

Texas Association of Mariachi Educators

Area Level Mariachi Contest

Rules and Procedures

General Information:

1. All Area-Level Contests will be video recorded and submitted online for review by a panel of 3 adjudicators selected by the TAME State Board.
2. Every High School Varsity Mariachi that makes a First Division at the TAME Area Mariachi Contest will automatically qualify for the TAME State Mariachi Contest. In the event that there are no mariachi ensembles that earn a First Division in their classification at the Area Contest, the judges will determine which two-mariachi ensembles will represent their Area within their classification at the TAME State Mariachi Contest. The Director of Operations shall determine selection procedures and finances, with adherence given to the rules, procedures, and guidelines within this document. Classification for mariachi ensembles will be as assigned by UIL.
3. All Area-Level entries will be submitted online for the 2024-2025 academic year.
4. Entry Fees:
 - a. Varsity Mariachi-Area Contest Fee \$250.00
 - b. JV/Non-Varsity Mariachi-Area Contest Fee \$200.00
5. To register for the TAME Area Mariachi Contest
 - a. An Entry Fee check made out to TAME
 - b. Area Entry on Google Form
 - c. Student certification Form 1 signed and dated
 - d. Administrator Letter of support must be uploaded in the registration google form.
 - e. TAME AREA registration forms and payment must be hand delivered to a TAME BOARD member or postmarked by Feb. 3rd 2025 to:

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Recording Guidelines:

1. A single video will be uploaded to TAME through the online application process.
2. All video recordings must be from live performances recorded between the dates of December 1, 2024 - February 3, 2025
3. Director will choose and submit video recording to be adjudicated.
4. Video recording must be from one performance with no editing or pausing in-between songs.
5. Video recording can be from any live performance. (Concert, contest, public performance, etc.)
6. A sound system is not a requirement to be used during video recording. (If sound system is utilized, no added effects/reverb should be used.)
7. Recording cannot be edited in any way. (Audio synced to video, studio recording to video, multiple clips edited into one file, etc.)
8. Any video/audio editing can be cause for disqualification for the TAME Area contest.
9. All video submissions must contain all students in one static shot of the performance. (NO panning, zooming, split shots, etc.)
10. Judges will adjudicate the performance based on video that is submitted. (Audio quality and video quality must be high quality to ensure better adjudication.)

General TAME Area Competition Rules:

1. Mariachi Head Directors and Assistant Directors must be members of TAME in order for their mariachi ensemble 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 members of TAME.
2. Instrumentation: Mariachi ensembles shall consist of a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 24 members.
3. A standard mariachi ensemble should consist of at least:
 - a. 1 violin
 - b. 1 trumpet
 - c. 1 guitarrón
 - d. 1 armonía
4. **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 instrumentals will lose the vocal section score.
 - a. *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.*
 - b. 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.
 - c. Non-Varsity/JV 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.
5. Performer Requirements
 - a. All performers must play an instrument on stage (no solo singers)
 - b. 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.
6. Student Eligibility
 - a. High School students are eligible to participate in competition.
 - b. The No Pass/No Play UIL eligibility rule will apply to all TAME functions.
 - c. 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)
 - d. 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 Guitarrón. Vihuela/Guitar/Guitarra de Golpe are considered the same (armonia).
 - e. Students competing in more than one group cannot be a solo singer in both groups; it is one or the other.

- f. Only registered students can participate in the competition. 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. Students that are ineligible at the time of the area video recording must be stricken from the Form 1 to show ineligibility from the Area-Level contest. A new, updated, and signed Form 1 must be submitted at the State-Level Contest.
 - g. *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 be in high school. (2A, 3A, 4A = 2 for every 10 and 5A, 6A = 1 for every 10)
 - h. ***If a seventh or eighth grade student performs with a high school group, they cannot also perform with a JH/MS group.
7. Group Eligibility
- a. A mariachi can participate in Finals with fewer students that participated in Area, but if more compete in finals, their name must appear on the original Area Entry Form 1. *(The designated form with principal's signature needs to be submitted with the entry check by the entry deadline)*

Time Limitation:

1. The required time limitation at the TAME Area and State competition for ALL ensembles will be a maximum of 10 minutes with no minimum.
2. Time begins when the first note is played and stops when the last note is played.
3. At the Area Contest, failure to comply with these time limitations could result in the lowering of the overall rating by the TAME executive board (or proxy). For example an overall 1st Division would be lowered to a 2nd Division.
4. At the TAME State Contest, if a mariachi ensemble 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.

Music Selection Requirements:

1. 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.
 - a. 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.
2. 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:

1. 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. This includes musical selections/arrangements; song titles (related to composer, lyrics, and primary melodic), 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
2014 - 2015	2019 - 2020
2015 – 2016	2020 - 2021
2016 – 2017	2021 -2022

Groups that do not follow this rule will be disqualified

Amendment Forms:

1. Directors will have the opportunity to change their musical selections after the original registration deadline by filling out an amendment form 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 is 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.
2. 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:

1. If a mariachi ensemble advances 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 be an automatic disqualification. The Son or a song in the style of a Son Jalisciense cannot be the “Tema.”

Music Scores:

1. 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 is instructed not to permit performance to begin until the scores have been received.
2. The score needs to include:
 - a. Vocal parts written out and with words under each note
 - b. All instruments used need to be 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: (You 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 may be notated outside the staff.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Scores need to be published or computer generated. **No handwritten scores will be accepted.**

Score Submission:

1. Area Contest: If a director flagrantly submits an incorrect score, the group will be penalized 25 points off their lowest judge's score.
2. All music scores will be submitted to a Google drive for judge's to use.

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 changed 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 - 1 1 5
- Rating II ----1 2 2 - 1 2 3 - 1 2 4 - 1 2 5 - 2 2 2 - 2 2 3 - 2 2 4 - 2 2 5
- Rating III ---1 3 3 - 1 3 4 - 1 3 5 - 2 3 3 - 2 3 4 - 2 3 5 - 3 3 3 - 3 3 4 - 3 3 5
- Rating IV ---1 4 4 - 1 4 5 - 2 4 4 - 2 4 5 - 3 4 4 - 3 4 5 - 4 4 4 - 4 4 5

Area Awards:

All JV and Varsity groups that receive a Division I rating will receive a Division I plaque. (All 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. In the event that no ensembles earn a First Division in their classification at the Area Contest, the judges will determine which one mariachi will represent their Area within their classification at the TAME State Mariachi Contest. If only one group advances to state in a particular division from the entire state, that group will move up to the next division (ex. 2A will move up to 3A)