

## 2020 Marching Season FAQs

### **Q: Will the independent show season proceed? What is WSMA's plan?**

A: WSMA is continuing to monitor the situation, and at this time have the following information. WSMA will allow each independent show host's staff and administration to decide if they will host a show. It is expected that all participants, show staff and spectators follow CDC and state guidelines regarding COVID-19. If a show is held, WSMA will still support with Competition Suite, online promotion and judges. "Virtual" shows are an option as well; be sure to practice all copyright laws.

### **Q: Will the State Championships still happen on October 17th?**

A: WSMA is monitoring CDC and Wisconsin State guidelines and recommendations concerning COVID-19. At this time, we are unable to make a decision regarding the 2020 Independent Show Season or the State Marching Band Championships as both student and spectator safety will be taken into consideration. Announcements and status updates will be sent via email to participating schools and posted on the [WSMA COVID-19 News webpage](#) as they become available.

### **Q: When will the travel stipend/bus grant application be available?**

A: WSMA will distribute the travel stipend application directly to all State Marching Band participants after July 1st.

### **Q: How should we prepare for the upcoming season with so much uncertainty if large groups can convene?**

A: Here are some tips and ideas for preparing a show.

- Start preparing now as if your normal rehearsal process will continue at some point. If everything clears up and fall activities occur as normal, you want to be prepared for that.
- Design a show that is 'less extravagant' and more cost effective
- Select or write drill that can be teachable within a shorter time frame
- Select repertoire that is 'rights-free' in the public domain
- Deliver content of the shows virtually to students
  - Music
  - Color guard choreography
- Remember that every band across the state and nation is in the same boat, so you are not alone. There will be a different expectation of performance quality in the fall, but everyone is experiencing this together. Most importantly, we want to do everything we can to deliver some sort of enjoyable, educational marching experience to our students within the framework of what is allowed in the fall.

### **[Announcement from National Federation of High Schools](#)**

NFHS is currently working with nationally renowned composers and marching band show designers to create a copyright free marching band show entitled "[Together as One](#)" available to all performing groups in the nation for no charge!

**Q: If I applied for and received arrangement rights, are we stuck doing that music this year?**

A: Not necessarily. If you used Tresona, check the contract. Licensing arrangements have varying lengths, but it is not uncommon to be granted a license for two or three years. You may be able to save your music for 2021 (or later) if desired.

**Q: I have concerns about recruiting for the following years and keeping incoming freshmen engaged.**

A: Find ways to keep these students interested through virtual means.

- Share links to repertoire
- Provide videos of previous years' shows and the commentary from judges
- Provide score sheets to students and explain what each element means