but no winner is declared and no recap sheet of any kind is published.******However, if a group or soloist is performing at an event of this kind with the intent of qualifying for OSAA state level competition that group's or soloist's performance would be considered a competition and individual eligibility rules would apply.*** School music performances such as concerts, pep assemblies, football games, etc. are not considered

music competitions, nor are pep band performances at the lower classification basketball championships where community representatives sometimes provide awards.

6. Q: ARE TRYOUTS FOR LEAGUE OR CONFERENCE HONORS OR MASSED BANDS, ALL-STATE, ALL-NORTHWEST OR SCHOLARSHIPS REGULATED BY OSAA INDIVIDUAL ELIGIBILITY THE OSAA RULES?  
A: The OSAA does not exercise authority over these events, but sponsoring groups may choose to apply OSAA individual eligibility standards to participants. Check with event sponsors if you are uncertain whether OSAA eligibility rules apply.
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 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN MUSIC COMPETITIONS?  
A: No (unless the students are participating as members of their 3A/2A/1A high school band/orchestra/choir under Music Individual Eligibility Rule Exception 8.2).
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 IF YOU HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OSAA MUSIC RULES?  
A: Please contact the OSAA Staff member in charge of the appropriate music activity:
  - BAND/ORCHESTRA: Cindy Simmons, [kte@osaa.org](mailto:kte@osaa.org), 503.682.6722 x227
  - CHOIR: Kelly Foster, [kellyf@osaa.org](mailto:kellyf@osaa.org), 503.682.6722 x233
  - SOLO MUSIC: Kyle Stanfield, [kyles@osaa.org](mailto:kyles@osaa.org), 503.682.6722 x239