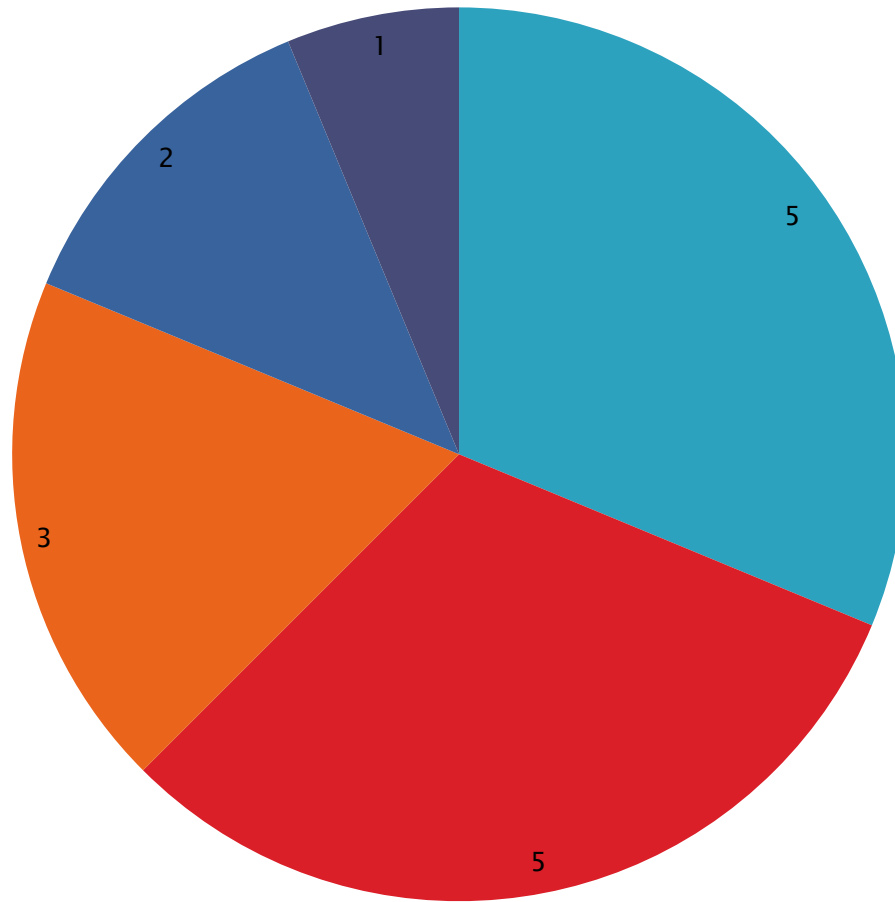


# Follow up Survey – Rules

# Responses



■ Championship

■ 2nd Section

■ 3rd Section

■ 4th Section

■ Unaffiliated/5th Section

# BBL Rules Feedback

## Current rule:

### 1.1 Full membership

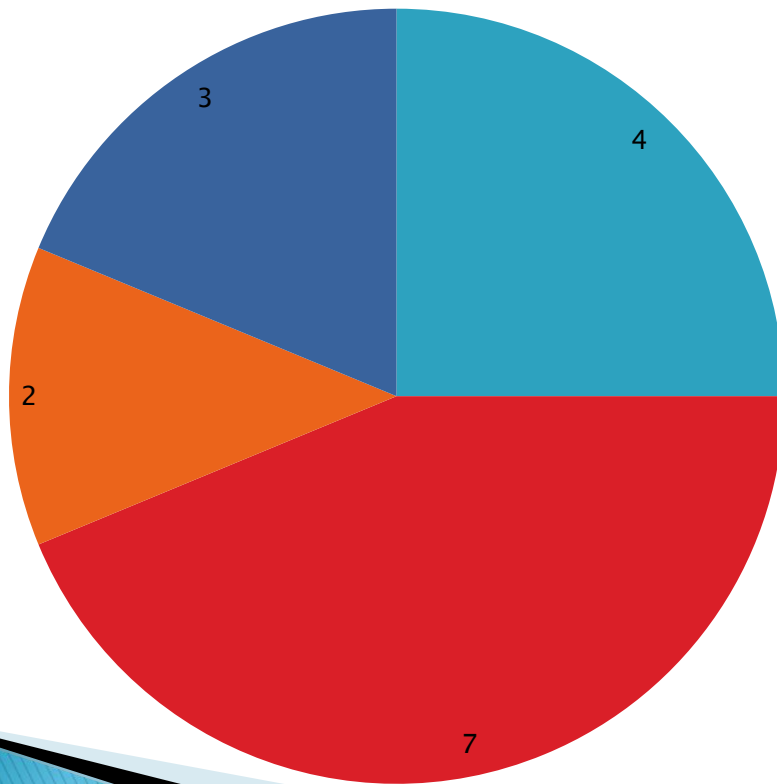
Only amateur bands shall be admitted as members of the League.

