

# Victorian State Solo & Ensemble Championships



## 2026 *Schedule*

Saturday 25th July

Carey Baptist Grammar School  
349 Barkers Rd, Kew

Presented by the Victorian Bands' League

# CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

## Rules

All rules of the Victorian Bands League (VBL) are to be followed and will be enforced.

The Championships is run according to the VBL Contest Rules v3.0 which are available at <https://vbl.org.au/rules-regulations/>.

## Eligibility

All competitors must be registered with the VBL by Friday 10 July 2026 to compete in this contest. Go to <https://vbl.org.au/forms-fees/> for more information on registering with the VBL.

Registered members of other recognised Australasian Band Associations, according to their own State's requirements, are also entitled to compete in the championship without registering with the VBL.

## Time Limits

The time limits for all sections are as set out below:

**U10, U12 & Juvenile**  
5 Minutes

**VCE**  
12 Minutes

**Junior**  
7 Minutes

**Open & Senior**  
9 Minutes

A competitor exceeding the time limit shall have ten (10) points deducted from their score.

The time limit shall be determined as being from the first note of each item played by any competitor or the accompanist on stage to the end of each item, not including tuning note(s).

Adjudication shall commence at the start of timing and shall cease once the time limit has been reached.

## Aggregate Points

Competitors may choose to represent a band, school or other group.

Should a competitor not do this no aggregate points will be awarded.

Nominated groups must be registered with the VBL to be eligible to receive aggregate points.

## Accompanists

An official accompanist will be provided for all solo sections (duet/trio sections if required). Please tick the appropriate box on your entry form if you require the official accompanist.

Competitors may use their own accompanist in any section, provided that the chosen accompanist is available when the competitor is due to perform.

Should the nominated accompanist be unavailable the competitor may elect to use the official accompanist provided by the VBL, choose not to compete or choose to compete unaccompanied.

If the use of the official accompanists is required a copy of the music must be provided.

## Music Selection

All music selection is Own Choice for all competitors across all sections.

Competitors can perform either with or without piano accompaniment.

No competitor is permitted to play any item in more than one section, except if the repetition is when playing in the Champion of Champions sections.

## Copies of Music

Each competitor must provide a copy of their music with all bars numbered for the adjudicator when checking in.

Photocopies of music used for adjudication will be destroyed by the Victorian Bands' League at the conclusion of each section.

It is the competitor's responsibility to inform VBL officials whether copies provided are originals. Originals will be available for collection at the end of the section. (Originals must still have all bars numbered).

### Age Limits

Where age limits apply, the age of the competitor is determined from their age on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2026

e.g. A junior is a player who is under 22 years of age on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of the year of the contest.

# ENTRY INFORMATION

## Entry Fees



**Solos**  
**\$45**



**Duets/Trios &  
Quartets/Quintets**  
**\$55**



**Ensembles**  
**\$65**

## Entry Forms

Entry forms can be found at:

[vbl.org.au/2026-ssec/](http://vbl.org.au/2026-ssec/)

### One Competitor per Form

A new form must be completed for every unique competitor who is entered (solo) or each group (duet/quartet/ensemble etc).

## Entry Information

There is no limit to the number of sections a competitor can enter however a different piece must be performed in each section.

A competitor may only compete once in the duet/trio section however may compete more than once in the Open and Junior Quartet/Quintet and Ensemble sections.

The Slow/Sacred Melody section requires a piece that is purely melodic. The tempo generally will not exceed 80 crotchet beats per minute.

The Australian work section requires a piece by an Australian composer

The Popular Song section requires a piece that is instantly recognisable and was made popular in the last 70 years.

## Paying Entry Fees

Payment of entry fees can be made by using the method listed below.

### Direct Debit

Please include your name and the text "SSEC2026" as a reference when transferring payment.

BSB: 063855

Acct. No: 010110947

Acct. Name: Victorian Bands' League Inc

### Payments Due Within 7 Days

Correct entry fees must be received within 7 days of form submission. Unpaid entry fees will result in a competitor being automatically withdrawn.

## Entries Close



## Late Entries Close

All late entries must be received by this date. A late fee of 50% of the entry fee applies.



## Registrations Due

All competitors must be registered with the VBL by this date to compete in the Championships.



