

Texas Association of Mariachi Educators



# Handbook

July 2024

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# **MEMBERSHIP**

TAME Membership year is from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> of the corresponding year  
(*regardless of when membership was established*)

Membership dues are:

- Directors \$55.00
- Educator (Other) \$50.00
- Retired Educator \$20.00
- Administrator \$50.00
- College Student \$20.00
- Friends/Family \$25.00
- Business Member \$150.00

The membership deadline for Active Directors is November 1<sup>st</sup> of the corresponding membership year. After that date, director membership dues increase to \$75.00.

## **Director/Consultant/Tutor Membership**

Mariachi Directors and Assistant Directors must be Active TAME members in order for their mariachi ensembles to participate in TAME functions. Mariachi consultants or instructors who work directly with the mariachi in any fashion and accompany the groups on stage must also be Active TAME members.

# **REHEARSALS**

The eight-hour UIL rule will be followed for TAME competitions.

1. Students can only rehearse 8 hours outside of the classroom per calendar week Monday to Thursday. Students who are not enrolled in the performance class can add an extra 5 hours to rehearse. This rule is inclusive of all extracurricular activities, meaning that a single student participating in multiple activities may not exceed 8 total hours of extracurricular rehearsal in a given week.
2. Mariachi ensembles that do not rehearse during a dedicated class period within the school day can add an extra 5 hours making a total of 13 hours per calendar week.
3. The director of the Mariachi needs to maintain a reasonable and proper balance of pre-school and out-of-school rehearsal schedules.
4. Attention to the UIL Competitions per week rule is highly advised.

**\*\*\* The eight-hour rule applies from Monday to Thursday. Students have Friday after the school day ends, Saturday and Sunday to rehearse. This is up to the discretion of the director and his/her administration. \*\*\***

# **ENTRY FEES AND REGISTRATION**

## **Entry Fees:**

- **Area Contest:(Raise in dues to begin after July 2025) Current Dues are \$250 for V and \$200 for JV**
  - Varsity Mariachi-Area Contest Fee \$300.00
  - JV/Non-Varsity-Area Contest Fee \$250.00
  - MS/JH Mariachi-Area Contest Fee \$300.00
- **State Contest:**
  - Varsity Mariachi-State Contest Fee \$400.00
  - JV/Non-Varsity-State Contest Fee \$300.00

## **Group Registration:**

To register for the TAME Area/State Mariachi Contest, you will need to submit:

1. ONLINE registration form
2. An Entry Fee check made out to TAME/Online using a credit card (see entry fees above)
3. Area **Registration Form** and State Form 1 **with Director's Statement of Responsibility.** (\*signed and dated)

## **Entry Deadline and Submissions:**

AREA Entry Deadline: **Feb 3rd 11:59pm**

STATE Entry **Deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Late Entry Deadline: March 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Late Fee: \$200 Varsity/\$150 JV Groups**

**No groups will be allowed to register after March 8<sup>th</sup> at midnight.**

**Group registration forms will now be completed online at [www.tamemariachi.com](http://www.tamemariachi.com)**

## **Entry Fees Submission (Payments)**

Payments must be postmarked or hand delivered by the deadline to:

***Velma Salas-Garcia, TAME Dir. of Operations PO Box 891 Edinburg, TX.78540***

If a check cannot be processed in time, a Purchase Order made out to TAME will be accepted at the contest.

*\*\*\* Please note the change of address for TAME and ensure that your accounts payable department has the current address. If a W9 form and/or vendor packet is needed, please contact the Director of Operations via email at: [tameinformation@gmail.com](mailto:tameinformation@gmail.com) or visit the website at [www.tameinformation.com](http://www.tameinformation.com) \*\*\**

# **COMPETITION RULES**

*Disclosure: These rules were created specifically for TAME sponsored competitions (functions) and are a revised version of UIL/TMEA regulations. The reason for not selecting exact UIL/TMEA regulations is that many components do not match the needs of Mariachi competitions. For the purpose of TAME competitions, only the rules in this handbook should be used.*

## **Instrumentation**

All ensembles shall consist of a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 24 members.

