

Participant guide

Essential details for bands performing at Youth Champs 2026

Saturday 28 March 2026 King Edward's School | Birmingham

Overview

The National Youth Brass Band Championships of Great Britain, also known as Youth Champs, is an exciting celebration of youth brass banding across the UK. Organised by Brass Bands England (BBE), the contest brings together the nation's young musicians for an inspiring day of competitive and non-competitive performance, learning and collaboration with fellow brass enthusiasts.

From the buzz of performing on a professional stage to the joy of discovering new music, Youth Champs exists to celebrate excellence, boost connectivity and promote enthusiasm in youth brass banding.

Your venue for 2026

Youth Champs 2026 will take place in one of Birmingham's most distinguished educational settings – King Edward's School.

The school has been a significant force in education since its establishment nearly 500 years ago. Performances take place across two separate buildings within this site:

Ruddock Performing Arts Centre (Challenge and Championship Sections)

Purpose-built support exceptional to performing arts, Ruddock Hall in King Edward's School is a stunning, state-of-theart performance venue. Its acoustics are carefully designed to enhance everything from symphony performances to full orchestras, and it's equipped with professional-grade production facilities offering every band a truly world-class stage experience.

2. King Edward VI School for Girls (Showcase and Performance Sections)

The original 1930s girls' school building houses the majority of the high school's classrooms, an extensive library, lecture theatre, dining hall and school hall. This school hall is used for a wide range of everyday activities including assemblies, performances, presentations and larger gatherings. It serves as a versatile space for both formal and informal events throughout the school year.

Key contacts

The Youth Champs Project Manager is Jess Wilson. You can contact Jess and the Youth Champs team on youthchamps@bbe.org.uk.



Access and inclusion

We welcome and celebrate all young musicians at Youth Champs. We are committed to creating an event that is inclusive, accessible and enjoyable for everyone – regardless of background or ability.

If you or your band members have any access requirements - whether physical, sensory, neurodiverse or otherwise - please let us know in advance so we can support you to take part fully. We are happy to discuss individual needs and make reasonable adjustments wherever possible. Together, we can make Youth Champs an inspiring and welcoming experience for every participant.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Please take time to review the important safeguarding information and forms included in Section 5. These are designed to help you complete your final checks and meet child licensing requirements before the event. We also encourage you to review your safeguarding arrangements early in your planning, to ensure everything is in place well in advance.



We've done our best to make sure all details in this pack are accurate and up to date at the time of publication. If anything isn't clear, or if you think something might have changed, please get in touch and we'll be happy to help.

Brass Bands England (BBE) cannot accept responsibility for any errors, omissions or changes made after publication.

December 2025

Pre-event information

1.1 Essential actions

Upcoming deadlines

Deadline date	Task/Activity	
Monday 12 January 2026	Deadline to confirm participant numbers and band information via the <u>Player</u> information form: youthchamps.uk/pp-form-playerinfo	
	Access and inclusion requests We encourage bands to flag any access needs by this date so we can plan ahead. We remain happy to discuss requirements at any time if needed	
Saturday 14 February 2026	Ticket Boost scheme order deadline (see 'Tickets' for more information). youthchamps.uk/pp-form-boost	
Friday 30 January 2026	Deadline for individual player fees (£2 per player).	
Monday 9 March 2026	Deadline for scores, stage plans and compère notes.	
Tuesday 10 March 2026	Pre event information session (via Zoom). Booking (available from 20 Dec) youthchamps.uk/pp-Zoom	
Saturday 28 March 2026	Event day	



It is essential that you complete the relevant forms and submit them to us on your arrival at Youth Champs 2026.

On arrival, please send a representative of the band to the registration desk (also known as Contest Control) to check into the event. Registration is in the Dining Hall, which is in a separate building to the two performance spaces.

Please ensure your lead contact brings hard copies of the following documents:

- Stage plan x 2 copies to be submitted on arrival
- Safeguarding Consent Form BOPA (organisation) – to be submitted on arrival
- Safeguarding Consent Forms BOPA (individual) – to be retained by the band

1.2 Tickets

Bring your band's biggest cheer squad!

