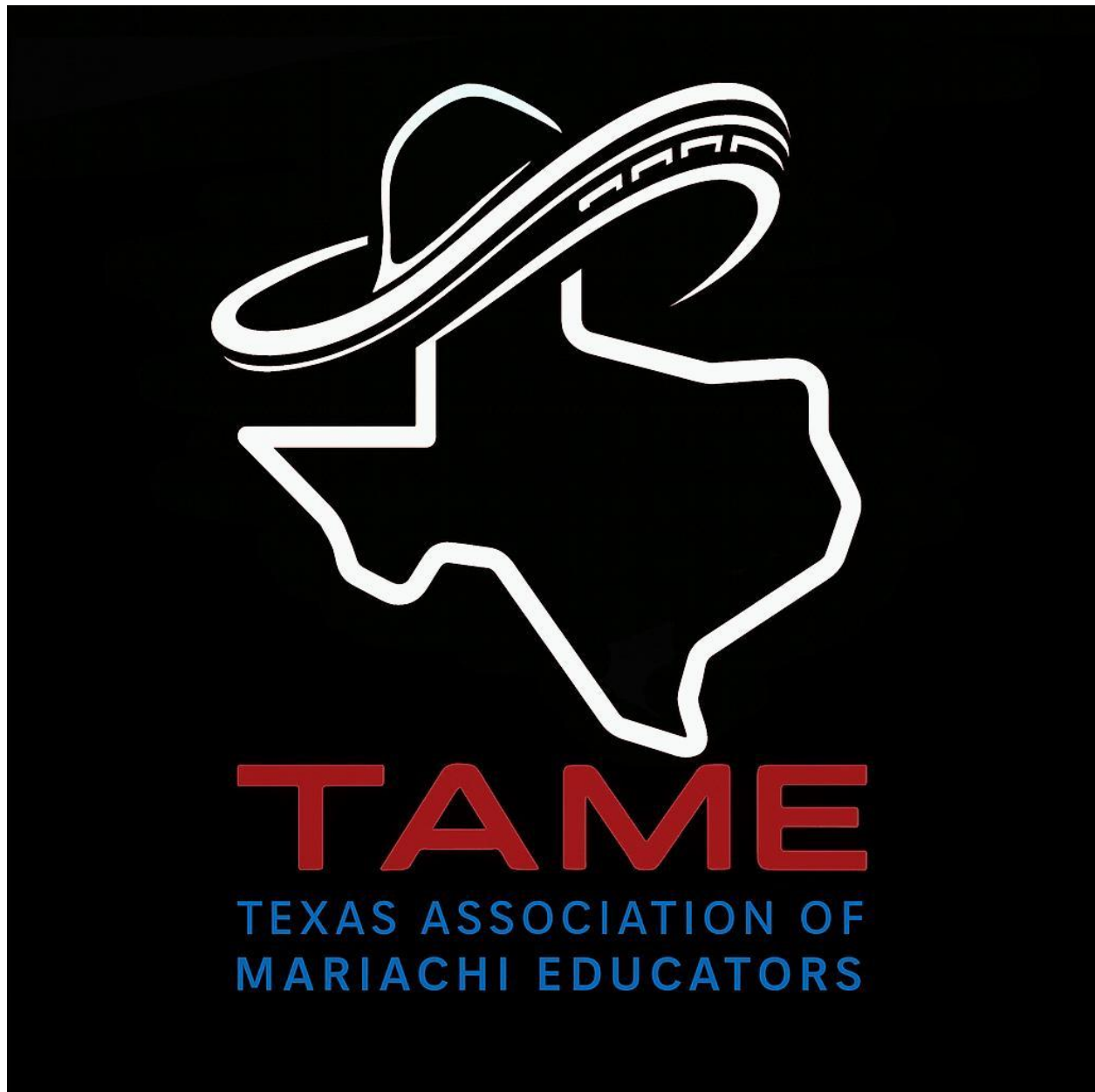




2026-2027

**TAME Middle School Regional
Contest Guidelines**

TAME Middle School Mariachi Division Rules & Guidelines

Table of Contents

1. Purpose
2. Eligibility Requirements
 - 2.1 Program Eligibility
 - 2.2 Student Eligibility
 - 2.3 Director Certification
 - 2.4 Program Composition & School Representation Rule
3. Classification
4. Instrumentation
5. Performance Requirements
 - 5.1 Repertoire Requirements
 - 5.2 Performance Time Requirements
 - 5.3 Repetition of Music
6. Performance Procedures
7. Adjudication
 - 7.1 Scoring System
8. Awards & Recognition
9. Director Expectations
10. Governing Authority
11. Philosophy Statement

1. Purpose

The TAME Middle School Mariachi Division is designed to provide a structured, educational, and developmentally appropriate performance experience for middle school mariachi programs across Texas.

