



International
Concert

Band Festival

Santo Domingo,
República Dominicana

202



CONTEST RULES

29-03

Abril

May

Sala Máximo
Avilés Blonda
Palacio de Bellas Artes

Chapter I

BASIC INFORMATION

1.1 PRESENTATION

FESTI-BAND publishes this regulation in order to publicize the bases, technical, musical and organizational parameters that will govern the National Festival of Children and Youth Music Bands.

1.2 RECIPIENTS

Government entities (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Houses of Culture), Schools, Lyceums, Universities, Music Schools, NGO's, Municipal, children's, youth, University and independent Music Bands, Juries and other interested persons or national and international guests. internationals to participate in this event.

1.3 PLACE AND DATE

The International Festival of Child and Juvenile Music Bands, it will be held from April 29 to May 3, 2026 in the Máximo Avilés Blonda Hall of the Palacio de Bellas Artes and alternate venues in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

1.4 ORGANIZATION

The festival is organized and coordinated by FESTI-BAND Foundation, Inc., with the support, endorsement, and support of public and private, national and international organizations.

Chapter II

EVENT CATEGORIES

2.1 RECORDER ENSEMBLES

- **School Category**
- **Special Category**

2.2 MUSIC BANDS

- School's Music Band Category
- Children's Music Band Category
- Youth's Music Band Category
- Youth's Music Band Category (International)
- Major's Music Band Category (Unified)
- Exhibition Music Band Category

2.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE CATEGORIES

RECORDER ENSEMBLES

- **School Category:** These are amateur recorder ensembles, attached to educational entities, official or private. Its instrumental format may vary according to the repertoire presented, only allowing the use of minor percussion and/or folk instruments as accompanists. These groups will have a maximum of 25 members.
- **Special Category:** These are amateur recorder ensembles, attached to specialized educational entities, high schools, academies and official or private houses of culture. Its instrumental format may vary, according to the repertoire presented, only allowing the use of minor percussion and/or folk instruments as accompanists. These groups will have a maximum of 30 members.

Note: In none of the categories will the use of piano, guitar or another melodic instrument be allowed as accompanist.

MUSIC BANDS

- **School Music Band:** Groups attached to educational centers that have band practice within the school curriculum, these must have less than 2 years of training and an average age of its members between 8 and 15 years, except for institutions of middle level studies. These groups will have a **maximum of 40 members**.
- **Children's Music Band Category:** Groups affiliated to educational centers, specialized or independent, with less than 3 years of experience and an average age of its members between 12 and 17 years. These groups will have a **maximum of 45 members**.
- **Youth Music Band Category:** Includes the participation of Music Bands attached to specialized educational entities, houses of culture, clubs, official or private University, made up mostly of young people between 18 and 25 years of age. These groups will have a **maximum of 55 members**.
- **Youth Music Band Category (International):** This category includes the participation of International Music Bands affiliated with educational centers, specialized educational entities, cultural clubs, public or private Universities, composed mostly of young people with an average age between 12 and 25 years old. Groups (Children's and/or youth) that their conductors consider having the technical and musical development appropriate for this category may participate. These groups will have a **maximum of 55 members**.
- **Major Music Band Category (Unified):** This category includes local and international groups that are formed as Youth Music Bands, Municipal Music Bands, Bands from Specialized Music Centers, as well as Music Bands that have already passed the previous categories, with a maximum age of 35. Groups of different formats and age ranges that their conductors consider having the technical and musical development appropriate for this category may participate in this category. These groups will have a **maximum of 60 members**.
- **Exhibition Music Band Category:** This category includes the participation of groups of various formats and technical levels as exhibition groups, with no age restrictions, participants and/or formats, the presentation will take place on the day and time indicated by the organization, with a maximum of forty (40) minutes of presentation time. These groups will have a **maximum of 60 members**.

2.4 PROFILE OF THE GROUPS

The categories accepted for the festival will be the following:

Recorder Ensembles	School (Wednesday, April 29, 2026)
	Special (Wednesday, April 29, 2026)

Local groups only.

