

The following rules apply to all MSMTA student activities. Participating teachers, students and parents must be familiar with and abide by these rules, as well as the rules that apply to the specific event.

Rules Governing All MSMTA Events

The following rules apply to all MSMTA events. Thoughtful adherence will not only ease the burden of the hard working event chairs, but will preclude any misunderstanding and/or the disappointment of having students disqualified from participation.

A student is not considered enrolled in an event unless the application is complete, legible and on time. Otherwise, application will be returned and deadlines will still be strictly enforced.

Specific rules that are applicable to individual events can be found under the event title in this handbook. All MSMTA events are open to the public with the exception of the High School Piano Examination.

• General

1. Except in the case of the High School Piano Examinations, presenting teachers must be members in good standing of both MTNA and MSMTA at the time of the event deadline.
2. Students must have studied with the presenting teacher for at least six of the last nine months preceding the event. (In cases of illness, sabbatical, or former teacher's move out of the area, an exception will be made if the new teacher presents authorization from the previous teacher.)
3. To avoid any possible perception of unfairness, the following rules apply to all competitive events:
 - a) Teachers may not sit with, nor identify in any way with, their students in the presence of judges.
 - b) Students, parents and teachers must not engage the judge in conversation until all decisions have been announced.
 - c) Only the chair(s) may know the identity of the teachers and their respective students in any competitive event. No written record of these names may be publicly displayed or open to sight at any time before or during a competition. Paperwork given to judges must not contain student's or teacher's name, and monitors, will refer to competitors only by their program number.
 - d) The chair(s), or others involved in registering students, will not serve as a judge in any event in the competition.
 - e) No judge may critique a competitive recital in which his own students are participants.
 - f) The judge(s) shall make decisions with no input from monitors' or others in the audience.
4. It is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that students and parents are apprised of all the rules and decorum applicable to the event. Matters such as proper performance attire, stage presence, and recital etiquette should be discussed prior to participation.
5. Teachers entering students in any event must agree to be available to assist with the event, if called on by the chair. Failure to do so may result in the disqualification of the student entries.
6. The teacher should advise parents that no video equipment with artificial light, or use of cameras with flash apparatus is permitted during a performance. No taping (audio or video) or photographing of other performers is permitted without specific permission of a parent or teacher.

7. All participants in MSMTA judged events, and their parents, should be advised by the teacher prior to participation that **THE DECISION OF THE JUDGE(S) IS FINAL, AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO QUESTION OR PROTEST.**
8. It will be the responsibility of the monitor in each competitive and noncompetitive event to ensure that judges have given a rating in the space provided on each critique.

- **Repertoire**

1. In competitive events, no repertoire changes may be made after the entry deadline. Students who fail to perform the submitted repertoire will be disqualified.
2. The presentation of photocopied music without written permission from the publisher will also disqualify a student.
3. Students must bring one original score of each submitted work to be presented to judge(s).
4. In all solo piano events, works must be performed from memory, and no simplified arrangements of standard repertoire are permitted.

- **Application Procedures**

1. Application forms and checks must be filled out by the MSMTA teacher only.
2. Teachers should photocopy the needed application forms provided in this handbook, or print out application forms available on the MSMTA Web site. *No substitute forms will be accepted.*
3. All information must be typed, or printed legibly, in ink by the MSMTA teacher (Note: the form on the web may be filled out electronically.)
4. The forms must be clean, free of strike-out or other distractions which may result in the entry of incorrect information on the event programs.
5. Specific information including key, opus number, and movement of presented works must be clearly noted on the form when it is applicable.
6. Teachers should carefully review each application to ensure that all requested information has been accurately provided in the indicated places. (Note: At this point, many teachers photocopy the completed application forms for their own files to ensure no mix-ups on submitted repertoire, etc.)
7. *One check* from the presenting MSMTA member only, covering all student entries, and attached to the applications, is to be mailed to the chair indicated on the entry form. No checks from parents will be accepted.
8. Entries postmarked after the deadline will not be accepted.
9. No refund of entry fees is available should a student fail to participate in an event for any reason.