# CHAMPIONSHIP SECTIONS

## Juvenile (Under 15 Years)

### Brass

1. SOPRANO/B<sup>b</sup> CORNET
2. TRUMPET
3. FLUGEL HORN
4. TENOR HORN
5. FRENCH HORN
6. BARITONE
7. EUPHONIUM
8. TROMBONE
9. TUBA

## Junior (Under 22 Years)

### Brass

11. SOPRANO CORNET
12. B<sup>b</sup> CORNET
13. TRUMPET
14. FLUGEL HORN
15. TENOR HORN
16. FRENCH HORN
17. BARITONE
18. EUPHONIUM
19. TENOR TROMBONE
20. BASS TROMBONE
21. BASS TUBA (E<sup>b</sup> or F)
22. CONTRABASS TUBA (B<sup>b</sup> or C)

## Open

### Brass

24. SOPRANO CORNET
25. B<sup>b</sup> CORNET
26. TRUMPET
27. FLUGEL HORN
28. TENOR HORN
29. FRENCH HORN
30. BARITONE
31. EUPHONIUM
32. TENOR TROMBONE
33. BASS TROMBONE
34. BASS TUBA (E<sup>b</sup> or F)
35. CONTRABASS TUBA (B<sup>b</sup> or C)

### Woodwind

37. FLUTE/PICCOLO
38. CLARINET
39. SAXOPHONE
40. DOUBLE REED

The winners of sections 1 – 9 and 37 – 40 are eligible to compete in the relevant Juvenile Champion of Champions sections if they receive a score of 75 points or more.

### Woodwind

42. FLUTE/PICCOLO
43. CLARINET
44. SAXOPHONE
45. DOUBLE REED

The winners of sections 11 – 22 and 42 – 45 are eligible to compete in the relevant Junior Champion of Champions sections if they receive a score of 80 points or more.

### Woodwind

47. FLUTE/PICCOLO
48. CLARINET
49. SAXOPHONE
50. OBOE/COR ANGLAIS
51. BASSOON

The winners of sections 24 – 35 and 47 – 51 are eligible to compete in the relevant Open Champion of Champions sections if they receive a score of 90 points or more.

# NON-CHAMPIONSHIP SECTIONS

## Under 10 Years

- 53. ANY BRASS INSTRUMENT
- 54. ANY WOODWIND INSTRUMENT

## Under 12 Years

- 55. CORNET/TRUMPET
- 56. OTHER BRASS
- 57. WOODWIND INSTRUMENT

## Juvenile (Under 15 Years)

- 58. DUET/TRIO
- 59. QUARTET/QUINTET
- 60. NOVICE CORNET/TRUMPET
- 61. NOVICE OTHER BRASS
- 62. NOVICE WOODWIND

## Junior (Under 22 Years)

- 63. SIDE DRUM
- 64. TIMPANI
- 65. TUNED PERCUSSION
- 66. KIT/MULTI-PERCUSSION
- 67. DUET/TRIO
- 68. QUARTET/QUINTET
- 69. HYMN QUARTET/QUINTET
- 70. ENSEMBLE
- 71. NOVICE CORNET/TRUMPET
- 72. NOVICE OTHER BRASS
- 73. NOVICE WOODWIND
- 74. SLOW/SACRED MELODY (BRASS/WOODWIND)

### VCE Sections

For section 89 & 90, competitors may perform as many pieces as they wish within the 12 minute time limit.

Note that for section 89, all pieces must be chosen from the VCAA "Prescribed List of Notated Solo Works".

Points will not be allocated for these sections. Adjudication will take the form of an informal assessment using the criteria published by VCAA.

## Open

- 75. SIDE DRUM
- 76. TIMPANI
- 77. TUNED PERCUSSION
- 78. KIT/MULTI-PERCUSSION
- 79. DUET/TRIO
- 80. QUARTET/QUINTET
- 81. HYMN QUARTET/QUINTET
- 82. ENSEMBLE
- 83. C & D GRADE BRASS QUARTET/QUINTET
- 84. SLOW/SACRED MELODY (BRASS/WOODWIND)
- 85. NOVICE SOLO (BRASS/WOODWIND/PERCUSSION)
- 86. AIR & VARIATIONS (BRASS/WOODWIND)
- 87. NON-CHAMPIONSHIP\* (BRASS/WOODWIND)

\*Section 87 is only open to competitors who are NOT entered in a Championship Section (those sections listed on page 4).