School Music Band (local)	Thursday, April 30th, 2026
Children´s Music Band (Local)	Friday, May 1st, 2026
Major Music Band (Unified)	Friday, May 1st, 2026
Youth Music Band (Local)	Saturday, May 2nd, 2026
Youth Music Band (International)	Saturday, May 2nd, 2026
Exhibition Music Band	To Be Defined

National and international bands may participate in the number established below:

School Music Band (local)	Up to 10 groups
Children´s Music Band (Local)	Up to 8 groups
Youth Music Band (Local)	Up to 8 groups
Youth Music Band (International)	Up to 4 groups
Major Music Band (Unified)	Up to 8 groups
Exhibition Music Band	Up to 4 groups

For a category to be constituted, at least two groups must be present.

In the **Youth Music Band Category**, which is divided in National and International categories that must meet the required quotas for the opening of the category.

In the **Major Music Band category, national and international groups** are unified into a single category.

Chapter III

REGISTRATION OF GROUPS

3.1 INSCRIPTION

The registration procedure of national and international groups that meet the participation requirements may be carried out by means of a formal invitation issued by the Organizing Committee, respecting in any case the quotas indicated in the bases.

The deadline for submission of registrations will be from november 2 to february 25, 2026.

Registrations will be formalized by sending the registration form duly filled out and a communication addressed to the authorities of the Festi-Band Foundation, Inc., specifying the category for which they opt.

Each music band participating in the event must make a contribution as a registration fee that:

Includes

- Participation in the Festival
- Participation certificate
- Personalized and written commentary from the judges
- Talks, workshops, master classes, etc.
- Concerts on alternate stages
- Exhibition concerts
- Gala concert
- Closing Concert

For more information about the registration process, contact: 809-221-6459 / 849-654-5442.

3.2 DEADLINE

The deadline for registrations will close on February 25, 2026, term of which **no more registrations will be accepted.**

THE REGISTRATION FEE MUST BE DEPOSITED AT:

- **National Payments:** Account No. 162-002765-5 from Banco de Reservas, in favor of Fundación Festi-Band, Inc.
 - **International Payments:** Savings account No. 162-001427-3 at Banco de Reservas, IBAN DO48 BRRD 0000 0000 0016 2001 4273, Swift code: BRRDDOSD in favor of José Andrés Vidal Hernández, ID 001-1430321-7
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- Payment must be full, not partial.
 - The registration form (annexed to these regulations) must be duly filled out and sent electronically by email: fundacionfestiband@yahoo.es as soon as they confirm their participation. It must be filled out neatly and legibly.

3.3 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Attachments to the registration form, the delegations must deliver and/or send in a timely manner to the offices of the Foundation Festi-Band, Inc. the following documentation:

- Two (2) recent photos of the Association.
- List of the group detailing name, surname, instrument, date of birth and age).
- Historical overview of the grouping (maximum one page)
- Biographical review of the principal conductor. (Maximum one page)
- Copy of the two (2) free musical works to be interpreted in the contest with the precise information regarding the names of the composer and arranger, considering the difference between Arrangement and Adaptation.

Chapter IV

COMPETITION OBLIGATIONS

44.1 ORDER OF PERFORMANCE OF THE GROUPS

The order of performance of the participating groups will be decided by electronic draw, prior to the official contest and under the supervision of the Technical Council.

4.2 REPERTOIRE

In each of the categories, the participating groups must interpret three works:
Compulsory Work (selected and supplied by the event)

Free Work

Dominican work

(International groups may request these works from the organizers of the event)

4.3 DURATION OF THE PRESENTATION

Each group will have a time limit for their presentation, depending on the category contested.

Recorder Ensemble	Up to 10 minutes
School Music Band	Up to 15 minutes
Children's Music Band	Up to 20 minutes
Youth Music Band	Up to 25 minutes
Major Music Band	Up to 30 minutes
Exhibition Music Band	Up to 40 minutes

The excess or deficiency over the total time allowed may be penalized by the jury.

