



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BAND ASSOCIATION State Band Championships

2025 BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS GUIDELINES

Introduction

The members of the SABA Executive and the Contest Convenor look forward to seeing your band represented at the 2025 State Band Championships. This event promises to be a wonderful celebration and showcase of banding in South Australia.

The following guidelines are in accordance and consistent with provisions of the SABA Constitution and By-Laws (except wherever expressly indicated to the contrary) and are to be observed by all competing bands.

Bands are encouraged to seek the advice of the SABA Registrar or SABA President if any points require clarification.

Dates, Venues & Format Summary

Date: Saturday, 23 August 2025 commencing at approximately 9am (subject to band entries)

Venue: Walford Anglican School for Girls

Music: Bands are required to play the following pieces in the order shown.

Please see further details at the end of this document

1. Hymn / Sacred Item
2. Set Test Piece
3. Stage March

Each band will appear on stage once for the Band Championship section and separately for the Showcase Program section.

The order of Band Championships pieces played is in the order as listed above.

Showcase Program

As part of the events on the day of the On-Stage Championships a Showcase Program section may also be entered.

Bands may enter this event even if they are not participating in the Band Championships.

All bands are invited and encouraged to perform a music program of 15-20 minutes in duration.

This section will be adjudicated separately and will not form part of the Championships scoring aggregate.

Further details regarding of this event are included later in this document.

Marching Championships

The 2025 State Band Championships **will not** be incorporating a Marching Championship as defined in the SABA By-Laws (*SABA by-law 7.24*).

Solo and Party Competition and Champion of Champions

The State Solo & Party Championships are scheduled to be held on Sunday 24th August, venue and other details will be provided separately.

Key Dates

Date	Action / Notes
Friday 11 th July (COB)	All Band & Player Renewal, Registrations & Clearances received
Friday 18 th July (COB)	Form 1 – Entry & Music Advice form completed (Online)
Friday 8 th August (COB)	Form 3 –Declaration & Player details (Online) All Permits received Copies of Hymn/Sacred Item & March music scores and Stage Plan (Form 4) submitted to SABA via Post or Electronic.
Friday 15 th August	All Entry, Band & Player Registrations finalised & Payments received

**** SABA expects all forms and payments to be submitted on time.**

Fees

Fees apply for entries in the "On-Stage Band Championships".

An Administration Fee also applies for forms such as Registrations, Permits and Clearances.

On-Stage Band Championships	\$200 per band
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Marching Championships	N/A
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Player Forms

Registrations	\$10 per player
Clearances	\$10 per player
Permits	\$5 per player - Waived
Emergency Permits	\$15 per player - Waived

Late Entry Fees

On-Stage Championship Player Registration Forms	Additional \$100 per band Late forms will not be accepted
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**** All Player Registrations and Clearances must be received by COB Friday 11th July.**

Payments

Payments must be made via EFT and must be received electronically by the SABA Treasurer no later than 7 days prior to the competition.

Cheques are no longer accepted as a method of payment. Please either EFT direct to our bank account or make a deposit into our account at any ANZ branch or Australia Post office. Please include your band name or abbreviation in the deposit reference.

Banking Details...

South Australian Band Association (SABA)

BSB 015-010

Account 224657925

On-Stage Band Championship

Music Requirements

To be eligible for the Championship, bands will be required to perform the following items.

Championship Section:

- 1. Hymn/Sacred Item** – This must be recognisably a hymn/sacred item, any final decision about the suitability of which shall rest with the SABA Executive considering any advice from the Music Advisory Board (MAB).
Suitable items will include melodies from widely recognised hymnals or music recognisably of a sacred nature.
- 2. Set Test Piece** – All Bands are required to perform the Set Test Piece for the section they have entered. See SABA Website for further details.
- 3. Stage March** – This must be recognisably a march item, any final decision about the suitability of which shall rest with the SABA Executive considering any advice from the Music Advisory Board (MAB).
The stage march does not have to be selected from the NBCA's prescribed march list.

The SABA Music Advisory Board may be requested to review submitted works for Hymn/Sacred Item and Stage March for suitability according to the Section / Grading of bands.

Important Note: SABA by-law 7.20 – *An Open band winning an item in a State or National contest shall not, after a period of three (3) months from the date of such contest, play the same music at any succeeding contest as an own choice selection until after the expiration of two (2) years from the date of such contest* – and by-law 7.21 – *A Junior band winning an item in a State or National contest shall not, after a period of six (6) months from the date of such contest, play the same music at any succeeding contest as an own choice selection until after the expiration of two (2) years from the date of such contest.*

Time Limits

Piece	Grade(s)	Duration (Limit)
Hymn / Sacred Item	All Grades	6 minutes
Stage March	All Grades	5 minutes

Band Grades

Open grade bands are permitted to compete in both their own grade and the grade immediately above, provided they do not perform any piece of music more than once throughout the Championships. This does not apply to Junior Brass bands playing both in their own grade and in open D grade, or Junior Concert Bands playing both in their own grade and in an open section below B grade.

A band may compete in only the grade immediately above their own grade only if there are no other bands competing in their grade. (SABA by-laws 9.1 and 9.2).

A band that elects to compete in a higher grade is not automatically re-graded to that grade, even if the band wins that section.

