

The Essential Guide to the Wychavon Contest and Rules!

The 2020 Contest takes place: October 31st 2020

Where: De Montfort School, Evesham, Worcestershire.

Entries close: September 11th

How to enter: On-line or by post from 1st Jan 2020. See website for details.

What about payment? By BACs or by cheque depending on how you enter. Your spot is only confirmed once you have paid your entry fee. Speculative entries are discouraged—you don't get your money back if you withdraw (there is an exception for bands also entering a higher section--- see below).

Draw Takes place: within ten days of close of entries (hopefully on Sept 20th). We'll let you know soon after that!

How many Sections? Five

Who can compete? All bands registered with the relevant UK registry may enter at their appropriate level.

Overseas bands, Training Bands, Youth Bands and Unregistered Bands: We welcome you at Wychavon! Please get in touch with the Contest Secretary before entering as we have different regulations that govern your entry! Email: WFB Contest Secretary: contest@festivalofbrass.co.uk

Entering a higher section as well as your own section: Yes, you can—but only if there is space for you after the close of entries. Places are offered in higher sections in chronological order of the receipt of entry fees --- first come first served! Enter and pay your entry fee at the same time as you enter your usual section – it will be refunded after the contest if there is no space for your band!

How many players? 25 brass players (in the usual UK brass band line up) plus a max of 4 percussion.

What about the registration of players? All of your regular and borrowed players must hold valid registration cards.

- For the 2020 last date for transfer of players is: October 2nd 2020
- New registrations need to be done by: October 23rd 2020

How many borrowed/unregistered players can a band use? Up to 4 borrowed players from your section or a lower section. (Fourth Section bands may borrow from the Third Section too!) and a band can use up to 2 unregistered players. A total of 6 players in all.

What can you play? A 20 minute programme to include a stand up brass or percussion solo item. Your soloist must be a regular, registered member of your band!

Taking a shot at the Entertainment prize? At WFB we've seen it all—jugglers, polar bears, Irish Dancers, tight rope walkers--- well maybe not tight rope walkers--- but remember--- your entertainment must come from within the players on stage. Why? Well, we had to turn away the Marching Band of Massachusetts once, not to mention the circus elephants..... but we do accept animated films or videos--- anything that can be projected onto the screens via a PC or laptop that we provide. So if you want marching bands, elephants or anything else not easily accomplished by your on stage players that's how to do it!

What about timings? Timing starts when you start to play and stops at the last note and includes everything in between. Points are deducted at the rate of one per minute if you overrun. Tip: Do your talking before you play!

Setting up: Please note that you have a thirty minute time slot and you can only access the performance area within that time. So--- Percussionists please note! Why? Because we publish a timetable and need to stick to it. Your fans may travel a long way to see you and, if the timetable is running ahead, they will miss you! In addition, other bands get very upset if you appear to have longer to set up than they do.

What about percussion? We supply four halls with percussion at great expense. Please accept that there will be minor differences between the halls and we cannot supply everything you may need. But—please feel free to add to what we provide. But do let us know if there is anything bulky. We may need to make special provision for access.

What about prizes? Lots of prizes for lots of talent on show! Money prizes are paid within a week of the contest by bank transfer. Cups and trophies (some of which are returnable so please look after them!) are awarded at the end of each section.

What about scores? These must be sent to a WFB team member before the competition.

- The 2020 date for the receipt of scores (and other info) is: October 23rd 2020

Why do we do this? Because, with about sixty bands turning up, it is impossible to organise scores on the day. Scores are returned to you with your adjudication. Any copies left behind are destroyed for legal reasons.

Adjudicators: We do our best to get the best! And we want to encourage new adjudicators and women adjudicators too! But—please remember—we have no control over what adjudicators think or say. Quite right too—but if you feel disappointed this year, don't worry! It will be someone new in the hot seat next year.

Safeguarding and BOPA: WFB will have a BOPA in place to cover all your 16 and under players. But you must still provide the correct supervision for them throughout the day and when performing. This means either players with enhanced DBS checks, or playing parents (as long as they don't sit next to them!) or fully qualified chaperones. Please see website for full info on this tricky topic.

We use proformas! Why? To help you send us the information we need to collect—and we need the same information from every band by the same dates to organise our contest effectively!

And lastly:

We want you to enjoy coming to our competition and we know our rules may seem a bit complex and stringent--- but they have evolved over the years partly in response to some quite difficult situations that have arisen and which had to be dealt with. Also, the rules are there to ensure that all bands experience a level playing field as far as possible when they perform.

Please note:

This simple summary covers the main points – but it is not a substitute for reading the full set of Contest Rules. The WFB team will refer to the full set of rules to aid them in resolving any difficulties that may arise at any point leading up to, during or after the contest. The WFB team reserve the right to penalise or disqualify any band which contravenes the rules or that conducts itself in a manner that brings our Festival and Contest into disrepute.

The full rules and lots of other information can be found here: www.festivalofbrass.co.uk

Still confused? Then get in touch! Email the WFB Contest Secretary: contest@festivalofbrass.co.uk