4.4 FACILITIES

The stage and the facilities for the development of the contest will be the same for all the groups participating in the event.

Said installation will be the exclusive responsibility of the Organizing Committee, not being allowed to introduce modifications and/or changes to the instrumental format.

4.5 INSTRUMENTS

The event will have at the disposal of the contest the instruments required for it, according to the repertoire provided by the groups. (Timpani (23,26,29,32), Snare Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Shock Cymbal, Concert Bass 32 & 72, Glockenspiel, Marimba, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Metallophone, Tubular Bell, Gong, Drum Set, Timbales, Conga Set, Bongos, Creole Tambora, Güira Creole, Marck Tree, Minor Percussion (triangle, maracas, claves, tambourine, cowbell, wood block, etc.), Keyboard (piano)

4.6 ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

Festi-Band will coordinate the calendar of concerts and alternative activities planned for the event with different institutions and related public spaces, broadcasting a detailed program of them.

All the logistics and requirements of each activity will be coordinated and covered by the Technical Council.

4.7 LOGISTICS

From the arrival of the groups to the event they will be at the disposal of the Organizing Committee, being a reason for Elimination of contempt of its instructions as the Governing Body of the Contest.

For each delegation a GUIDE or STAFF will be assigned who will be responsible for:

- Accompany, advise and coordinate the participation of the Band from the beginning to the end of it.
- Process and resolve concerns and inconveniences that may arise with your delegation.

Constant communication and collaboration with each of the assigned Guides is requested.

- The Organizing Committee is not responsible for loss of instruments or other valuables, nor for personal or group accidents that occur during the festival. It is necessary that each member carry their health insurance and their identity document.
- It will be the obligation and competence of the Bands, the custody and protection of all their assets during the development of the event; FESTI-BAND, Inc. will not respond partially or totally, for the elements that eventually get lost.
- The greatest composure of the members and delegates will be required in the acts and places where the contest takes place.

Chapter V

OBLIGATIONS OF GROUPINGS

Cover your internal transportation expenses, air ticket, medical insurance, food and lodging.

- Arrive on time and comply with the schedule established for the event.
- Assume and comply with the regulations during the celebration of the event.
- Participate in alternative events organized within the framework of the festival.

Note: The event will provide the list of linked hotels and tour operators and accredited for the event.

5.1 CLOTHING

The Bands must present themselves properly uniformed.

The personal presence of la Band will be taken into consideration by the members of the Qualifying Jury.

5.2 ALTERNATE ACTIVITIES

The groups registered in the event must participate in the alternative activities programmed within the framework of the festival. For which the event will cover the costs of internal transportation.

5.3 GALA CONCERT

Concert where the awards ceremony and recognition of the event will take place, with the participation of the Dominican Wind Orchestra "ODV", together with directors and invited national and international soloists.

Chapter VI

QUALIFYING JURY

6.1 CONFORMATION

The selection of the Qualifying Jury will oversee the Technical Council and will fall on teachers of recognized professional, academic and personal qualities. It will also be formed seeking a healthy balance in basic aspects such as: origin, specialty, and knowledge of the national and international music band's environment.

6.2 ATTRIBUTIONS

- Qualify with free will the presentations of the participating bands in the respective categories, based on the evaluation criteria indicated.
- Decide autonomously and concertedly the names of the bands that individually occupy the first, second and third place in their respective categories; best conductor, best instrumentalist and best arrangements of Dominican music, in the distinct categories established by this regulation.
- Declare prizes void if I consider it pertinent; grant symbolic distinctions if necessary and formulate recommendations to the participants.

6.3 OBLIGATIONS

- Keep a detailed qualification record (including scores and specific observations) of each of the groups, to finally deliver it to the FESTI-BAND Foundation, Inc., an entity that will later send it via email to each of the competing bands.
- Disqualify the contesting bands that will be verified in the development of the festival, having reinforced its structure with musicians from outside the respective groups (except for the reinforcement in the so-called deficit instruments).
- Declare ties in the categories that deserve it if the sum of the points registers a tie.
- In their own voice, make known the respective rulings at the festival award ceremony.
- Enforce the present Bases of the Festival, together with the Technical Council of the contest. The observations and/or doubts that arise will be clarified in a timely manner in the development of the Technical Congress of the Contest.
- Once the Festival is over, the jury will have the obligation to publicize the individual copy of the qualification sheets, including assigned scores and observations of the qualifying jury, to each of the bands if they so request.
- The jury's decision is **UNIQUE AND UNAPPEALABLE**.