A Standard Mariachi ensemble should consist of at least:

1 instrument per section (1 violin, 1 trumpet, 1 guitarrón, 1 armonía)

**Not having an instrument in a particular section will result in a score of zero for that section being that there would be no way to judge or score a section that is not represented** (the loss of the section's 200 points may result in a lowered rating at area) Groups that play all instrumental selections will lose the vocal section score.

- *A general guideline on instrumentation would be 3-4 violins for every trumpet and three armonia (guitar, vihuela and guitarrón). The guitarra de golpe and arpa are optional. Doubling of guitar would be ok, but doubling of guitarrón and vihuela could over balance the ensemble. This is only a guideline and not a rule. Director's discretion is advised. **Attention to the 24-member maximum is required.***

- Any other instruments can be added or doubled as long as the standard instrumentation is included. While judges shall be instructed to criticize instrumentation only insofar as it affects the balance and general effect of the performance, schools are encouraged to conform as closely as possible to the accepted standards of instrumentation. **Attention to the 24-member maximum is required.**

*\*\*\* Non-Varsity/JV and MS/JH mariachi groups can use a more liberal instrumentation, such as; 2-3 Guitarrónes, 2-3 Vihuelas, 3-4 Guitars etc. as for the purposes of inclusion. \*\*\**

## **Performer Requirements**

1. All performers must play an instrument on stage. (NO solo singers)
2. Each Vocalist must be a contributing member of the ensemble. An instrument cannot be used as a prop to "fake" a performance or to try to "bend" the vocalist/instrumentalist rule with minimal instrumental-musical contribution. This infraction could result in disqualification from the contest.

## **Student Eligibility**

1. High School students are eligible to participate in competition
2. The No Pass/No Play UIL eligibility rule will apply to all TAME functions.
3. Amateur Rule: As per UIL constitution and contest rules, the amateur rule only applies to athletic contests and not music. (Section 400 and 430 of the UIL constitution)
4. Students cannot perform with more than one group on the same instrument. Students wishing to perform in more than one group (ex. Varsity-JV) must do so on a completely different family of instruments. i.e. Violin and Trumpet or Vihuela and Guitarron. Vihuela/Guitar/Guitarra de Golpe are considered the same (armonia).
5. Students competing in more than one group cannot be a solo singer in both groups; it is one or the other.
6. Only registered students can participate in the competition.
7. **Groups who have large class membership and have auditions for competing groups must list all possible competing students on the Area Registration Form.**
8. **If a registered student does not participate in the Area competition due to ineligibility, and the mariachi advances to state finals, that student can participate at state provided that eligibility has occurred and were listed on the original Area Registration Form.**
9. Exception to the high school rule: A seventh or eighth grade student may compete in the mariachi ensemble provided that the majority of the ensemble members are in grades 9 - 12.
10. **\*\*\* If a seventh or eighth grade student competes with a high school group, they cannot also compete with a JH/MS group. A MS student may show case with a MS group and compete with a HS JV or Varsity group. \*\*\***

## **Group Eligibility**

A mariachi can participate in Finals with fewer students than participated in Area, but if more students compete in finals, **all participants' names must appear on the original Area Entry Registration Roster Form.** (The designated form with principal's signature needs to be submitted with the entry check by the entry deadline)

# **PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

## **Time Requirements**

The required time limitation at the TAME Area and State competition for ALL groups is a **maximum of 10 minutes, no minimum as voted by the membership.**

- Time slot breakdown: 3 min. setup/sound check, 1 min. announcement, 10 min. performance, 1 min. exit.
- Time begins when first note is played and stops when last note is played.

## **Time Penalty**

At the **TAME Area & State Contest**, if a Mariachi does not meet the time requirement, a deduction of 100 points per individual judge's score will also occur. This deduction will not be applied in the event of a third party disruption such as sound system issues, weather, acts of God or circumstances beyond our control have occurred. If this is the case, no deduction will be applied.

