

Dear Band Contest Secretaries



Brass Band England (BBE) have advised me to clarify with bands attending the GBBA contest on 19th November 2023 that we are using a BBE BOPA with regulations regarding band members that are 16 or under. I have listed below the requirements and responsibilities that are applicable to individual bands that hopefully, they will be familiar with. If any band has any concerns with safeguarding, I would thoroughly recommend contacting Elizabeth Smith, BBE Safeguarding Officer, (safegaurding@bbe.org.uk).

For reference purposes, I have attached a PDF copy of the BBE BOPA issued for the competition and individual bands do not need to obtain their own.

Could you please make sure that your bands welfare officer is aware of this.

Kind Regards

Ian Ford (GBBA Contest Secretary)

Brass Band England (BBE) - BOPA Terms and Conditions

- There must be a ratio of 1:12 for supervising adults who have had a DBS check or DBS Status check carried out in the last three years.* In the case of a parent supervising their own child, a DBS check is not needed but they can only supervise their own child in this case.
- The supervising adult must supervise the child at all times including rehearsing for the performance during the performance period and taking part in the activity.
- The supervising adult must have knowledge and understanding of The Children (Performances and Activities) (England) Regulations 2014, or The Children (Performances and Activities) (Wales) Regulations 2015, for performances in Wales and be suitable to exercise care and control of the child(ren) in their care.
- The band must have permission, photographic consent, emergency medical information and contact details available for all child performers at the place of performance.
- Suitable travel arrangements must be in place for the child to get home. It is considered best practice that no child should be left to go home alone. They should be signed over by the supervising adult to either a parent, or someone with parental responsibility or to a known person whose details have been given.

*NB. These chaperones may also play in the band, but must maintain sight of the child in their care at all times during the performance. If the child needed to leave the stage then so must the supervising adult and all children in their care. For this reason we strongly recommend a lower ratio than this as best practice. During non-performing times the supervising adult must apply the usual rules about maintaining sight or sound to facilitate activities such as toilet breaks but preferably both sight and sound should be maintained.