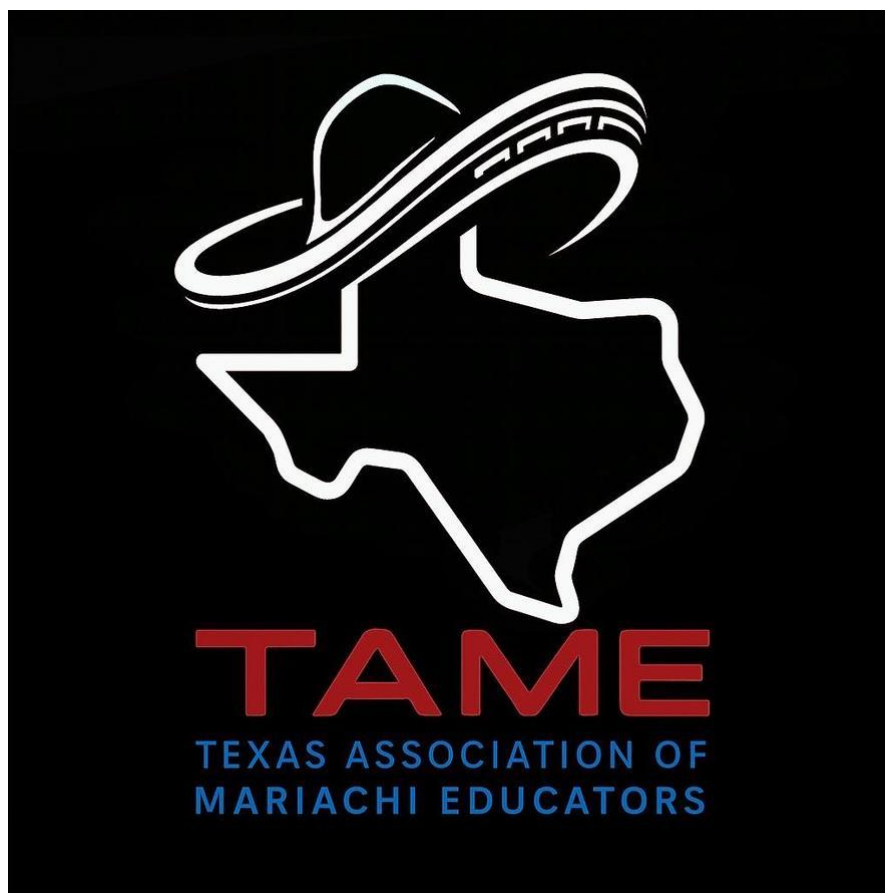


Texas Association of Mariachi Educators



July 2025
HANDBOOK

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(I) MEMBERSHIP

TAME Membership year is from August 1st to July 31st 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 1st of the corresponding membership year. After that date, director membership dues increase to \$75.00. (This deadline is subject to change to a later date at board discretion.)

Director/Consultant/Tutor Membership

Mariachi Directors and Assistant Directors must be Active TAME members in order for their mariachis 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.

(II) REHEARSALS

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

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.

The 8hr rule will be adjusted to allow one additional hour of rehearsal per non-school day if there are less than five school days in a week. (1 extra hour every week that school loses a day)

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.

Schools that do not meet during the day can add an extra 5 hours making a total of 13 hours per calendar week.

The director of the Mariachi needs to maintain a reasonable and proper balance of pre-school and out-of-school rehearsal schedules.

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***

(III) ENTRY FEES AND REGISTRATION

(A) Entry Fees:

1. Area Contest:
 - Varsity Mariachi-Area Contest Fee \$300.00
 - JV/Non-Varsity-Area Contest Fee \$250.00
 - MS/JH Mariachi-Area Contest Fee \$300.00 (if applicable)
2. State Contest:
 - Varsity Mariachi-State Contest Fee \$400.00
 - JV/Non-Varsity-State Contest Fee \$300

(B) 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*)

(C) Entry Deadline and Submissions:

AREA Entry Deadline: (Date set by the board on a yearly basis) STATE Entry Deadline: (Date set by the board on a yearly basis)

Late Entry Deadline: (Date set by the board on a yearly basis)

Late Fee: \$200 Varsity/\$150 JV Groups (in addition to the original fee.)

No groups will be allowed to register after the set date.

**Group registration forms will be completed online at
www.tamemariachi.com**

Note: Both Area and State competitions require the submission of designated registration forms and payment of associated entry fees by the posted deadlines. Failure to meet these requirements may result in disqualification.

