

# HOUSE RULES

## Brassband Northwest

### Topics

- Definition
- Commitment
- Attendance/Subs
- Joining and Leaving
- Seating
- Performance etiquette

**Definition** Brassband Northwest (BBNW) is directed by a conductor (CD) and divided into two parts: Upper brass (cornets, flugelhorn, altohorns) and Lower brass (trombones, euphoniums, baritones, tubas, percussion). Each of these parts is administered by a separate section leader (SL), who is chosen by the conductor. It is expected that the conductor and section leaders will cooperate to follow the House Rules (HR).

**Commitment** In order to maintain the highest level of music-making, membership in BBNW requires individual commitment at rehearsals and concerts. It is expected that members prepare individual parts on their own, for the group to most efficiently make use of rehearsal time and also to prepare music for public presentation at the highest possible level.

**Attendance/Subs** Members are expected to attend all rehearsals for participation in performances in any concert series. A concert series is defined as a series of rehearsals ending with a church service and/or concert(s). Typically, the ends of concert series will coincide with changes in personnel, seating and music. Missing rehearsals for any concert series may result in not being able to participate in the performance. Such situations need to be discussed beforehand with the CD and SLs. Members should notify their section leader (SL) as soon as possible about missing rehearsals. The SL has the responsibility to keep the section full, either by finding substitutes or allowing a member to do so. Time is of the essence in arranging for subs, especially on uniquely busy weekends such as Thanksgiving, Christmas or 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and a minimum 30 days notice is expected. Members who will be absent have the responsibility of getting their music to the rehearsal, especially if the folder is unique (one on the part).

**Joining and Leaving** Persons interested in joining BBNW must be auditioned by a group consisting of the CD and two other band members. An audition may be waived at the discretion of the CD. An opening in the group for new members may arise from, but is not limited to: a personal emergency, missed rehearsals or a leave of absence of an existing member, or the band's expansion. There is no periodic review or audition required of members after joining, and existing band members prior to establishment of these House Rules are not subject to audition. Members should notify the SL and CD at least 60 days before a leave of absence (a concert series or longer). Members on leave wanting to rejoin the group must contact the SL and CD for permission, though they need not re-audition. Readmission is based on available openings. Termination from BBNW is a rare occurrence, but may result due to: lack of attendance or continual tardiness at rehearsals or concerts, inability to perform the music, and disruptive, disrespectful or inconsiderate behavior that reflects poorly on the entire group. Decision on termination is decided by a committee consisting of the CD, the SL and a band member chosen by the "defendant".

**Seating** Seating for upper and lower brass is determined by the SLs, after consultation with the CD, for each concert series. Given the wide range of individual playing levels, to achieve the end of fielding a balanced band that performs to the best of its ability, and in the spirit of fairness, assigning parts may involve seating rotation, with input from the members. There are no "challenges" for seating. The position of principal solo cornet is chosen each year by the CD, starting September 1<sup>st</sup>, and should be rotated through qualified members. The principal solo cornet and upper brass SL may be the same or different members.

**Performance Etiquette** The CD shall choose dress colors and pre-arrange any special showmanship issues for performance (e.g. entering, bowing, standing, dancing). Band members are expected to purchase (or borrow if unavailable) band shirts for concerts. Please show due respect for performances at religious services and public ceremonies; please follow the rules of particular venues and take pride in our performance as a high class performing ensemble.