Nothing beats the buzz of performing to a packed hall — and your band deserves that moment. A full, enthusiastic audience can make all the difference to your players' experience, whatever their age or playing level.

Encourage everyone involved in your band to spread the word about Youth Champs and invite their loved ones to buy a ticket. It's a brilliant opportunity to celebrate your band's achievements together and showcase the talent and energy of young brass musicians.

General sale

Tickets will be available for general sale from the **Youth Champs ticket page** on BBE website starting Monday 23 February 2026: youthchamps.uk/pp-tickets

Advance tickets offer the best value, and help supporters avoid queues and potential disappointment on the day. Pre-purchased tickets can be collected from the ticket desks located within the foyers of each performance hall.

	Advance ticket price	On-the-day ticket price
Adult	£13	£16
Children (under 18s)	£5	£5
Under 5s	Free	Free

Psst, earn back your band's entry fee with the Ticket Boost Scheme!

That's right – entry to Youth Champs can cost your band nothing with BBE's early bird Ticket Boost Scheme. Here's how it works:

- 1. Your band orders up to 50 Youth Champs tickets with a £1 discount each
- 2. Your band sells these tickets onto parents and supporters at the lower advance price
- 3. You keep the £50 savings helping to cover your band's £50 entry fee (BBE Member Band rate) for the event

The Ticket Boost Scheme is the easiest, fastest way to let families and supporters know about the event, while giving them a discount on on-the-door prices. More than just a fundraiser, you'll fill the hall with your most loyal fans! If you prefer, you can pass the £1 saving directly to your supporters instead.

Bands that are not BBE Members can still take part in the scheme and receive up to £50 in savings per Section entry. If your organisation has more than one band performing, or you're entering more than one Section, the maximum discount increases (for example, £100 for two sections or two bands).

How to order from the Ticket Boost Scheme:

- Use your band order form to request discounted tickets: youthchamps.uk/pp-form-boost
- Submit your ticket order by 9am on Friday 30 January 2026
- Once payment is received (we'll send you an invoice), your tickets/wristbands will be posted to you ahead of the event

You can use the order form more than once if you need to place additional orders, but the total discount per band or section will remain capped.

For information on the conditions of ticket sales please see our Terms and Conditions.

On-the-day band schedules

Please check your band's scheduled arrival and performance times carefully below. The running order within each group was determined by a draw, based on each band's proximity to the venue, to ensure fairness for all performers.

We recommend... arriving well in advance to ensure your band is settled and not rushed prior to their performance. Allow extra time for travel delays. While you wait, you'll have the unique chance to listen to and learn from some of the UK's very best youth bands – at no extra cost! It's a fantastic way to pick up tips before your own performance, or relax and enjoy the music afterwards. Also take the opportunity to explore the venue, visit trade stands and meet your Section sponsors.

Any subsequent changes to the following schedule will be updated on the Youth Champs page on the BBE website.

2.1 Besson Prodige Showcase

Draw	Band	Arrival	Performance
1	Lions Debut Band	08:00	09:00
2	BEAT Training Brass Band	08:20	09:20
3	Besses Boys' Training Band	08:40	09:40
4	Horbury Victoria Beginner Band	09:00	10:00
5	Dobcross Youth Beginner Band	09:20	10:20
6	Elland Youth Starter Band	09:40	10:40
7	Little Bonty Brass	10:00	11:00
8	Tewit Youth Junior Band	10:20	11:20
	RESULTS - 12:00-12:30		

Please note that Performance Section performances take place inside King Edward VI High School for Girls.

2.2 Performance

Draw	Band	Arrival	Performance
1	Wantage Youth Brass	12:05	13:05
2	Dobcross Youth Training Band	12:30	13:30
3	Elland Training Band	12:55	13:55
4	Horbury Victoria Intermediate Band	13:20	14:20
5	Tewit Youth Intermediate Band	13:45	14:45
6	Brass@Bont Youth Band	14:10	15:10
7	Spennymoor Town Youth Band	14:35	15:35
8	Pembrokeshire Music Service Youth Brass Band	15:00	16:00
	Break 20 Mins		
9	Cumbria Youth Brass Band	15:40	16:40
10	Haberdashers Elstree Prep School Brass Band	16:05	17:05
11	Lions Academy Band	16:30	17:30
12	Macclesfield Youth Junior Band	16:55	17:55
13	English Martyrs' Senior Brass Band	17:20	18:20
14	Birmingham Schools Training Brass Band	17:45	18:45
	RESULTS - 12:00-12:30		

Please note that Performance Section performances take place inside King Edward VI High School for Girls.