## **Order of Performance**

Contest order will be determined **by an electronic roulette style drawing held live on a zoom (virtual meeting room) type platform & hosted** by a TAME Board member prior to the contest.

## **Music Selection Requirements**

Schools are required to perform a minimum of two songs, one of which is in the style of a Son Jalisciense. Be aware of the time requirements for your group.

- The two songs can also be performed as part of a popurri. An introductory "Tema" can also be included, but does NOT count as one of the two songs.

Individual songs or popurris are permitted as long as a Son Jalisciense or a song in the style of a Son Jalisciense is included within the performance (a complete son is not required as long as it is included).

## **Repetition Of Songs**

A varsity or non-varsity/JV mariachi may not repeat music within 4 school years of playing it at the Area Contest and/or State Finals. Middle school mariachi may not repeat music within 2 school years of playing it at Area contest. This includes musical selections/arrangements; song titles (regardless of musical arrangement or style) song lyrics, etc. Introduction temas (i.e. Those specifically written for the group) can be repeated but must not use too much time. (i.e. 30-45 sec. intro)

High School (Sample School Years)	
Year Song Selection Played	Year Song May Be Played Again
2022-2023	2027-2028
2023-2024	2028-2029
2024-2025	2029-2030

Middle School (Sample School Years)	
Year Song Selection Played	Year Song May Be Played Again
2022-2023	2027-2028
2023-2024	2028-2029
2024-2025	2029-2030

**Groups that do not follow this rule will be disqualified**

## **Musical Selection Amendments**

Directors will have the opportunity to change their musical selections after the original registration deadline by filling out the **Announcement Script** and submitting it to the contest office the day of the contest. Group song selections may or may not be checked prior to a group's performance. If it found, at any point, that any of the song selections do not adhere to the TAME rules or requirements, a penalty will be given depending on the specific broken rule.

*\*\*\* Board members are not responsible for checking a group's song selection prior to any performance to ensure that they follow TAME rules and guidelines. This responsibility solely belongs to the director of each group. \*\*\**

## **State Finals Music Selection**

If mariachi ensembles advance to the State Finals, the music selections can be changed, as long as a Son Jalisciense or a song in the style of a Son Jalisciense is included. Not playing a Son Jalisciense or a song in the style of a Son Jalisciense will result in an automatic disqualification. The Son or a song in the style of a Son Jalisciense cannot be the "Tema."



## **Music Scores**

Each director of the mariachi ensemble shall supply each judge with a **numbered** conductor's score of the selections to be performed. The head judge will be instructed to not permit the performance to begin until the scores have been received. The music score must include:

1. Music to vocal parts, written out with words underneath each note.
2. All instruments being used, written out in the score, with the exception of the harp if it is following the guitarrón line (label score).

## **Music Score Format**

1. Score format should be enlarged enough so that there is no straining of eyes.
2. A minimum of two systems per page and eight to twelve bars per system should be adequate.
3. Music should be notated as performed. If playing a "popurri," music should be notated as performed including transitions and modulations.

## **Scoring Guide**

(May deviate from this as long as the music is computer generated and easy to read)

1. Violins: Include bowings, articulations/dynamics
2. Flutes (if used)
3. Trumpets: Include articulations/dynamics
4. Flugel horns (if used)
5. Voice: Include vocal line, lyrics and coros
6. Harp (if notating it): You may specify that harp will follow the guitarrón line
7. Armonías: In rhythmic notation with mánicos
8. Guitarrón: Notate inside the staff Low A to High A. Single string notes maybe notated outside the staff

If a score is purchased, please make sure that the above information is included (It can be in a different layout), otherwise, you will need to transcribe it in a notation program as requested.