The focus of this division is to build fundamental musicianship, ensemble skills, and confidence while introducing students to mariachi performance standards in a supportive competitive environment.

2. Eligibility Requirements

2.1 Program Eligibility

Eligible programs include:

- Middle School mariachi programs
- Junior High mariachi programs
- Any school-based mariachi ensemble consisting primarily of middle school-aged students as defined by district and UIL guidelines

Programs must comply with all TAME membership and contest registration requirements.

2.2 Student Eligibility

- Students must be enrolled in grades 6–8 (or district equivalent).
- Students must meet all UIL and local district eligibility requirements.
- Students must be bona fide members of the school mariachi program they represent.
- UIL No Pass, No Play regulations shall apply where applicable.
- Only registered students may participate in the contest.

2.3 Director Certification

The director registering the ensemble must certify that the program meets all eligibility requirements established by TAME.

2.4 Program Composition & School Representation Rule

Each Middle School mariachi ensemble **must represent a single school campus only.**

- Middle School mariachi programs **may not** combine students from multiple middle schools within the same district or across different districts for the purpose of forming a competitive ensemble.
- Each ensemble must be tied to one officially recognized school campus and must compete under that campus name.

Exception Request (Executive Board Review Required)

In rare and extraordinary circumstances where:

- A single director serves multiple middle school campuses, and
- One section of the mariachi program exists in one middle school while another section exists in a different middle school, and
- The director seeks to combine these groups into a single competitive ensemble.

the director must submit a formal request to the TAME Executive Board.

An Executive Board meeting will be held to review the case, hear the director's rationale, and determine whether an exception may be granted.

Approval, if granted, is at the sole discretion of the TAME Executive Board and will be evaluated based on educational impact, equity, and program integrity.

3. Classification

Middle School programs compete within a unified Middle School division regardless of school size or enrollment classification.

Programs are evaluated within the developmental context of middle school performance expectations.

4. Instrumentation

Traditional mariachi instrumentation is encouraged and may include:

- Violins
- Trumpets
- Guitars

- Vihuelas
- Guitarrones
- Harps
- Other approved mariachi instruments as recognized by TAME Handbook

Instrumentation should reflect a balanced ensemble appropriate for middle school-level development.

5. Performance Requirements

5.1 Repertoire 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 popurri’s 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)

5.2 Performance Time Requirements

All time limits and penalties shall align with the TAME Official Handbook and Guidelines.

5.3 Repetition of Music

All music repetition policies shall follow the TAME Official Handbook and Guidelines. ‘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 contests. 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)’.

6. Performance Procedures

All performance logistics, order of performance, warm-up procedures, stage entry and exit, sound usage, and contest operations shall follow the current TAME Official Handbook and Guidelines.

7. Adjudication

The Middle School Division utilizes the official TAME adjudication rubric and evaluation procedures.

Judges will evaluate:

- Tone Quality
- Intonation
- Rhythm and Tempo
- Ensemble Balance and Blend
- Musical Interpretation
- Style Authenticity
- Technique
- Overall Performance Effect

7.1 Scoring System

All scoring, ratings, penalties, and adjudication procedures shall align with the current TAME Official Handbook and Guidelines.

8. Awards & Recognition

Programs may receive:

- Division Ratings (Comments Only)
- Placement Recognition
- Special Awards as determined by TAME

9. Director Expectations

Directors are expected to:

- Maintain active TAME membership
- Follow all contest rules and deadlines
- Demonstrate professionalism and sportsmanship

- Support student learning and growth
- Foster a positive educational environment

10. Governing Authority

This document serves as a supplement to the TAME Official Handbook and Guidelines.

In any conflict, the TAME Official Handbook shall take precedence.

The TAME Executive Board retains authority for interpretation and clarification of all rules.

11. Philosophy Statement

The Middle School Mariachi Division exists to nurture young musicians at the earliest stages of mariachi education. Through performance, feedback, and structured expectations, students develop the skills, discipline, and passion needed to succeed in advanced mariachi programs.