2.3 Challenge

Draw	Band	Arrival	Performance
1	Stockport Schools Senior Brass Band	08:30	09:30
2	Astley Youth Band	08:55	09:55
3	St Austell Youth Band	09:20	10:20
4	Red Admiral Music Academy	09:45	10:45
5	Horbury Victoria Youth Band	10:10	11:10
6	Barnet Youth Brass Band	10:35	11:35
7	Kirkbymoorside Youth Band	11:00	12:00
	RESULTS - 12:45 - 13:15		

2.4 YAMAHA Championship

Draw	Band	Arrival	Performance
1	Birmingham Schools' Brass Band	12:30	13:30
2	Youth Brass 2000	13:00	14:00
3	CF Music Education Youth Brass Band	13:30	14:30
4	Hampshire County Youth Band	14:00	15:00
5	Dobcross Youth Band	14:30	15:30
6	Elland Youth Band	15:00	16:00
	Break 20 Mins	•	
7	Tewit Youth Senior Band	15:45	16:45
8	Oldham Music Centre Youth Brass Band	16:15	17:15
9	South Wales Youth Band	16:45	17:45
10	Grimethorpe North of England Band	17:15	18:15
11	Amersham Youth Band	17:45	18:45
12	Macclesfield Youth Brass Band	18:15	19:15
13	Lions Youth Brass	18:45	19:45
	RESULTS - 20:30 – 21:00		

Please note that Challenge and Championship Section performances take place inside Ruddock Performing Arts Centre.

Event day

Arrival and registration

Once your group has arrived on site and gathered together, please make your way to the Dining Hall. We ask that one responsible adult comes to the registration desk to hand over your key documents, including safeguarding forms and stage plans.

A member of the BBE team will then run through essential event information, such as the locations of child-only toilets, our fire evacuation procedure and our lost-child process. Wristbands will be issued at this point – performers and chaperones will each receive different colours for easy identification.

After registration, you will be introduced to your designated band guide, who will take you to your allocated classroom. This will be your group's base whilst you are in the contest system. You can leave belongings here before moving on to your warm-up room and then to the performance stage.

We respectfully ask that you please arrive at your designated arrival time, not prior. If you arrive earlier, your band's waiting area may not yet be available.

Transport and parking

Coach

If your band is travelling by coach, please enter the site through the main gates on Edgbaston Park Road (postcode: B15 2UA). Once inside, you will find a designated coach drop-off point and a turning loop. This area is for drop-off and pick-up only — coaches cannot remain parked on site.

Please ensure your coach driver moves to an approved coach parking area within Birmingham after drop-off.

Public transport

Where possible, we are asking our audiences to arrive by train. University (Birmingham) Station is a 15-minute walk from King Edward's School. Once you've arrived at the railway station, head down Westgate and University Road West, walking past the University of Birmingham Law School. Take a right onto Edgbaston Park Road then left again at Bristol Road. The school is located through the gates.

The venue is next to the Bristol Road, with bus stops for major bus routes both in and out of Birmingham city centre: 63, 144, 886, X61.

Please visit **networkwestmidlands.com** to plan your journey.

