

# IMBA Judges Handbook - Summary

The IMBA is pleased to present the first draft the new Judges Handbook. The IMBA formed a sub-committee in 2006 to consider all aspects of judging at IMBA events. The aims of the project were to

- Produce documentation to support the judging materials and techniques in use.
- Update the current judging system to bring it in line with best practice from other established judging systems from around the world.
- Produce guidance for new and existing judges on judging techniques
- Outline responsibilities of the judging staff, tabulators, council members and contest organisers.

Following a review of international judging systems (DCE, DCI, DCUK, BYBA, WGI) some modifications have been proposed to the IMBA judging system. The major changes in the new system are

- The name of the captions have changed as outlined in Table 1
- The colour guard mark is now included in the overall mark.
- To allow for this the balance of the marks between the captions has changed as outlined in Table 1.
- The colour Guard Caption will now be judged from the tower position

**Table 1 Comparison of Caption Names and Marks**

Existing Caption Name	Marks	New Caption Name	Marks
Overall General Musical Effect	200	Musical Ensemble & Effect	200
Display & Showmanship	200	Visual Ensemble & Effect	200
Drill & Deportment	200	Field Visual	150
Field Wind/Accordion	200	Field Music	150
Percussion	200	Percussion	150
Colour Guard	0	Colour Guard	150
Total	1000	Total	1000

One of the major developments in judging techniques is the use of the **Box System**. This is also referred to as the Criteria Reference System, as it contains a list of criteria that a band must achieve in order to attain a certain mark. The handbook contains detailed criteria which relate to the mark range outline in the boxes in Table 2.

The Bronze standard is now at 31 percent of the total marks. The Silver and Gold standard remain at 61 and 81 percent as before.

**Table 2 The Box System**

BOX	1	2	3	4	5
Score	0 - 10	11 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 80	81 - 100
Standard	Certificate		Bronze	Silver	Gold
Expectations/ Achievement/ Responsibility	Seldom Experiences	Sometimes Discovers	Frequently Knows	Consistently Understands	Always Applies
Quality of Performance	Poor	Fair	Good	Great	Excellent

The Judges Handbook is a valuable resource for judges, band instructors and band members. The Handbook will be reviewed following its application during the summer field competitions and comments will be welcomed from all interested parties at that time.