Failure to meet the deadline of payments or forms will result in a fee of 25% of the total fee (Entry fee + Late Fee.)

(D) Payments (Entry Fees Submission)

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

***Current TAME Dir. of Operations or mailed to 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. ACH transfers and online payments will also be accepted.

****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 or visit the website at www.Tameinformation.com***

(IV) 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.

(A) 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 guitarron, 1 armonia)

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 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 critique instrumentation only 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. ****

(B) TAME Audio and Video Guidelines

TAME Standard-Sound Requirements

1. *Microphone Setup- Maximum 28 microphones*
 - *4- Front wireless microphones w/grip stands (Vocals)*
 - *8- Violin mics, boom stands*
 - *4- Trumpet mics*
 - *1- Harp mic: 1 DI Box and Mic, boom stand*
 - *2- Guitarron mics*
 - *5- Armonia mics, if not used they can be moved or muted*
 - *4- Extra wireless mics (armonia/vocals)*
2. *Monitor Setup- 8 monitos*
 - *3 Front Monitors*
 - *2 Violin Monitors*
 - *1 Trumpet Monitor*
 - *2 Armonia Monitors*

In the event of a severe issue with the sound system (multiple microphone failure, DI box issues, etc) or complete system failure, a board member/contest official and the director of the affected mariachi ensemble will discuss and decide whether or not they would like to give the students another opportunity to perform in a designated slot set up for the unprecedented circumstance. This is to ensure that our contests are a positive experience for each and every student, and that all ensembles are given the opportunity to showcase their skill and talent to the adjudicators. (Groups affected by severe issues will be given another opportunity to play at the end of the category to give them time to gather themselves)

(C) Performer Requirements

1. All performers must play an instrument on stage (no solo singers)
2. An instrument may not be used merely as a prop to simulate a performance or to circumvent the vocalist/instrumentalist requirement by providing minimal musical contribution.

Students are expected to contribute fully to the ensemble throughout each piece. They may not play a single measure and then step away to sing. Active and continuous participation as a musician within the group is required to maintain the integrity and cohesion of the ensemble.

(D) 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 may ONLY compete with multiple groups (ex. JV or Varsity) on different instrument families. Mariachi families are categorized as follows:
 - Strings - Violin
 - Brass - Trumpet
 - Armonia - Harp, Guitarron, Vihuela, Guitarra de Golpe, and Nylon Guitar
5. Students competing in more than one group cannot be a solo singer in both groups, it is one or the other. Students may ONLY be featured as a singer in ONE group, but may continue to participate in 'full group coros' in both groups. Featured as a singer includes solos, duets, trios...etc
6. Only registered students can participate in the competition.

7. Programs with large class membership that hold auditions for their competing groups must list all potential competitors on the Area Registration Form.
8. Therefore, a student may ONLY participate at the State Finals if they become eligible and were listed on the original Area Registration Form.
9. Exception to the high school rule: Middle School/Junior High students may compete in the mariachi ensemble provided that the majority of the ensemble members are in high school.

****If a Middle School/Junior High student competes with a high school group, they cannot also compete with a JH/MS group. A MS/JH student may showcase with a MS/JH group and compete with a HS JV or Varsity group.*

(E) Group Eligibility

A mariachi can participate in Finals with fewer students than participated in Area. However, if additional students are included at Finals, their 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)*

(V) PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

(A) 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/soundcheck, 1 min. announcement, 10 min. performance, 1 min. exit.
- Time begins when the first note is played and stops when the last note is played.

(B) 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.

(C) Order of Performance

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

(D) 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)

(E) 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 YRS)		MIDDLE SCHOOL (SAMPLE SCHOOL YRS)	
2022-2023	2026-2027	2022-2023	2025-2026
2023-2024	2027-2028	2023-2024	2026-2027
2024-2025	2028-2029	2024-2025	2027-2028
2025-2026	2029-2030	2025-2026	2028-2029

(F) Music Selection Amendments

Groups that do not follow this rule will be disqualified

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 assigned board member or contest office the day of the contest. Group song selections may or may not be checked prior to a group's performance. If 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

(G) State Finals Music Selection

If mariachis advance to 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."

(H) 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 is instructed not to permit performance to begin until the scores have been received. The score needs to include:

1. Vocal parts written out and with words under each note
2. 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).

(I) Music Score Format

1. The score format should be enlarged enough so that there is no straining of eyes.
2. Each page should include a minimum of two systems, with each system containing approximately 8 to 12 measures. Adjustments are acceptable as long as the music is computer-generated and remains easy to read.
3. Music should be notated as performed. If playing a "popurri," music should be notated as performed including transitions and modulations.