Car

Challenge and Championship Sections

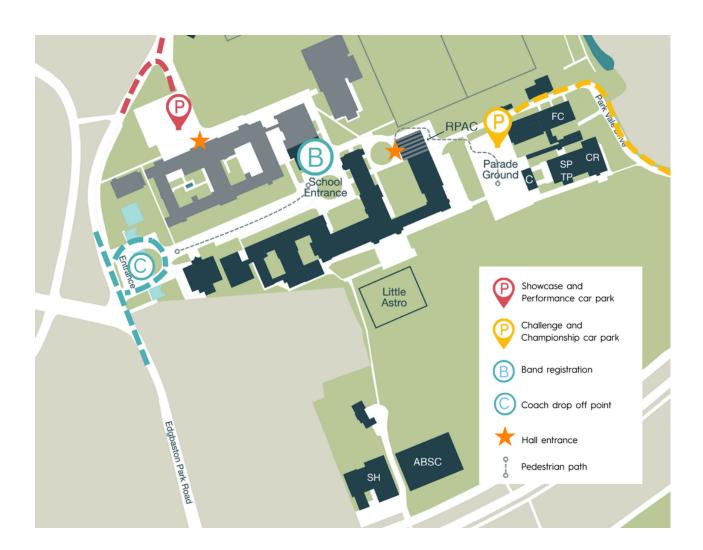
Please use the Parade Ground Car Park - access is through a school entrance on the Bristol Road (A38), via Park Vale Drive Gate (postcode: B5 7SP).

Showcase and Performance Sections

Please use the Girls' School Car Park via Edgbaston Park Road. Enter through the main gate of King Edward VI High School for Girls (KEHS) (postcode: B15 2UB).

Overflow parking

If these car parks are full, please proceed directly to the overflow car park at the Lloyds Bank Grounds on Bristol Road, just to the left of the turn onto Eastern Road (postcode: B29 7LG). You can then enter the site on foot via Vince Gate, next to the Sports Hall.



Getting around the venue

A dedicated band guide will stay with your group throughout your entire journey within the contest system.

After meeting you at the registration desk, they will lead you to your designated classroom to drop off belongings, then on to your warm-up room, the side of the stage for your performance, your professional photography session, and finally back to your classroom to collect your items.

Please be aware that the system has changed from previous years: there is no central waiting area (previously in a sports hall) this year, so movement between spaces will be more direct, with your band guide supporting you at every step.

Wristbands

Wristbands will be issued on arrival. Please ensure all performers and supervising adults wear the correct wristband at all times.

Wristband colours:

- Navy blue Performer
- **Yellow** Performer with no photography consent
- Magenta DBS-checked chaperone
- White Additional adult helper (not a chaperone)

Valuables

At check-in, a valuables box will be provided for a responsible adult to collect items such as phones and wallets from performers. This box should stay with the group as you move through the contest system.

Any valuables left in your classroom are done so at your own risk. Brass Bands England cannot accept responsibility for lost or stolen items. While every effort is made to keep classrooms secure, we cannot guarantee that others will not enter these rooms while you are away.

Planning your day

Accessibility

The site is fully accessible. However, if any of your performers/support team/audience members have accessibility needs, please contact youthchamps@bbe.org.uk as soon as possible to ensure you get the appropriate help you need on the day.

Social spaces

The **Dining Hall**, located centrally within the school grounds, has been designated as a social space for this year's event. Please use this space if you'd like a seat/to eat food/to gather your band and supporters whilst on site. Please note, this room will not be staffed by BBE so young people must only enter if chaperoned by an adult.

Box office, trade stands and information

The Youth Champs Box Offices will be located in the foyers of each performance hall - one in The Ruddock Hall and one in the Girls' School Hall foyer. At either desk, you can purchase tickets or collect any pre-ordered tickets.

Trade stands

Both foyers will also host a variety of trade stands, featuring everything from instrument manufacturers and sheet-music publishers to armed forces representatives and uniform suppliers.

You'll also find the BBE merchandise stalls where official Youth Champs items - including t-shirts and teddy bears - will be available to purchase.

Catering

A selection of food vans will be on site throughout the day, offering a wide variety of options including hot meals, lighter snacks, sweet treats, tea, coffee and soft drinks. Options will include vegetarian and vegan choices, and we have asked all vendors to clearly display allergen information so you can make informed choices. As each trader operates independently, some may only accept card while others may only accept cash, so please ensure you bring both payment methods with you.

Food and drinks can be enjoyed in the Dining Hall, where ample seating will be available for bands, families and supporters. We kindly ask that everyone helps us keep this shared space clean by wiping down tables where needed and disposing of any rubbish in the bins provided. You are also welcome to bring your own packed lunch or snacks if that suits your schedule or dietary needs better.

