

## **NCMEA CHORAL SECTION ADJUDICATOR INFORMATION, POLICIES, AND PROCEDURES**

### **Adjudicator Qualifications**

1. Adjudicators must be members of NCMEA
2. Adjudicators must have taught in North Carolina for 2 years. (High School events only)
3. Adjudicators should attend an adjudication seminar and/or return the adjudicator information form to the choral activities coordinator.
4. Adjudicators are selected based on their education, experience, and qualifications at the discretion of the choral activities coordinator.

### **Guidelines for Solo/Small Ensembles Adjudicator Assignments**

1. Solo/Ensemble Festival adjudicators will be voice majors or collegiate instructors
2. Soloists and Ensembles will be critiqued by one adjudicator.
3. Every effort is made to avoid assigning the same adjudicator at an event in consecutive years.

### **Guidelines for Large Ensemble Festivals Assignments**

1. Ensembles will be critiqued by three adjudicators.
2. Every effort is made to have 2 adjudicators from the high/middle school teaching level and 1 adjudicator from an institution of higher education.
3. Every effort is made to have male and female adjudicators at each event.
4. There will be one adjudicator for sight reading.
5. Every effort is made to avoid assigning the same adjudicator at an event in consecutive years.

### **How adjudicators are assigned**

1. Mid-December: Adjudicator Availability Forms and Adjudicator Info Update forms are mailed.
2. Late Dec. - Early Jan: Adjudicators return the Adj. Availability form and changes/corrections to Adj. Info Form to the choral activities coordinator
3. Early to Mid January: Assignments are mailed to adjudicators
4. February - March: Adjudicators may be contacted to serve where cancellations occur due to sickness, emergencies, inclement weather, etc.
5. Please contact the choral activities coordinator by e-mail or phone if you are unable to accept an assignment.

### **For More Information Please contact:**

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### **ADJUDICATOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND HELPFUL HINTS**

1. The adjudicator must recognize the level of proficiency at each music grade level.
2. Performers should continue uninterrupted by the adjudicator.
3. Comments should be written on the form provided or given to the director, i.e., no voice lesson or mini-choral clinic.
4. Adjudicators will assign a point value for each category in the respective squares. The comments must deal with fundamental principles and be constructive. Adjudicators will use the #1 & #2 columns to insure each item is addressed even if the adjudicator does not make a specific comment regarding that item.
5. A superior rating may be awarded in each category, Grades I - VI. The Superior rating is not reserved only for Grades V and VI.
6. All ratings lower than Superior must have supportive comments.
7. Complete your critiques and ratings in the time allowed by the festival chairman. This is absolutely essential for the festival to run efficiently!
  
8. Review the NC Choral MPAA List. This will help you understand the demands of the repertoire on each music grade level. You may get the current NC Choral MPAA List from the NCMEA website.
9. Review the Adjudication Criteria. This will help you give accurate ratings as described by the choral section.
10. Arrive early!!! This will help the site coordinators keep their sanity and begin their Music Performance Adjudication on schedule.
11. Comments - Students are participating in the festivals for your constructive comments. One can fill the page with comments and still award a superior. If you give a rating lower than superior, you must have accompanying comments. These comments should be specific and include suggestions for improvement. Remember, what you write means a great deal to participants.
12. Adjudicator making taped comments - obviously your adjudication form will not have many written comments. You should use a hand held recorder and speak directly into the microphone for clarity. However, please remember to assign a rating for each criterion.
13. Ratings-Be sure to assign a point value for each category on the adjudication form. The total of these ratings determines the final/overall rating. The site coordinator will check your calculations.
14. It is a good idea to make notes on the score and/or check the subcategories as you listen to the ensembles. This is helpful to you as you make your final comments and is helpful to the directors as they review their adjudication forms.
15. Please remember that adjudicators at the Large Ensemble Festivals may not confer on ratings.
16. If you have to err - err on the gracious side.

## North Carolina Choral Music Performance Adjudication Forms Instructions, Policies, Procedures

1. The following blanks are to be completed by the site coordinator before giving the forms to the adjudicator: District, Date, Grade of Music, School, Type/Name of Ensemble, Selections, and print the Adjudicator's name.
2. The adjudicator will listen to the performance and tally the score at the bottom of the sheet and then sign in the blank provided.
3. The site coordinator at Solo/Ensemble Adjudication will check the calculations and complete the total score and rating at the top of the form. The site coordinator at the Large Ensemble Adjudication will check the calculations and assign the overall rating based on the average of the roman numeral equivalents of the numerical score.
4. There are five main categories each receiving twenty points each. The sub - categories are listed for the adjudicators convenience and to insure that basic concepts are addressed for each choir. The columns #1 and #2 indicate Selection #1 and Selection #2. Adjudicators are to complete these boxes for each selection and sub - category using the scoring method printed at the bottom of the form. "+" denotes strength, "check" denotes fine, and "-" denotes improvement needed. **Adjudicators should mark each sub-category!!!**
5. To clarify a few of the subcategories: Pronunciation refers to the correct pronunciation of the word not enunciation or clarity. Note accuracy refers to the correct notes not intonation.
6. Adjudicators are to write their comments in the space provided and may use the back of the form.
7. Assigning point values-. Each category has a value of 20 points. The adjudicator should keep in mind the criteria for ratings as they assign point values for each category. The subcategories do not have an individual point value. ie... There are four items under Tone Vocal Production but they do not necessarily equal five points apiece.

S. The following table should help you make the transition from roman numeral ratings to numerical values.

Five main categories			Overall Ratings		
I	now equals	18 - 20	I	now equals	90 - 100
II	now equals	16 - 17	II	now equals	80 - 89
III	now equals	13 - 15	III	now equals	65 - 79
IV	now equals	10 - 12	IV	now equals	50 - 64
V	now equals	1 - 10	V	now equals	0 - 49

9. The final rating for the Large Ensemble Festival will be the average of the roman numeral equivalents of the three numerical scores. ie.... I + I + I = I, I + I + II = I, I + II + II = II, II + II + II = II, II + II + III = II, II + III + III = III, I + II + III = II, etc.....

### ADJUDICATION CRITERIA

**RATING I, SUPERIOR** This division represents the finest conceivable performance for the event and the class of participants being judged; worthy of the distinction of being recognized as among the very best.

**RATING II, EXCELLENT** This rating reflects an unusual performance in many respects but not one worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects. Yet it is a performance of distinctive quality. The singer or group in this division usually shows the result of sound, fundamental training, but the performance lacks the polish and finesse necessary to qualify for Division 1.

**RATING III, AVERAGE** This rating is awarded for a performance that is not outstanding. The performance shows accomplishment and marked promise, but is lacking in one or more essential qualities. This division indicates much room for improvement in many of the fundamental items listed on the adjudicator's comment sheet.

**RATING IV, BELOW AVERAGE** This rating describes a performance that shows obvious weaknesses. These may reflect a lack of rehearsal time. This rating represents a performance which is generally weak and uncertain. There are numerous errors and the performance reveals basic weaknesses in most of the fundamental factors listed on the score sheet. The judge's comments should contain helpful suggestions for improvement.

**RATING V, POOR** This rating indicates a performance which reveals much room for improvement. The director should check his methods with those of more mature organizations. This division is rarely used even by the most critical judges. It indicates a performance in which the singers reveal almost a complete lack of preparedness and understanding. In some cases this may be due to immature students attempting music which is far too advanced for them. In others it may be due to an accumulation of careless and bad singing habits, which only tend to become accentuated and more noticeable as the singer becomes older.