

PROPOSAL

To: Mississippi Bandmasters Association Executive Board and Body

Re: A Proposal to submit a recommendation to the MHSAA Executive Board and Legislative Body regarding Visiting Band Performances at football games.

Due to inconsistencies in current practice, the following change is recommended to be placed in the MHSAA Handbook, MHSAA Band Manual and any other MHSAA Official Game Operations manuals deemed necessary.

CURRENT WORDING IN MHSAA BAND MANUAL

FOOTBALL GAME HALFTIME PERFORMANCE ETIQUETTE

The MHSAA encourages the Home School Band Director or Principal to notify in a timely manner the Visiting Band Director / Principal that halftime will be devoted to a special event, such as Homecoming, Senior Night, etc. The Visiting band should be afforded the opportunity to perform a pregame show, if such is the case. Both Coaches and Officials should be notified in order to adjust pregame warm-up schedules.

PROPOSED CHANGE

Visiting Band Performance Policy at MHSAA Football Games

The host school will afford an opportunity for the visiting band to perform at all football games. Halftime should be reserved for band performances. The Home School Band Director or Principal should notify, in a timely manner, the Visiting Band Director or Principal that halftime will be devoted to a special event, such as Homecoming, Senior Night, etc. The Visiting band should be afforded the opportunity to perform pregame **following team warmups**, if such is the case. Both Coaches and Officials should be notified in order to adjust pregame warm-up schedules. **Should both bands combined performances be deemed too long to fit within the allotted time at halftime, one band should be afforded the opportunity to perform pregame as mentioned above and the other should perform at halftime. In the rare case that a pregame performance is not possible, a postgame performance opportunity should be afforded. Participating Schools are expected to work together to provide a positive performance opportunity for all students.**

Rationale:

- The promotion of students and their efforts should be a primary concern for all educators.
- Some districts mandate that full bands travel to every game with an expectation of performance.
- Students need performance opportunities in different environments to provide for growth and to replicate adjudication experiences. This is akin to test preparation.
- Many parents and band supporters are also in paid attendance at football games and should have the opportunity to see their student perform.
- We should support one another's endeavors as music educators as much as possible.
- If certain current practices become the norm, the long term effects will be detrimental to students, our profession, and band in general.
- Ennis Proctor, Former director of the MHSAA, distributed a written policy that stated "Halftime should be reserved for bands." Any other performing groups such as dance, cheer, etc. should perform at pregame if halftime does not allow for their performance.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matt Rowan".

Matt Rowan

Director of Bands, Pearl High School