Bands shall be admitted to the League on: –

Being already members of the North of Ireland Bands Association.

Paying an annual subscription, the amount of which will be determined by the Executive Committee. The annual subscription is due on or before the Annual General Meeting.

Signifying their agreement to the objectives and rules of the BBL.



■ Suggestion 1. Only amateur bands, must be member of NIBA, pay subscription and agree to rules and objectives of BBL

■ Suggestion 2. Remove the rule stating that BBL members must be members of the NIBA

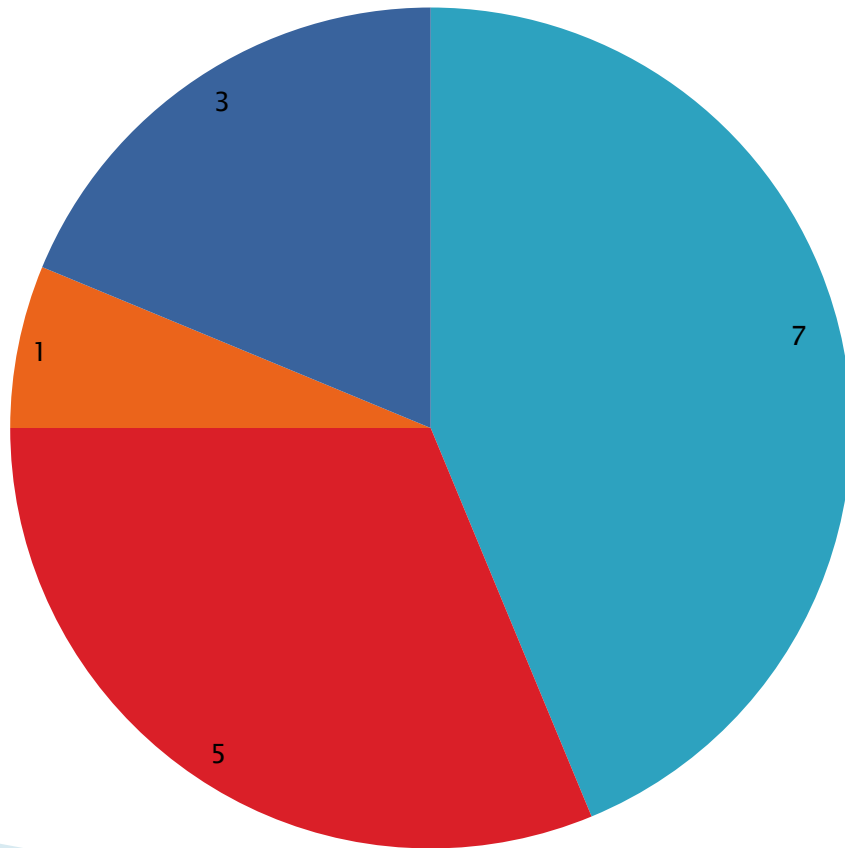
■ Neutral

■ No change

## Current Rule

### 1.2 Associate Membership

Amateur bands being members of the North of Ireland Bands Association may be admitted as Associate members at the discretion of the Executive. Associate members are expected to become full members within two years of admission. Associate members are expected to support the objectives and rules of the BBL.



■ Suggestion 1: Change this so that associate memberships is for bands not wishing to contest but still wanting to take part in the non-contesting aspects of the BBL and will pay a reduced rate. If they decide they wish to contest they must become members

■ Suggestion 2: Rename associate membership to non-contesting membership. Remove any reference to being members of NIBA and remove time limit of 2 years for bands to become full members. Any band wishing to contest would need to upgrade to full membership.

