



Wychavon Festival of Brass

The Essential Guide to the Wychavon Contest and Rules!

Contest Date: Saturday 1st November 2025

The 2025 Contest takes place on: Saturday 1st November 2025

Where: The De Montfort School (TDMS), Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 1DQ

Entries close: Friday 5th September 2025 – *unless we must close early due to reaching capacity. See full rules!*

How to enter:

On-line entry only from Monday 1st January 2025. See website www.festivalofbrass.co.uk for details.

What about payment?

By BACs. on entry.

Transfer details: Wychavon Festival of Brass Account No: 50641668 Sort Code: 30-80-34

How do you know you've got a spot?

You'll get an automatic acknowledgement of your entry form, but your actual spot is only confirmed once you have paid your entry fee. Speculative entries are discouraged. You don't get your money back if you withdraw (there is an exception for bands also entering a higher section, see below).

The Draw:

Takes place: within ten days of close of entries (on Sunday 14th September 2025 though may be sooner if we close early). We'll let you know soon after that!

How many Sections?

Five

Who can compete?

All bands registered with the relevant UK registry may enter at their appropriate level.

Overseas bands, Training Bands, Youth Bands and Unregistered Bands:

We welcome you at Wychavon! Please get in touch with the Contest Secretary before entering as we have different regulations that govern your entry!

Email: WFB Contest Secretary: contest@festivalofbrass.co.uk

Entering a higher section as well as your own section?

Yes, you can - but only if there is space for you after the close of entries. Places are offered in higher sections in chronological order of the receipt of entry fees - first come first served!

Enter and pay your entry fee at the same time as you enter your usual section – it will be refunded after the contest if there is no space for your band!

How many players?

25 brass players (in the usual UK brass band line up) plus a max of four percussion.

Oh! and you might want to bring your Conductor too! Hence 30 in all (and wrist bands are provided for all the stage party including your MD).

In addition:

If you can use ONE non-playing Compere and/or AV Expert, and can give them one of the 30 tickets provided or, if you are using all of these for your players and MD, you will need to buy one.

Non-playing chaperones:

Same rules as above apply here.

What about the registration of players?

All your regular and registered borrowed players must hold valid registration cards.

**For the 2025 contest, last date for transfer of players is: Friday 17th October 2025
To be effective from Friday 24th October 2025 and new registrations need to be made by:**

Friday 24th October 2025 Don't leave it to the last minute –

We clash with several other competitions around that time so the registry gets very busy dealing with the backlog. These dates are early to ensure you get your players sorted in good time!

How many borrowed/unregistered players can a band use?

Up to four borrowed players from your section or a lower section. (Fourth Section/unregistered bands may borrow two of the four from the Third Section!) and a band can use up to two unregistered players. A total of six players in all.

What can you play?

A twenty-minute programme to include a stand up brass or percussion solo item.

Your soloist must be a regular, registered member of your band!

Taking a shot at the Entertainment prize?

At WFB we have seen it all - jugglers, polar bears, Irish dancers, tight rope walkers - well maybe not tight rope walkers - but remember, your entertainment must come from within the players on stage.

Why? Well, we had to turn away the Marching Band of Massachusetts once, not to mention the circus elephants..... but we do accept original animated films or videos--- anything that can be projected onto the screens via a PC PowerPoint presentation or laptop that you provide. So, if you want marching bands, elephants or anything else, not easily accomplished by your on-stage players that's how to do it!

Important:

Do not use commercially made films or stills from them. This will infringe copyright regulations and puts you and us at severe financial risk. Any band found using such material will face automatic disqualification.

What about timings?

Timing starts when you start to play and stops at the last note and includes everything in between. Points are deducted at the rate of one per minute if you overrun.

Top Tip: *Do your talking before you play!*

Setting up:

Please note that you have a thirty-minute time slot, you can only access the performance area within that time. So, Percussionists please note!

Why? Because we publish a timetable and need to stick to it. Your fans may travel a long way to see you and, if the timetable is running ahead, they will miss you! In addition, other bands get very upset if you appear to have longer to set up than they do.

If you exceed the thirty-minute time slot you will lose points!

What about percussion?

We supply four halls with percussion at great expense. Please accept that there will be minor differences between the performance halls, we cannot supply everything you may need.

However, please feel free to add to what we provide. Let us know if there is anything bulky, we may need to make special provision for access.

What about prizes?

Lots of prizes for lots of talent on show!

Money prizes are paid within a week of the contest by bank transfer. Cups and trophies (some of which are returnable so please look after them!) are awarded at the end of each section.

What about scores?

Originals or permitted copies* must be sent to a WFB team member before the competition. The 2025 date for the receipt of scores (and other info) is: Friday 24th October 2025

Why do we do this?

Because, with about sixty bands turning up, it is impossible to organise scores on the day.

Scores are returned to you with your adjudication after the results are announced.

Any copies* left behind are destroyed for legal reasons.

Adjudicators:

We do our best to get the best! We want to encourage new adjudicators and women adjudicators too! Please remember, we have no control over what adjudicators think or say. Quite right too! If you feel disappointed this year, don't worry! It will be someone new in the hot seat next year.

Safeguarding and BOPA:

WFB will have a BOPA in place to cover all your 16 and under players. But you must still provide the correct supervision for them throughout the day and when performing. This means either players with **enhanced** DBS checks or playing parents (as long as they don't sit next to them!) or fully qualified chaperones. Please see website for full info on this tricky topic.

Providing WFB with information:

We use proformas. Why? To help you send us the information we need to collect, we need the same information from every band by the same dates to organise our contest effectively.

These will be sent to you via email when required.

And lastly:

We want you to enjoy coming to our competition and we know our rules may seem a bit complex and stringent--- but they have evolved over the years partly in response to some quite difficult situations that have arisen, and which had to be dealt with. Also, the rules are there to ensure that all bands experience a level playing field as far as possible when they perform.

Please note: *This simple summary covers the main points – but it is not a substitute for reading the full set of Contest Rules which you can find on our website, www.festivalofbrass.co.uk*

The WFB team will refer to the full set of rules to aid them in resolving any difficulties that may arise at any point leading up to, during or after the contest. The WFB team reserve the right to penalise or disqualify any band which contravenes the rules or conducts itself in a manner that brings our Festival and Contest into disrepute.

Still confused?

Then get in touch! Email the WFB Contest Secretary: contest@festivalofbrass.co.uk

The full rules and lots of other information can be found here: www.festivalofbrass.co.uk

**WFB will assume that you have sought permission from publishers to copy scores for competition use. Such copies will be returned to you or, if uncollected, destroyed*