

USE OF ELECTRONICS IN UIL MARCHING BAND CONTEST PERFORMANCES

October 2012

Questions continue to circulate regarding the use of electronics in UIL marching contest performances. In an effort to help directors, executive secretaries and judges clearly understand the application of existing rules the UIL state office has prepared this document for distribution to all interested parties. In addition the Q&A will be posted on the UIL website.

THE RULE

(4) *Electronic Equipment.* Electronic equipment may be used under the following provisions:

- (A) All electronically produced music including narration and sound effects shall be performed live and in real time by eligible students.
- (B) Pre-recorded music, instrumental or vocal, may not be used.
- (C) The placement of electronic units shall comply with the 5-minute set up and 2-minute tear down limitations.

(5) Amplification of instruments or voice may be used with the following restriction:

- (A) All equipment, such as mixers, sound boards, etc. shall be operated by eligible students.
- (B) AC power cords and AC supplied amplification units shall be located outside the sidelines and endlines.
- (C) The placement of amplification units shall comply with the five-minute set up and 2-minute tear down limitations.

THE 2011 STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE INTERPRETATION

Electronic samples integrated into a UIL marching contest performance are considered to be digitally created musical effects as opposed to prerecorded music and are compliant with Section 1105 (4) of the C&CR if operated and controlled by a student.

Q & A

May I use electronics to amplify soloists, sections or voice?

YES. Electronics are permitted as long as they are compliant with Section 1105 (5) of the C&CR.

May I use equipment such as a soundboard and/or mixer to support and control audio reinforcement?

YES. However, remember all electronics must be operated by an eligible student.

May I pre-record instrumental or vocal music to be used for my contest show.

NO. Pre-recorded music (representing an acoustical instrument), vocal solos (songs that are sung) and narrations are prohibited. Such show elements must be performed live and in real time by an eligible student.

Can I use digitally created sound effects (such as bird calls, animal sounds, thunder, etc) and/or electronic samples (such as a nondescript vocalization) during the contest show.

YES. Provided they are controlled and activated by an eligible student

Can I use applications such as a synthesized rhythmic track or pre-recorded sound loop as a part of the contest show?

NO. Tracks that contain steady rhythmic content or provide pulse may not be used.

Do these rules apply during the field entry, the 5 minute warm-up or 2 minute exit.

NO. There are no rules pertaining to the use of electronics during the 5 minute prior to the contest performance.

Is it permissible to use contemporary electronic instruments such as the MalletKAT, HandSonic, or Wavedrum?

YES. The use of new electronic instruments is permitted provided that they are played in real time by an eligible student.

Questions and/or requests for clarification should be addressed to the UIL State Music Office at: music@uiltexas.org