Your performance

Your adjudicators

Each Youth Champs section will have two adjudicators who will sit centrally in the hall and listen to every performance. They will be able to see each band clearly and will provide written feedback using laptops while viewing your digitally uploaded scores on a second device. All adjudicators were appointed through an open callout and selected for both their alignment with the ethos of Youth Champs and their proven contribution to the brass band sector.

In the new year, you will receive a link to your band's private Google Drive folder. Here, you must upload digital scans of your scores by the **9 March deadline**, along with your stage plan (a draft template can be found at the end of this document). You can also use this folder to notify us of any performers who cannot be photographed. Your folder is unique to your organisation, and only authorised BBE team members will have access.

When uploading your scores, please ensure all pages are the correct way up, clearly legible, and complete - no missing bars or cut-off staves. If you are making cuts to any piece, these must be clearly marked.

For compere notes, you can choose whether our compere simply introduces your band on stage or supports your full performance. Guidance on preparing compere notes can be found at: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f-hm0Puqqjn6LmIBqeduxVCTQ4vXVIAS0g2yQDgsJ_4/edit?tab=t.0

Your adjudicators are as follows:

Showcase and Championship

Anna Wilby and Christopher Bond

Challenge

Lauren Chinn and Ailsa Russell

Performance

Danny Brooks and Stephanie Kennedy

Percussion list

The following lists show the percussion instruments available in each hall on the day. Any additional percussion required for your performance must be supplied by your band.

32" 29" 26" 23" Majestic Copper Pedal Timpani and chair

Adams 1 1/2" Tubular Bells

Adams Artist Vibraphone

Adams 4 Octave Xylophone

Yamaha 1210 Glockenspiel and stand

36" Adams Concert Bass Drum on tilting stand

36" Paiste Tam-Tam plus stand and beater

5 Piece DW and stool, plus 2 x Crash, Ride, Hi-Hat Cymbals

Yamaha Orchestral Snare Drum on tall stand

Meinle Bongos on stand

20" Zildjian Clash Cymbals and cradle

2 x18" Zildjian Suspended Cymbals,

LP Granite Blocks on stand

LP Wood Block on stand

Grover Tambourine

LP Tambourine on stand

Half Moon Rock Tambourine

Grover Triangle on stand

Mark Tree on stand (wind chimes)

LP Double Shaker, Whip

3 x Traps Trays

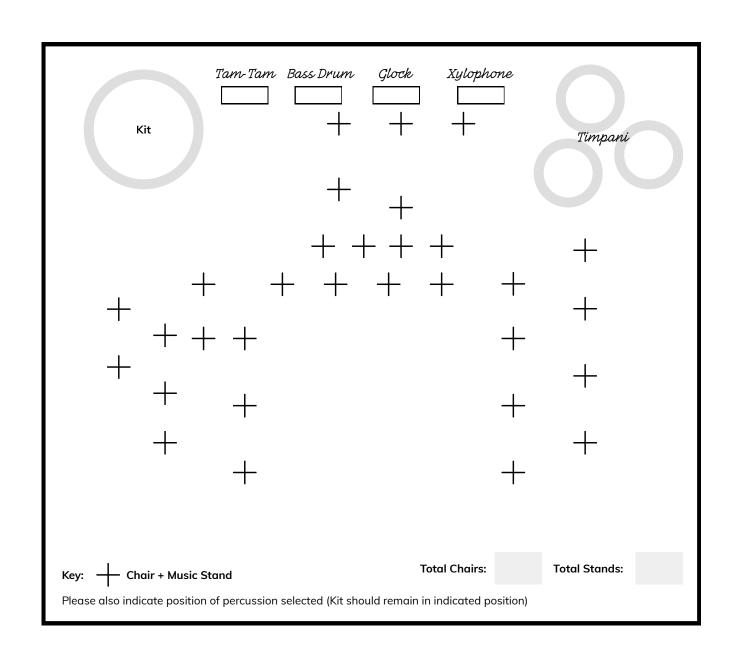
An updated percussion list will be sent to you closer to the time of the event. The instruments themselves won't have changed, but the manufacturer may be slightly different.

Stage plan (example)

Please use the following page to create a stage plan for your band (using the example below for reference).

Please submit your stage plan to us digitally by Monday 9 March and also bring two copies of your plan to Contest Control on arrival.