Chapter VII

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORES

7.1 EVALUATION

The evaluation of the qualifying jury will consider technical and expressive aspects of each of the interpretations of the repertoire exhibited during the festival, awarding the following scores for each interpretation:

INSTRUMENTAL BALANCE	Up to 20 Points
RHYTHMIC AND METRIC ADJUSTMENT	Up to 20 Points
TUNING	Up to 20 Points
INTERPRETATION	Up to 20 Points
REPERTOIRE SELECTION	Up to 20 Points
TOTAL	100 Points

7.1.1 INSTRUMENT BALANCE

Ability of the conductor and the group to achieve an instrumental balance between the different sound groups in the performance of the works, considering both the instrumentation of the repertoire and the instrumental conformation of the band.

7.1.2 RHYTHMIC AND METRIC ADJUSTMENT

Precision in the rhythmic-metric treatment of the works by the instrumental group and stability according to the changes of tempo and agogic proposal in each theme.

7.1.3 TUNING

Proper tuning of each instrument and the ensemble in the different passages of the repertoire presented.

7.1.4 INTERPRETATION

Ability to express and give meaning to the distinctive features that reflect the intentions implicit in the work, embodied by the composer and the arranger, according to the aesthetic context.

7.1.5 REPERTOIRE

Adequate selection of the works according to the technical-interpretative level of the group, quality of the instrumentations or versions presented and eventual contribution of the chosen pieces to the band repertoire.

7.2 MOST OUTSTANDING DIRECTOR

The evaluation of the Qualifying Jury to award this prize will be based on the application of technical and pedagogical concepts as follows:

- **Technical aspect:** It refers to the technical elements of direction that allow the conductor to express the indications of the works and to be understood by the instrumentalist musicians. Rating up to 50 points.
- **Pedagogical aspect:** It refers to the teaching and learning process that the conductor develops with his group, evidenced through instrumental handling and adequate selection of repertoire, according to the level of each Band and its conformation. Rating up to 50 points.

7.3 MOST OUTSTANDING SOLOIST

The evaluation of the qualifying jury to award this prize will be based on the application of technical-musical concepts by the performer, sound, tuning, interpretation, clarity in execution and technical mastery of the work.

7.4 BEST ARRANGEMENT TO DOMINICAN MUSIC

The evaluation of the qualifying jury to grant this prize will be based on the application by the arranger of an appropriate technical-musical language, the use of traditional Dominican rhythms, instrumental balance, harmony, texture and formal structure.

Chapter VIII

FESTIVAL AWARDS

8.1 MASTERS OF CEREMONY

The contest will have two (2) masters of ceremony, who will be the sole authority on stage during the development of the event and only they or one of the members of the jury may publicly announce the ruling of the qualifying jury and the other determinations to which there is room.

8.2 AWARDS

- The awards of the different categories will take place in the same order in which they were presented during the celebration of the festival.
- Distinguished personalities, guests, managers and artists will be called to deliver the trophies and awards.
- The conductor of the Band must withdraw the award or recognition, or failing that, a representative.
- In each of the Categories, a First, Second and Third prize will be awarded, accompanied by a purchase certificate, as well as a diploma to each member of the group.

The event recognizes among all categories:

- A Most Outstanding Conductor (Recorder Ensemble)
- A Most Outstanding Conductor (Music Band)
- Best Musical Arrangement of the Dominican Work (Recorder)
- Best Musical Arrangement of the Dominican Work (Music Band)
- Most Outstanding Soloist

Chapter XI

TECHNICAL DIRECTION OF THE COMPETITION

9.1 THE TECHNICAL COUNCIL

The technical direction of the contest will be led by the FESTI-BAND Technical Council, as the highest governing body, guarantor and observer of the event, for the correct application of the regulations and technical bases of the festival.