A condensed score Violins in one stave and Trumpets in one stave may be used. No individual instrument parts will be accepted. That is not a score. Scores need to be published or computer generated. **No handwritten scores will be accepted.**

## **Score Submission**

If a director flagrantly submits an incorrect score

- Area Contest: The group will be penalized 25 points off each individual judge's overall score.
- State Contest: If scores are not completed and in compliance at check -in time and corrected by performance time, The group will be penalized 100 points from each individual judge's overall score by the office staff. Director will be given notice during verification period.

## **Conferences**

Middle School and Varsity Mariachi Ensembles shall compete according to the UIL conference they are classified in (C, CC, CCC, 2A, 3A, 4A, 5A or 6A). Schools cannot choose to compete in a different conference unless the entire school is moved up by UIL for music. JV groups will compete in the JV category.

## **Combined/District Groups**

Combined/district mariachis are not allowed to participate. MS and HS Academies may participate, since they are a single school entity.

## **Music Memorization**

All Varsity groups must have their music memorized. **Failure to have music memorized will incur a 100-point deduction from each individual judge's score. Directors will be given notice.** JV, Non-Varsity and Middle School groups have the option of using music stands. If you are going to use music stands, you will be responsible for providing them.

## **Uniforms/Trajes**

Groups are encouraged to wear a type of uniform, from simple black pants/skirts and white shirts to three-piece bordado will be acceptable. Sombreros are optional and no deduction of points will be given if they are not worn. Things such as neatness, clean and properly fitted attire, uniformity, attention to detail (botines, moños, sashes, hairpieces, earrings, cintos and botonadura, etc.) will be evaluated.

## **Conducting/Playing**

Directors cannot conduct or play in the mariachi ensemble.

# **JUDGING**

**AREA CONTEST** - The Board of Directors will select area judges.

**STATE CONTEST** - A list of judges will be sent to each member. Active members will submit their top 5 choices for judges. Names will be ranked in order by voting. The top five names from all active members voting will be considered for the judging assignments. Contracting of judges will begin by the first pick and will continue in order until five judges have agreed to judge. Judges who accept a judging engagement cannot have had prior contact with the mariachi they are judging including, but not limited to: providing clinics, private lessons, listening to recordings, watching video tapes, critiquing or any other form of instruction to the mariachi ensemble, individuals or directors. This would result in a conflict of interest.

## **Area Contest Judging Procedure**

A three (3) judge panel will be used for the Area contest. Each judge will give a numeric point value to each group on their performance. Those point values will then be change into a rating for each individual judge. After the points are converted into ratings, the ratings will then be averaged out into an overall rating. Each school will receive a rating based on their performance.

The ratings are as follows:

- Division I - Superior (800-1000) points
- Division II - Excellent (600-799) points
- Division III - Average (350-599) points
- Division IV - Below Average (0-349) points

At Area, division ratings will be used with the following criteria:

Rating I -----1 1 1, 1 1 2, 1 1 3, 1 1 4

Rating II ----1 2 2, 1 2 3, 1 2 4, 2 2 2, 2 2 3, 2 2 4

Rating III ---1 3 3, 1 3 4, 2 3 3, 2 3 4, 3 3 3, 3 3 4,

Rating IV ---1 4 4, 2 4 4, 3 4 4, 4 4 4,

## **Area Awards**

All middle school, JV and varsity groups that receive a Division I rating will receive a Division I plaque. (Varsity groups will receive their plaques at the state contest during the awards ceremony)

## **Advancing to the State Contest**

Every High School Varsity and JV Mariachi that makes a First Division at the TAME Area Mariachi Contest will automatically qualify for the TAME State Mariachi Contest.

## **State Contest Judging Procedure**

A five (5)-judge panel will be used at the TAME State Contest.

- Judges will be provided with a tally sheet to help them keep track of their own scores.
- Each individual judge must not have a tie on his or her scores.
- After a school has competed, each judge must submit their comment sheets with their point scores to the contest office so that it can be entered in the computer.
- Once a score is entered, the computer and spreadsheet program will calculate each score and convert to ranking.
- If there is a conductor's score violation, points will be deducted prior to ranking.