(J) Scoring Guide (Formatting may vary slightly, provided the music is computer-generated and clearly legible.)

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 ensure that the required information is included—even if presented in a different layout. Otherwise, you will need to transcribe it using a notation program as specified.

A condensed score is acceptable, with violins combined on one stave and trumpets on another. Individual instrument parts will not be accepted, as they do not constitute a full score. All scores must be either published or computer-generated.

No handwritten scores will be accepted.

(K) Score Submission

If a director knowingly submits an incorrect or misleading score, the following will be the consequences:

- 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. Directors will be given notice during the verification period.

(L) Conferences

Middle School and Varsity Mariachis 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.

(M) Combined/District Groups

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

(N) 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.

(O) 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 in 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.

(P) Conducting/Playing

Directors cannot conduct or play in the mariachi.

(VI) JUDGING

(A) Area Contest - The Board of Directors will select area judges.

A list of judges will be sent to ALL active members. Active members will vote for their top 3. Names will be ranked in order by number of votes. Qualifying judges must be available prior to the event for briefing purposes to be considered for judging assignments. The top three judges based on votes and availability will be selected for the judging assignments. 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, individuals or directors. This would result in a conflict of interest.

(B) 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 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, 1 2 5, 2 2 2, 2 2 3, 2 2 4

Rating III - - - - 1 3 3, 1 3 4, 1 3 5, 2 3 3, 2 3 4, 2 3 4, 3 3 3, 3 3 4

Rating IV - - - - 1 4 4, 1 4 5, 2 4 4, 2 4 5, 3 4 4, 3 4 5, 4 4 4

(C) 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)

(D) 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.

****Area judges CANNOT qualify to be a State judge within the same school year.**

(E) State Contest Judging Procedure

A list of judges will be sent to ALL active members. Active members will vote for their top 5 judges. Names will be ranked in order by number of votes. Qualifying judges must be available a day prior to the event for traveling and timing purposes to be considered for judging assignments. The top five judges based on votes and availability will be selected for the judging assignments. 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, individuals or directors. This would result in a conflict of interest.

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 their 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 Excel program will calculate each score and convert to ranking.
- If there is a conductor's score violation, points will be deducted prior to ranking.

(F) Scores and Ranking

1. Each mariachi ensemble will receive a total of five unmodified scores. The highest and lowest scores received will be removed and not taken into account for the ranking. The remaining three (3) scores will be used for the initial ranking.
2. The mariachi with the lowest composite rank of the remaining three (3) ranks will place the highest.
3. All other mariachis ensembles will be ranked according to the remaining ~~three~~ judges' composite ranks.

(G) Ties

In case of a tie, the majority of ALL FIVE (5) judges selecting one mariachi over the other will decide the winner. If two mariachis are tied by virtue of each receiving identical composite ranks, it will be handled as follows:

It should be noted:

	Mariachi A	Mariachi B
Music Judge A	1	2
Music Judge B	2	4
Music Judge C	5	2
Music Judge D	3	5
Music Judge E	7	4
Composite Rank	10	10

- Judge A ranked Mariachi A above Mariachi B,
- Judge B ranked Mariachi A above Mariachi B,
- Judge C ranked Mariachi B above Mariachi A,
- Judge D ranked Mariachi A above Mariachi B, and
- Judge E ranked Mariachi B above Mariachi A.

This results in the following:

	Mariachi A	Mariachi B
Music Judge A	1st	2nd
Music Judge B	1st	2nd
Music Judge C	2nd	1st
Music Judge D	1st	2nd
Music Judge E	2nd	1st
Composite Rank	1st	2nd

With the winner of the Judges' Preference, {Mariachi A} is being placed above {Mariachi B} because {Mariachi A} has three judges ranking them First. Judges must initial the sheet where a tie was broken by judges' preference. **There will be no ties at State Finals. Ties must be broken by judges' preference as noted above.** A spreadsheet software will be used for tabulation scoring.

(H) Verification Period - When does this happen or when/how are directors notified?

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 awards, will result in the consequence being enforced at that time. Infractions need to be brought up to the attention of the Board of Directors *before or after* the verification period, not during.

(I) State Awards

Every mariachi 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

(J) Penalties/Forfeit 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 10 point deduction from each individual judge's score.

- Director's 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.

(VII) 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 the 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 2025.