



## RULES

# French Brass Band Championship

### **Confédération Musicale de France**

10/12 Avenue de la Marne – 92120 Montrouge

Tél.: 01 55 58 22 82 - Fax: 01 47 35 63 08 - [www.cmf-musique.org](http://www.cmf-musique.org) - [cmf@cmf-musique.org](mailto:cmf@cmf-musique.org)

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## **1. GENERAL**

### **Article 1**

The *Confédération Musicale de France* (CMF) organizes the annual French Brass Band Championship. Since 2010 the Championship is organized in partnership with the CMF local federation or a local partner.

### **Article 2**

The organizing committee of the French Brass Band Championship is composed of CMF representatives, elected officials and employees.

### **Article 3**

The championship is open to all French brass bands.

### **Article 4**

The brass bands are free to compete with one or several conductor(s).

### **Article 5**

The brass bands must compete with only the musicians registered in the CMF booklet, or the previously sent list. However, deprived of regular musicians on the day of the championship, they are allowed to provide for their replacement within the limit of 10% (i.e. 3 musicians). In this case, a new list of musicians must be submitted to the organizing committee the day of the championship.

### **Article 6**

The CMF may cancel the championship if the number of registered brass bands is insufficient at the registration deadline (under 4).

## 2. REGISTRATIONS

### Article 1

Brass bands must send a registration form to the CMF no later than the registration deadline (the postmark will be taken as proof). The number of brass bands can be limited by the organizer, so the forms will be treated in order of arrival. Candidates will be informed by e-mail whether they participate or not in the Championship.

### Article 2

The registration form includes:

- The registration form, completed and signed (downloadable from the CMF website)
- The payment of registration fees (bank checks or bank transfer) (see article 4 below)
- A short presentation of the brass band
- A photo of the brass band in digital version 300dpi (to be sent by e-mail to [marine.foucaud@cmf-musique.org](mailto:marine.foucaud@cmf-musique.org) )

### Article 3

*To complete the registration*, brass bands must send the following documents to the CMF no later than 2 months before the Championship:

- 3 original scores of the free choice pieces, free from any distinctive marks. All the bars must be numbered (brass bands which do not send the original scores will not be able to compete).
- The original invoice of the 3 scores of the free choice pieces: the CMF member brass bands will be reimbursed (all or a part of these scores). No reimbursement will be made without the invoice receipts.
- Their RIB/IBAN
- The CMF booklet if the brass band is a member of the CMF (it will be given during the award ceremony, signed by the members of the jury)
- A plan of the brass band layout with the placing of the percussionists
- The list of the musicians and their instrument (to be sent in *Excel* to [marine.foucaud@cmf-musique.org](mailto:marine.foucaud@cmf-musique.org))
- The order of the musical programme with the timing of each piece.

### Article 4

Registration form fees:

- 50€ for all brass bands (non-returnable deposit)

Registration fees:

- 250€ for the CMF member brass bands (payment returned if not selected)
- 500€ for the non-member CMF brass bands (payment returned if not selected)

In case of cancellation by a brass band sent by e-mail, it is possible for the registration fee to be reimbursed. Any cancellation occurring within the 2 months preceding the Championship will not be subject to any reimbursement.

The registration form fees remain at the CMF.

### **3. CLASSIFYING**

#### **Article 1**

Brass bands are classified in the following divisions:

- Division 4
- Division 3
- Division 2
- Division 1
- Honours Division

#### **Article 2**

For the divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, brass bands are free to compete in the division of their own choice.

#### **Article 3**

To compete in the Honours Division, a brass band must obtain a first prize with First Class in the 1st division (90/100).

A brass band cannot compete in Honours Division without having competed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division during the Championship.

#### **Article 4**

A brass band competing in the Honours Division without participating in the Championship for a period of three years loses its classification.

## **4. BRASS BAND COMPOSITION (NOMENCLATURE)**

### **Article 1**

Brass bands must be composed of a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 35 musicians, plus the conductor.

### **Article 2**

Configuration:

- 1 soprano cornet
- 9 cornets
- 1 flugelhorn
- 3 tenor horns
- 2 baritones
- 2 euphoniums
- 2 tenor trombones
- 1 bass trombone
- 2 E flat tubas
- 2 B flat tubas
- 3 percussionists

### **Article 3**

Some instruments may be replaced:

- Tubas in F and/or tubas in C instead of Tubas in E flat and/or B flat
- Bass saxhorns instead of Baritones and/or Euphoniums
- Tenor trombones instead of bass trombone

## **5. MUSICAL PROGRAMME**

### **Article 1**

All the brass bands must perform the test piece of their division required by the CMF.

For the divisions 4, 3, 2, 1, test pieces are chosen by the CMF brass band commission and the score references will be announced in January (from the previous year).

For the Honours Division, the test piece is chosen by the President of the jury and the score references will be announced in October for the Honours Division.

### **Article 2**

The brass bands must perform also one or several free choice pieces.

### **Article 3**

The total musical programme should not exceed:

- 30 minutes for divisions 4, 3 et 2
- 35 minutes for division 1
- 40 minutes for the Honours Division

**Article 4:** The brass bands must perform using original scores.

## **6. PERCUSSIONS**

### **Article 1**

The Organizing Committee provides the brass bands with the percussion equipment required for the test-piece (except accessories).

### **Article 2**

Each brass band must bring the required equipment for the free choice piece as well as their own accessories.