Points

Championship Points will be awarded to a maximum of 400:

100	Hymn/Sacred Item
200	Set Test Piece
100	Stage March

** Showcase Program Piece(s) will be adjudicated separately and will not form part of the overall Championship score.

As per by-law 7.16, the State Band Championship in each grade will be awarded to the band gaining the highest number of aggregate points in the on-stage program in their grade. In the event two (2) or more bands obtain the same number of aggregate points, the Championship first place will be awarded to the band gaining the highest number of points for the Set Test Piece or Own Choice Major Work as applicable.

Player Numbers

Open Brass Bands

Minimum 16 players + Percussion
Maximum 34 players + Percussion
(SABA by-laws 3.3 and 3.5)

Junior Brass Bands

Minimum 16 players + Percussion
Maximum 40 players + Percussion
(SABA by-laws 3.4 and 3.5)

Players must be “under 19” but the band may include 4 players “under 23”. (SABA by-law 2.4 and 6.3)

Open Concert Bands

Minimum 24 players + Percussion
Maximum 70 players + Percussion
(SABA by-laws 3.6 and 3.7)

Junior Concert Bands

Minimum 24 players + Percussion
Maximum 70 players + Percussion
(SABA by-laws 3.6 and 3.7)

Players must be “under 19” but may include 4 players “under 23”. (SABA by-law 2.4 and 6.3)

Band Uniform

All players in all sections must compete in their band’s on-stage uniform. Permit players may wear either the uniform of the band with which they are registered or that of the band for which they are playing on permit.

Music Scores

Scores must be supplied for the use of the adjudicator(s) for all but the Showcase Program pieces.

Where possible, a full score must be submitted. If a full score has not been published, a condensed score may be submitted. If neither a full or condensed score has been published a Conductor's/Solo Cornet part will be accepted. A Conductor's/Solo Cornet part is sufficient for the Stage March.

Unreadable scores will not be accepted.

Submitted scores (or Solo Cornet parts) must be of good quality, properly fastened, with any cuts clearly marked, with bars numbered and with no identifying marks.

"Identifying marks" shall be taken as including conductor's annotations, band name and the like.

SABA will not be responsible for numbering bars on scores that are submitted without numbered bars.

Following the close of entrees a link will be provided to participating bands to upload scores electronically or they may be emailed to contests@sabandassociation.org

Player Registrations

In accordance with SABA by-laws, various forms for players are required for players and bands to be eligible to compete in the Championships.

Registration Forms can be found at...<http://www.sabandassociation.org/Rules>

An "Administration Fee of \$10.00" applies for each new Registration, Clearance Fees for Permits will be waived.

Registrations & Clearances

All player registrations and clearances must be in the hands of the SAB Registrar by **Friday 11th July**.

Please refer to By-Laws 8.6 & 8.7 regarding player registrations and clearances.

Permits

Applications for Permits must be submitted on the correct form and in the hands of the SABA Registrar a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the Championships.

Brass Bands are permitted 4x Player permits.

Concert Bands are permitted 6x Player permits.

Percussion Permits - There is no restriction to the number of Percussion Permits.

Emergency Permits

Emergency Permits may be granted under certain circumstances defined in the SABA by-laws to cover the unexpected loss of a player.

Please contact the Contest Convenor or SABA Secretary as soon as it becomes apparent that an Emergency Permit may be required.

Conductors / Musical Directors

A conductor of any participating band's performance in this championship shall be a registered conductor of that band.

Entry Forms

The following forms are now available via online submission.

[Form 1 - Entry Form](#) (includes previous Form 2 details) [available here](#)

Form 2 – Music Advice form has been combined with Form 1

[Form 3](#) - Contest Registration & Declaration Form [available here](#)

Form 4 – Seating Plan available for download via the SABA 2023 Championships website page

Form 3 - OFFICIAL CONTEST REGISTRATION AND DECLARATION

To lessen the workload on Band secretaries to obtain player signatures prior to submission of the Contest Registration form, we have removed the requirement for these signatures.

In its place, an online form has been created that provides easy copy/paste of player names into the form. From this form, band on-stage player Contest Registration forms will be automatically created and emailed to band secretaries for checking.

On the day of competition, during band warm-up a check will be conducted to confirm player attendance and a representative (president, secretary or treasurer) of the band will be asked to sign the declaration form as being true and correct.

Showcase Program Guidelines & Information

The Showcase Program event is intended to be a further opportunity for a band to showcase its capabilities, without being prescriptive as to what these might be.

In providing any feedback and reaching decisions on prize-winning placements, the adjudicator will have regard to the program selection and its execution in performance relative to the apparent capabilities of the band.

While a conscious decision has been taken to avoid naming the section Entertainment, on the basis that all live music should be entertaining in some way, the adjudicator will have regard also to natural audience engagement including any identified emotional and engagement responses to the presented program.

- **Entry Fee \$50**
 - This fee is waived for bands entering the On-Stage Band Championships
- **Prizes**

Prizes will be awarded of \$150 for first place and \$100 for second place, for each of the Brass Band and Concert Band sections.
- **Scheduling**

Bands will play all required Band Championship pieces in one sitting with a separate sitting later in the day for the Showcase Program.

Please ensure your players are aware that they are required for most of the day if your band is participating in both the Band Championships and the Showcase Program.

Further to queries

Early queries from bands have included whether a singer is permitted. We leave it to bands to determine which of their capabilities they might wish to showcase.

This could (but need not necessarily) include a singer, instrumental soloist and/or section feature etc.

As outlined, the adjudicator will have regard to the program selection and its execution in performance relative to the apparent capabilities of the band.