- 88. SENIOR SLOW/SACRED MELODY (BRASS & WOODWIND)
- 91. AUSTRALIAN WORK\* (BRASS/ WOODWIND/PERCUSSION)
- 92. POPULAR SONG\* (BRASS/ WOODWIND/PERCUSSION)

\*For Section 91, the competitor must perform a work by an Australian composer.

\*For Section 92, the competitor must perform piece that is instantly recognisable and was made popular in the last 70 years.

## VCE

- 89. SOLO PERFORMANCE RECITAL
- 90. GROUP PERFORMANCE RECITAL

### Ensembles

An ensemble shall have from 6 to 15 players.

### Novice Competitor

A Novice competitor is someone who, when entries close, has not previously won a solo section at a recognised Australasian Band Association Contest.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Can I get my entry fee refund?

No, all entry fees are nonrefundable.

## Is there a limit to the number of sections I can enter?

No, there is no limit. As long as you are eligible to compete in a section you may enter it. You do need to play different pieces for each section you plan on entering though.

## I want to play with two groups in the duet/trio section, can I do this?

No, you cannot. You may only compete once in the duet/trio section. You may enter more than once in the Open and Junior Quartet/Quintet and Ensemble sections.

## Do I have to bring my own accompanist or will one be provided?

No, you don't have to bring your own accompanist, you may if you wish but one will be provided free of charge for all solo sections (duet & trios sections only if required). You must indicate whether you will be using the official accompanist on your entry form.

## When will I be provided details of the official accompanists?

Names and contact details of the official accompanists will be sent out via email after the close of entries.

## When will I know what time I am supposed to be on stage?

You will be sent in an email shortly after the close of entries that will have your section start time in it and all other details required.

## I am no longer able to compete what should I do?

Please email [contests@vbl.org.au](mailto:contests@vbl.org.au) and let us know that you won't be competing.

## I'm not sure if I'm registered with the VBL, how can I find out?

Send an email to [registrar@vbl.org.au](mailto:registrar@vbl.org.au) with your full name asking if you are currently registered. The Registrar will get back to you letting you know the status of your registration.

## What are the age limit requirements?

A Juvenile is a player who is under 15 years of age on the 1st of January of the year of the contest.

A Junior is a player who is under 22 years of age on the 1st of January the year of the contest.

A Senior is a player who is over 59 years of age on the 1st of January the year of the contest.

### Withdrawing

Withdrawing on the day of the competition can cause significant delays and can create a lot of waiting and angst for competitors who are preparing to go on stage.

To help minimise this, if you know you are no longer able to compete please email [contests@vbl.org.au](mailto:contests@vbl.org.au) as early as possible prior to the competition.



# VOLUNTEERING

Want to get more involved? Why not volunteer for this great event?

You don't have to be a musician to be part of the Championships. Our team of hard working and dedicated volunteers ensure that this exciting event runs smoothly.

You don't need any special skills, training or experience to be a volunteer, all that's required is enthusiasm and the willingness to help out and be a part of one of the VBL's biggest events of the year.

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, have fun and be part of a team. Without our dedicated team of volunteers, staging the Championships would not be possible!

To find out more, email [contests@vbl.org.au](mailto:contests@vbl.org.au)

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# PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs of competitors may be taken by authorised VBL photographers throughout the duration of the Championships. Images and names of competitors may be published by the VBL either online or in print media. Should a competitor wish not to be photographed, a written request must be made to [contests@vbl.org.au](mailto:contests@vbl.org.au) at the time of entry.

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**VICTORIAN STATE YOUTH BRASS BAND**



**Victorian State Youth Brass Band**  
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**COME JOIN US!**  
OPEN TO ALL BRASS AND PERCUSSION  
PLAYERS FROM 12 - 25.



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### Upcoming VBL Events

Competition	Date
State Band Championships	15-16 August
Bandstand Sunday	8 November

VICTORIAN BANDS' LEAGUE INC

Email: [contests@vbl.org.au](mailto:contests@vbl.org.au)

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