

ATTENDANCE AND TIMING POLICY

The New Jersey State Jazz Festival Finals are designed to allow students, educators, parents, and fans of big band jazz to learn from and appreciate the work of some of the best groups our state has to offer. Without hearing other groups perform, audience members will have no understanding of the talents of the selected awardees. There would be no sharing of musical knowledge, appreciation, or culture. With this in mind, the NJAJE Board of Directors **will enforce** the following policy regarding attendance by participating ensembles at our festival:

Report Time

All performing ensembles are required to check in with the NJAJE Master of Ceremonies 30 minutes prior to the start of the festival (4:30 PM for a 5:00 start). ***Check in time will be recorded in the score sheet.***

Penalty for Lateness

Groups checking in during the first half hour of performance (5:00 – 5:30) will be assessed a 1 point penalty from their overall score (out of 100 points). Groups checking in during the second half hour of performance (5:31 – 6:00) will be assessed a 2 point penalty from their overall score (out of 100 points). Groups arriving after the first hour of performances (6:01 or later) will be disqualified and will not receive a performance score. Groups arriving after their scheduled performance time will not be permitted to perform.

Spirit of the Festival

All performing groups are entitled to a full audience. NJAJE encourages directors to limit their groups to no more than thirty (30) minutes in the cafeteria. With warm-up, performance, and sight reading times added in, this would allow each group to observe 2 – 3 other bands during the evening. All participants need to share in the appreciation of the hard work and talents of other performers, as well as being able to show appreciation for more than just their own school's performing group.

On Stage Warm Up

Even professional performers need to check the acoustics of the hall, adjust microphones, and tune on stage. Performing ensembles and their directors are certainly welcome to do this, but should limit this period on stage to three minutes after their initial set up.

Performance Timing

In order to standardize the amount of performance time for each ensemble, as well as to reasonably limit the length of the evening, NJAJE will enforce a .5 point penalty for every one minute of performance time over 20 minutes. Timing of the performance will begin with the first note of the first selection and conclude with the last note of the last selection, inclusive of any non-performance or speaking time between selections. Directors are encouraged to time their programs, make all announcements prior to their group's performance, and should prepare students to transition between selections in the most efficient manner possible in order to avoid penalties.

Priority of the Festival

These are the official New Jersey State Jazz Band Championships. Participating directors and members of ensembles should be aware that performance times are pre-drawn randomly before the results of the preliminary round are announced. There will be no switching of performance times permitted. Those groups unable to meet the requirements of the festival will be replaced by the next qualified ensemble. Directors are encouraged to emphasize the nature of this commitment to students, parents, and administration alike. ***Travel times to festival locations should be over-estimated in order to ensure timeliness and avoidance of penalties.***

Policy for Appeal

Upon assessment of late arrival penalty, directors may appeal to the on-site NJAJE Master of Ceremonies in case of catastrophic event. ***Under no circumstances will other commitments be regarded as reason for appeal.***