Band Name Junior Band
Section Challenge
Draw Number 3

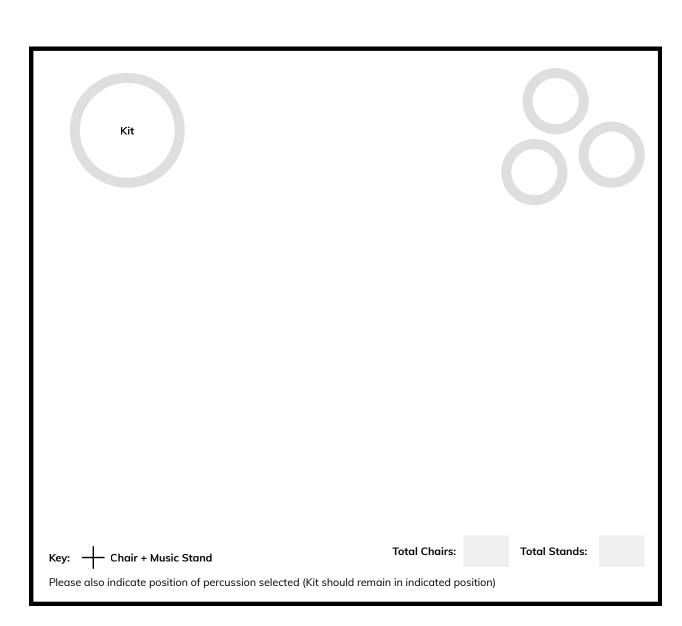


Stage plan

Use the space below to create a stage plan for your band (using the example on the previous page for reference).

PLEASE KEEP THE DRUMS AND TIMPANI IN THE FIXED POSITIONS SHOWN IN THE PLAN BELOW.

Band Name	
Section	
Draw Number	





Safeguarding and consent

Legal requirements

As a condition of entry, your band must comply with the requirements outlined in this pack, including providing sufficient DBS-checked supervising adults, maintaining the 1:12 supervision ratio, and ensuring that written participatory permission, photographic consent, and emergency contact details are available for all child performers. Child-only toilets must be used where indicated, and children must be supervised at all times.

Please note: if these safeguarding requirements and associated permissions are not submitted and in place, your band will be denied a performance at Youth Champs, as this would constitute non-compliance with the terms of our BOPA. Ensuring these measures are in place protects both your performers and the wider event, and is essential for participation.

Photographic consent

At Youth Champs, **official photographers/videographers and event staff** capture images and footage of bands performing throughout the day. These materials will be used by Brass Bands England across our website and marketing materials to publicise future Youth Champs events and other BBE activities.

It is important that every band obtains permission for young participants to be photographed or filmed, and that all parties understand how these images may be used.

Participating bands must inform all parents/carers that photography and filming will be taking place at Youth Champs, explain the purpose clearly, and obtain their written permission via the Safeguarding Consent Forms (included below). This is for your own records - you only need to let BBE know which children cannot be photographed.



Important Actions

- Please email **youthchamps@bbe.org.uk** with the name of any child who cannot be photographed as early as possible, and include the instrument they play.
- When submitting your stage plan, please highlight where this child will be positioned within the band so we can pass this information on to the official photographers/videographers and event staff.

Any young people who cannot be photographed, as indicated by the information you provide to us, will be issued with a different-coloured wristband so that official photographers/videographers and event staff know not to take photos.

To ensure smooth running on the day, we ask you to provide names and instruments of no-photo children in good time before the event. This also allows us to better brief our staff so as to minimise the risk of accidental capture.

Please remember that parents/carers may have their own reasons for not wanting their children to be photographed or filmed, and it is important to respect this.

Audience photography

The audience will also be informed not to:

- Take photos or film anyone they do not have permission to capture
- Take photos or film during performances

However, as a public performance, this is almost impossible to police and Brass Bands England cannot take responsibility for compliance.

Forms and checklists

As outlined earlier in this pack, BBE will be applying for a Child Performance Licence for Youth Champs 2026 under our organisational BOPA. To meet the legal requirements of this licence, each band must complete the Organisational Safeguarding Consent Form (further down this pack) and hand it in at band registration upon arrival.