- One (1) delegate of the Ministry of State for Culture.
- Two (2) delegates from FESTI-BAND, Inc.

The main purpose of the Technical Council is that starting from the experiences of previous Festivals and in knowledge of the national music band environment, the paths to follow are projected with a view to improving, perfecting and expanding the technical bases of the Contest, for its correct application in the development of the contest.

9.2 THE TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

The Technical Congress is the stage prior to the start of the festival, to which delegates, teachers of the Qualifying Jury, masters of ceremony, members of the Technical Council, FESTI-BAND directors, and civil authorities must attend. It is a space for dialogue, with the aim of discussing with the main actors of the festival about the information received.

The Technical Congress will be held at the directors' meeting prior to the festival, starting at 8:00 am, in the selected facilities, it will be moderated and directed by the members of the Technical Council and will have the following objectives:

- Clarify all the concerns raised about the development of the contest.
- Facilitate the personal presentation of the qualifying Juries, Band Conductors, Delegates, Directives, Authorities and other personalities that are related to the festival.
- Verify the order of presentation of the Bands.
- Without prejudice to violating these regulations and as already mentioned, the Technical Congress is a space to listen to concerns and proposals aimed at improving the festival and the band movement in general, with the aim of its implementation in future events.

Chapter X

PROHIBITIONS AND SANCTIONS

- The registration of the instrumentalists must be done according to the real age of each one of them, when the Organization verifies the alteration of any identity document or falsehood in the age data, the Band will be requested to immediately withdraw from the festival, being automatically disqualified.
- Each Band must register (1) Conductor, not allowing the performance of more than one Conductor on stage.
- The On-Stage Conductor is only as such and the execution of any instrument is not allowed. In the event of this situation, the score received by the Band in this presentation will be zero (0) points.
- In case of verified impersonation of a person or professional quality by any of the members, said band will be immediately disqualified. The Conductor, by virtue of good faith, will always answer for the veracity of the names, data and documents of the members.
- With the aim of enforcing the programming, maintaining its organization, order and control, rigorous compliance with the schedule assigned to each group is requested (competitive rounds, concert, parade, etc.), when a Band is called to stage for its presentation and has not arrived at this place, the Organization will ask the Jury to deduct five (5) points for its tardiness.
- The participating Bands must provide the festival managers with a copy of the corresponding scores to interpret, (SCORE). Without the fulfillment of this requirement, the presentation on stage will not be allowed.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The festival is open to the public.
- It is aimed at students and professionals from all over the country who are members of a Music Band or Recorder Ensemble.
- The qualifying jury will be made up of prominent national and international professionals, headed by an (impartial) president.
- The order of participation of the groups will be carried out by electronic draw 10 days before the event.
- Clapping is allowed during the heats.
- Each Band must present three (3) works in their presentation:
- Compulsory Work, Free Work and Dominican Work.
- If any member of the jury is related or related to a Music Band, they must declare such a link and refrain from judging the participation of said Band.
- The directors and members of the Music Bands must not contact the members of the jury or the recording secretary at any time during the event.
- The jury may interrupt the participation of a group at any given time for reasons beyond our control that disturb or jeopardize the result of its presentation.
- A non-voting secretary will verify the scores of each cluster.
- Three prizes will be awarded in each category, in the event of a tie the jury will determine the winner by voting.
- The jury may award honorable mentions or leave a prize void if it deems it necessary.
- All participating groups or a representative must be present at the Gala Concert at the award ceremony.
- The prizes will be announced only at the Gala Concert.

Management Team

Lic. José Andrés Vidal Hernández
Managing Conductor

Dr. John Alden Stanley
Thomas Verrier
Enrique Parreño
Art conductor

Sra. Camelia Pérez de Vidal
Public Relations and Marketing

Claribel Pérez
Secretary

Arlene Lombas
Treasurer

Annia Polanco
Assistant