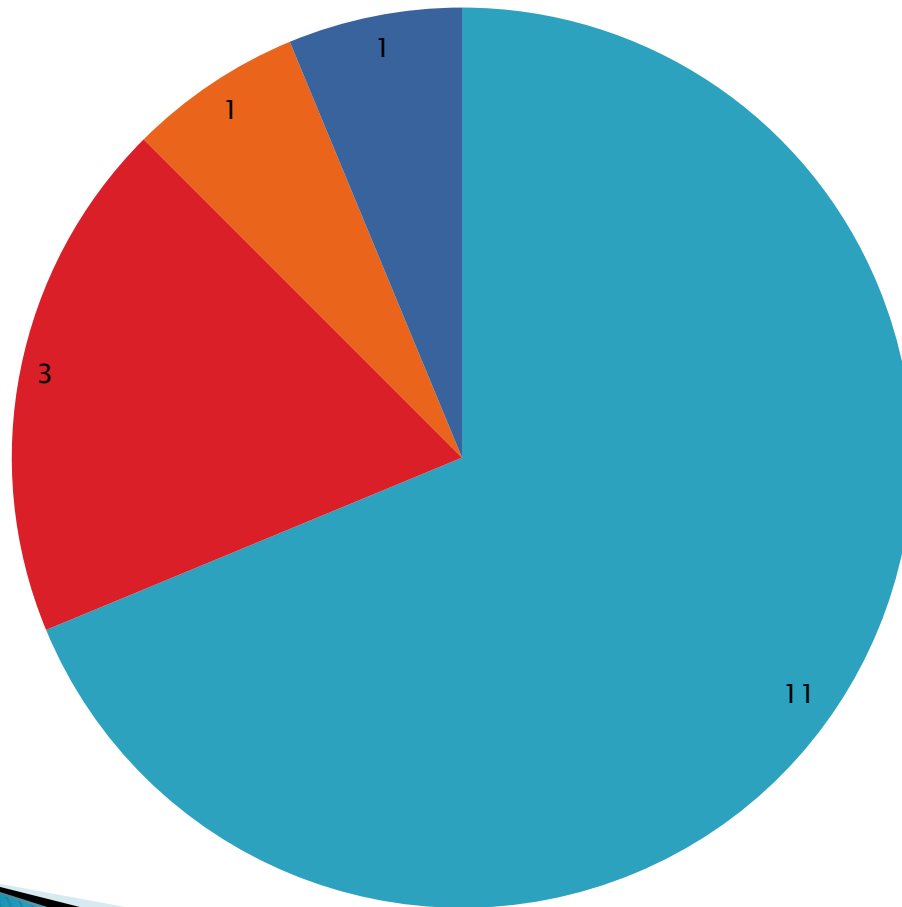
■ Neutral

■ No change

Current rule:

## 2.2 Associate Members

Representatives of Associate Member bands may attend League meetings but will not be entitled to vote. They can take part in discussions with the permission of the chairperson.



■ Suggestion 1: Amend in line with suggestion to section one. Associate members should be granted a vote for all non contest related business. Whether the issue being discussed and voted on is a contesting issue can be decided by the Executive

■ No change

■ Don't know?

■ Other: Do away with "associate" member and have full rights

Current rule:

### 3.3 Election of Executive Officers

Eligibility: Only band representatives to the BBL will be eligible for election to posts as Executive Officers.

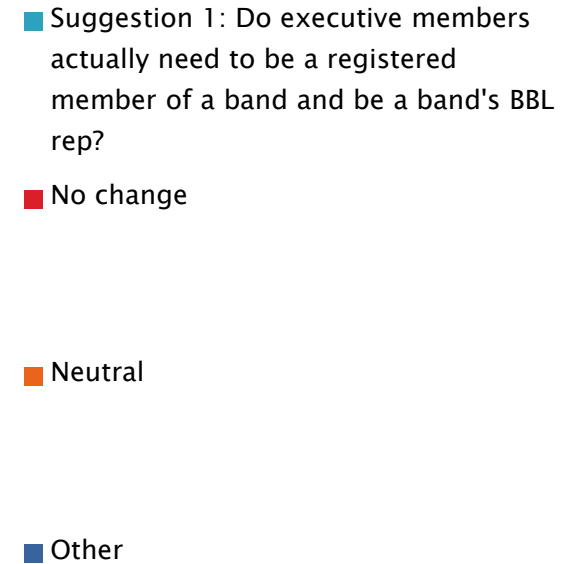
We feel executive members should be a member of a band.