## **Scores and Ranking**

1. Each mariachi ensemble's high and low rankings will be dropped.
2. The mariachi with the lowest composite rank of the remaining three (3) ranks will have the highest ranking
  - Exception: If a majority of the remaining three (3) judges have a mariachi as first. In this event, that mariachi shall be declared as first. If a majority of the remaining three (3) judges have a mariachi ranked as second or better, that mariachi shall be declared as second.
3. All other mariachis will be ranked according to the remaining three (3) judges composite rankings. This paragraph super-cedes the possible situations described in Section A below:

## **Ties**

In case of a tie, the majority of ALL judges selecting one mariachi over the other will decide the winner. For example, if two mariachis are tied by virtue of each receiving identical sum ranks as in this example: ..

	<b>Mariachi A</b>	<b>Mariachi B</b>
<b>Music Judge A</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Music Judge B</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Music Judge C</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Music Judge D</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Music Judge E</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Score</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>

It should be noted the Judge A ranked the first mariachi above the second; Judge B ranked the first mariachi above second; Judge C ranked the second mariachi above the first; Judge D ranked the first mariachi above the second; and Judge E ranked the second mariachi above the first. This results in the following:

	<b>Mariachi A</b>	<b>Mariachi B</b>
<b>Music Judge A</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>Music Judge B</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>Music Judge C</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>Music Judge D</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>Music Judge E</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>1st</b>
<b>Score</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>

With the winner of the Judges' Preference, (Mariachi A) is being placed above (Mariachi B) since (Mariachi A) has three judges ranking them First.

Judges must initial the sheet where a tie was broken by judge's preference.

**There will be no ties at State Finals. Ties must be broken by judge's preference as noted above.**

A spreadsheet program will be used for tabulation scoring.

## **Verification Period**

This time is used for directors to verify that scores were computed correctly and that there were no errors in scores, rankings, etc. Directors will have a verification period (30 minutes max) to see scores before results are announced. All results will be final as agreed by judges and directors.

*\*\*\* This is not used to determine group eligibility, infractions etc. \*\*\**

If there was a violation of the rules that deems a group ineligible for an award prior to the verification period, the group placements will be adjusted. Violations that are found after the awards ceremony will result in the consequence being enforced at that time. Infractions must be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors ***before*** or ***after*** the verification period, not during.

## **State Awards**

Every mariachi ensemble that competes at the State Finals will receive:

- Participation trophy or plaque (earned at area)
- Trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th place in each conference
- 1st, 2nd & 3rd place recipients will receive student State Finalist Medals

## **Penalties/Forfeiture of Awards/Disqualifications**

In the event that a contestant or group participates in the competition, knowingly or unknowingly, breaking any of the rules in this handbook, the penalty shall be one of the following:

1. Penalties as defined in each section.
  - Not having an instrument in a particular section- loss of 200 caption points per each individual judge.
  - Time Penalty- groups going over the 10-minute performance time limit will incur a 100-point deduction from each individual judge's score.
  - Directors submitting incomplete/incorrect scores- will incur a 100-point deduction from each individual judge's score.
  - Failure to have music memorized- will incur a 100-point deduction from each individual judge's score.
2. Forfeiture of any awards and/or disqualification for all other rules that have no designated penalty.

## **QUESTIONS, DISPUTES, AND CONCERNS**

1. Email is the only **official** form of communication for the TAME Executive Board.
2. All questions, disputes or concerns **must be communicated** by the school's mariachi director to the TAME Executive Board through TAME email. (tameinformation@gmail.com)
3. The Board will deliberate to resolve any issues within 72 hours.
4. ALL **official** TAME communication will only be sent to and from **tameinformation@gmail.com**

***All rulings and resolutions made by the TAME Executive Board are FINAL.***

*This handbook has been voted and approved by the TAME membership July 2024.*