## **7. PROGRESS**

### **Article 1**

The championship usually takes place over 2 days in the following order:

- Division 4
- Division 3
- Division 2
- Division 1
- Honours Division

If the number of brass bands allows it, each of divisions 2, 1 and Honours will play alternately first the test piece, then the free choice piece.

### **Article 2**

Once the registrations are closed, the different schedules will be announced by e-mail.

Only the manager of the brass band introduces himself at the reception. He will receive a programme and a poster of the Championship, along with access bracelets for the musicians for the day. A volunteer will guide the brass band throughout the day.

The order of performance will be decided by means of a draw in the morning. The results of the draw will be communicated immediately.

### **Article 3**

A special space for rehearsal (without percussions) and a rest room will be at the disposal of brass bands before their performance. Each brass band manager will ensure that these spaces are left in the same tidy state and initial storage as when they entered.

### **Article 4**

Before going on stage, the musicians must present an ID and sign the list at the control area. Then the brass band has ten minutes to set up after the performance of the previous brass band.

### **Article 5**

The conductor will be asked whether he wishes to conduct from a platform or not.



**Article 6**

At the end of the previous brass band performance, the percussionists enter on stage first, accompanied by a few musicians if necessary, to arrange the drums (without playing), and to tune the timpani.

**Article 7**

Then the other musicians silently settle on stage and must not play before the beginning of their performance.

**Article 8**

The brass band performs his program in the order and without leaving the stage between the pieces (except if there is alternance for the divisions 2, 1 and honor).

**Article 9**

After his performance, the brass band quickly leave the stage, in the opposite side to its entrance. A photographic step can be proposed.

**Article 10**

Deliberations take place at the end of each division. The repartition of the partners prizes is made at the end of the last day of the championship. Then, an official speech is pronounced, followed by the award ceremony.

**Article 11**

The alcohol consumption is prohibited, except at the dedicated bar area.

It is forbidden to bring alcohol from the outside. A staff member will ensure compliance with this regulation. Any breach by a member of a brass band will result in the immediate elimination of the brass band.

## 8. RESULTS / MARKS

### Article 1

The test piece is marked out of 100 points.

Each free choice piece is marked out of 100 points.

### Article 2

The final mark is the 100-point average of the marking for the test piece and of the 100 point average of the marking for the free choice pieces.

### Article 3

Prizes are awarded as follows:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| • From 90 to 100 | 1 <sup>st</sup> prize with First Class |
| • From 85 to 89  | 1 <sup>st</sup> prize with Distinction |
| • From 80 to 84  | 1 <sup>st</sup> prize                  |
| • From 65 to 79  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> prize                  |
| • From 50 to 64  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> prize                  |
| • Less than 50   | No prize awarded                       |

### Article 4

All brass bands receive a certificate of participation mentioning the prize awarded with the average and the particular marking for the test piece and the free choice piece.

### Article 5

The brass band coming first in its division will be the champion of this division and receives a trophy.

There can only one winner per category.

In case of a tie, the brass band which obtained the highest score for the test piece will be the winner.

The president casts the deciding vote in the case of a tie.

### Article 6

A mark of less than 50 points in the Honours Division relegates a brass band to the 1<sup>st</sup> Division.

### Article 7

The brass band in the Honours Division which obtained the most points is the winner of the Championship and becomes the French Champion.

They become the only brass band to represent France in the European Brass Band Championship the following year.

They receive the Challenge Trophy from the CMF. This trophy is given every year to the champion.

The champion of the previous edition must bring this trophy along to the next edition.

## **ADJUDICATION**

### **Article 1**

The Championship will be adjudicated by a jury of 3 members, chosen by the CMF. The adjudicators will be both French and international personalities specialized in brass.

### **Article 2**

The names of the adjudicators will be announced at the close of registration.

### **Article 3:**

The jury will hear the performances behind a screen, in a closed box.

The jury is informed neither of the name of the brass band nor the order of performance.

### **Article 4**

The adjudicators will make written remarks for each performance. These remarks and the results will be submitted to the brass band manager.

### **Article 5**

The decision of the jury, announced at the end of the competition, is definitive and without further right of appeal.

### **Article 6**

In case of an appeal made by a brass band, it will be directed to the President of the CMF. This will be written and signed by the president or a mandated person as well as the manager of the brass band. Such appeals cannot concern the decision of the jury, definitive and without further right of appeal.

## **APPENDICES**

### **Organization committee**

- Arlette BRISON : Vice-présidente de la CMF
- Danielle GRIGNON : Responsable de l'action culturelle et pédagogique
- Philippe LATRIVE : Directeur administratif et financier
- Camille MATET : Journaliste
- Carl PLESSIS : Responsable documentation
- Isabelle PONCEL : Chargée de commissions et éditions
- Caroline RAINETTE : Chargée de communication
- Marine WALSH-FOUCAUD : Chargée de projets culturels

This committee is responsible for organizing the event at the cultural, administrative, financial and communication level. It appeals to various partners for the smooth running of the Championship.

### **CMF Brass Band commission**

- Arlette BRISON (Vice-présidente de la CMF)
- Eric BRISSE
- Pierre-Marie BUDELOT (Responsable de la commission)
- Bernard GALINIER
- William HOUSSOY
- Rémi LECONTE
- Pascal PIEDEFER

**These rules govern the Championship and the French language version is definitive.**