At registration, you will also be asked to confirm that you hold an individual Safeguarding Consent Form for every performer, containing their emergency contact details, relevant medical information and photography consent. An example template is included below for your convenience, though you are welcome to use your own template if preferred.

Please note: we do not need to see the individual forms, but you will be required to declare that these are complete and available within your band's safeguarding records.

Player checklist

A final Player Checklist form will be sent to you digitally in early March, for submission prior to the event. You will be asked to provide a list of all (including any adult helpers) participating performers in your band, including their age and date of birth.

Stage space allows for a **maximum of 55 players** per band. For safety and fairness, we cannot exceed this limit under any circumstances

Safeguarding consent form BOPA (Organisation)



Section	Date:
Draw Number	
 than one adult to every 12 children so that the becomes unavailable. If a DBS check raises any concerns, a risk asserpermitted to work with children, and this must As licensees, we require this consultation to en carried out. 	Its to care for children. Supervisors must have had aree years, verified by the organisation. It capable to exercise control of the child and assonably expected to give to that child. Children or at all times – ideally both. In adult is 12. However, you should provide more tratio of 1:12 can be maintained even if an adult assement must be completed before the adult is include consultation with Brass Bands England. Source an adequate risk assessment has been
2. Sign your organisation in and out at Band Registro3. Ensure written participatory permission, photogrand contact details for next of kin are available for next of kin	aphic consent, emergency medical information
 performance. We have provided a template Safeguarding Conformation for each child. Please ensure you have this information may use the template provided or collect the information. 4. Ensure no child receives any payment for their performance suitable arrangements are made for children destination, after their last performance. 	rmation available for each child on the day. You formation via another method. formance except for defraying expenses.
* See next page	
Signed by	
Secretary/Chair:	

Safeguarding consent form BOPA (Individual)

You will not be required to submit this information to Brass Bands England as a matter of routine, but you may be asked to produce it either in the event of an emergency or if the event is inspected with respect to the child licensing regulations (2014).

Please note: You may use a different form or store the information electronically if you wish.



Full Name of child:	
Down d Marine ar	
Bana Name:	
Emergency Contact Details:	
Medical Issues:	
Additional Needs:	
Photographic consent	
I have been made aware that my child is as part of the event, which may also be informed my child's band secretary who	s taking part in a public performance and that photos or recordings may be made livestreamed on the Internet. If I do not want photos taken of my child, I have will inform the event organisers. In this case I am aware that as this is a public ken to prevent photography without consent in a public performance, it is difficult ot accept liability in this case.
Signed By (Parent/Carer):	
Print Name:	

Post-performance information

Results and trophies

For the results ceremony, please ensure that at least one representative from your band is present to collect your certificate. Every band will receive a Certificate of Participation, and bands in the Performance, Challenge and Championship Sections will also receive a Merit–Gold Award.

If your band is awarded one of our glass trophies, these are yours to keep. If you are presented with a silver trophy, you will be required to sign a form confirming that you will:

- · keep the trophy in good condition,
- arrange for it to be engraved, and
- return it to us in time for next year's event.

This year, all adjudicator remarks are delivered digitally and will be emailed to you the week following the contest. You will also be sent a feedback form to compete about your experience of the event and any improvements we can make for future years.

Photography purchasing

For your professional photographs, Rapps Photography will contact you directly with purchase details. They will provide a unique access code for safeguarding purposes, which you can share with parents so that only they can view and order images of their own child.

Lost property

BBE will do our best to collect any stray items that appear to belong to participating bands throughout the event. If you discover that you are missing something and we have it, you may arrange a courier to collect it, or you are welcome to pick it up from our office in Barnsley. To enquire about lost property, please email youthchamps@bbe.org.uk.

If we do not have your item, we will contact the school on your behalf to check whether it has been found on site. If it has, we will put you directly in touch. Please note that BBE cannot accept responsibility or liability for any lost property.

We hope that Youth Champs 2026 will be a fantastic experience for everyone. If there is anything we can assist with that will help the event go more smoothly for you, please do get in touch by emailing youthchamps@bbe.org.uk or calling the office via 01226 771015.

To keep up to date with the latest news, follow us on social media and subscribe to the BBE newsletter.