BBL executive members should not necessarily be band reps

Yes we think they should be a registered brass band member or a non playing committee member of that band

Think there should be some connection/registration with bands to be eligible for Executive Office.

It is important to have a form of background in the brass band movement and have a passion for it but it could be important to have someone who is a keen funder or knows their way round application forms that can take control of this aspect even if they aren't apart of the movement but are kept up to date with the progress.



Primarily this is the Brass Band League – executive members should be a registered member of a band but not necessarily the band's BBL rep!

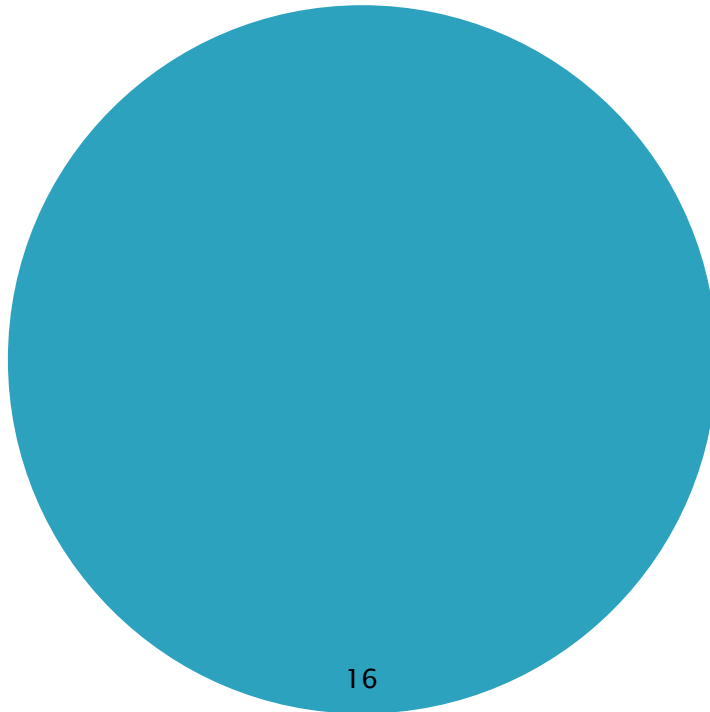
Executive Officers must be a registered member of a member band but not necessarily a BBL rep.

Current rule:

### 3.4 League Meeting

Full meetings of the League will take place on the first Saturday of each month (except July and August) to hear and discuss reports from the Executive Groups and to bring forward any item designed to further the BBL objectives.

The meeting will be presided over by the Chairperson or his deputy. The business of the meeting will be recorded by the Assistant Secretary. The quorum will be five bands.



- Suggestion 1: Change this rule to reflect that BBL Council meetings will take place monthly (not necessarily on first Saturday) and that the Secretary or Assistant Secretary will record minutes.



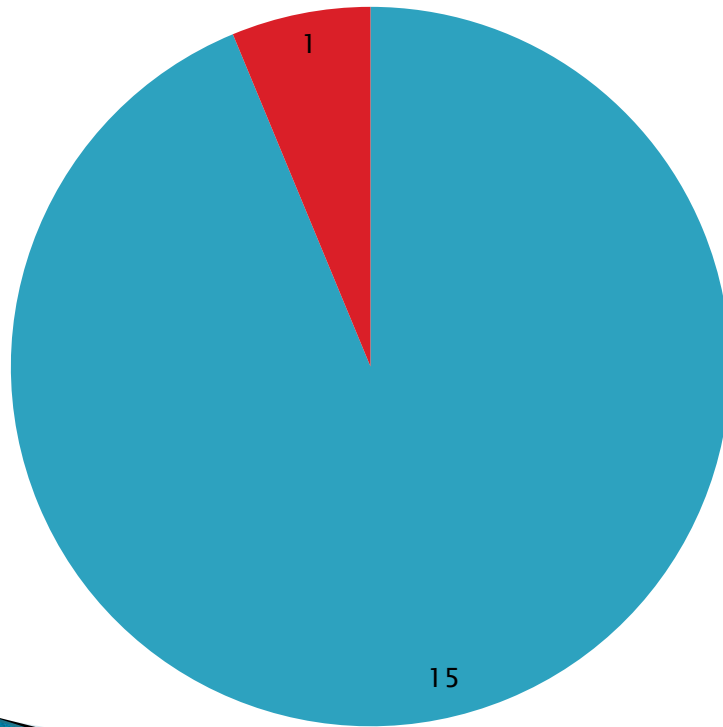
Current rule:

### 3.4 League Meeting

Full meetings of the League will take place on the first Saturday of each month (except July and August) to hear and discuss reports from the Executive Groups and to bring forward any item designed to further the BBL objectives.

The meeting will be presided over by the Chairperson or his deputy. The business of the meeting will be recorded by the Assistant Secretary. The quorum will be five bands.

Items for the agenda should be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary four weeks in advance of the meeting



Suggestion 1: Change this rule to reflect that BBL Council meetings will take place monthly (not necessarily on first Saturday) and that the Secretary or Assistant Secretary will record minutes. Items for agenda should be forwarded to the League no later than 1 week in advance of the meeting.



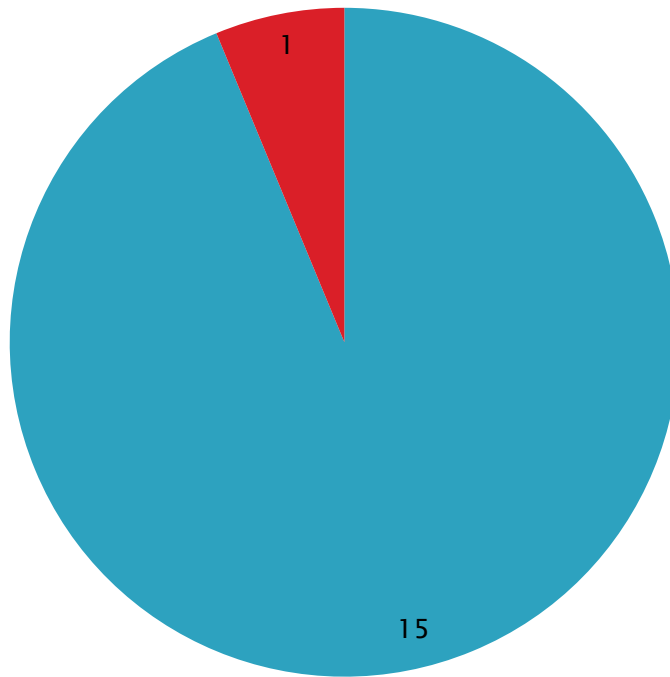
Neutral

His/her deputy otherwise okay

Current rule:

### 3.7 Record of Attendance

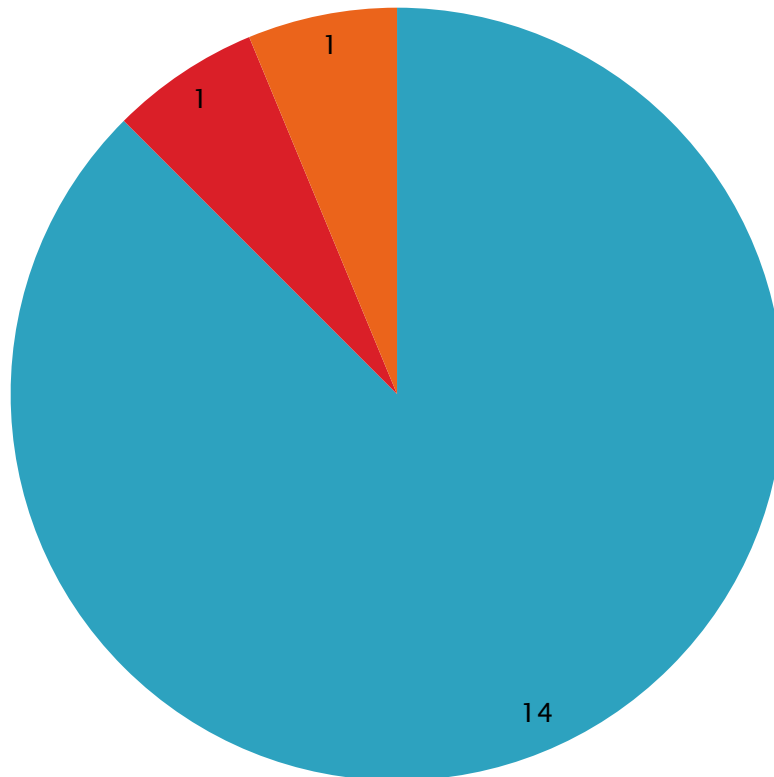
Representatives are responsible for signifying their attendance by signing the Attendance Register.



- Suggestion 1: Secretary or Assistant Secretary will be responsible for ensuring that meeting attendance is recorded in an appropriate fashion.
- No change

## Current rule:

6 BBL members may enter into relationships with other band movements. However a BBL member is not authorised to speak or provide information on behalf of the BBL.



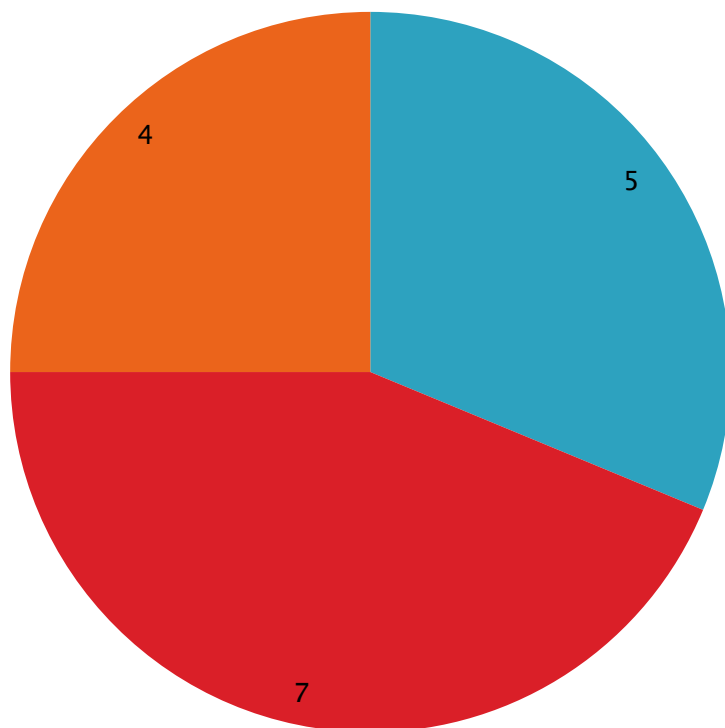
■ Suggestion 1: Clarify rule by updating occurrences of "BBL member" with "BBL member band"

■ No change

■ Other: We believe this should say "BBL member band representative".

Current rule:  
7.2 Contests

North of Ireland Bands Association registration, transfer and contest rules will apply in full at all contests organised by the BBL.



- Suggestion 1: Remove section 7.2. BBL would need to decide what rules and registration they would follow instead.
- Suggestion 2: Remove rule or reword to say NIBA rules may apply at BBL contests at the executive's discretion.
- No change

# Other comments

Our band is very much in favour of reviewing the relationship between the NIBA and BBL. As a minimum we would like to see the subservient relationship as stated in the NIBA rules be removed and we work together collaboratively as equals. If NIBA don't want this this we advocate a clean break and look after our own affairs completely.

Suggestion 2: Remove rule or reword to say NIBA rules may apply at BBL contests at the executive's discretion. This will give BBL the option to try new ideas/amendments, but doesn't hold BBL to writing a new complete set of rules

As they stand other wise there would be a total mix up.

ok with suggestion 1, like stated previously BBL should have overall control of its own rules

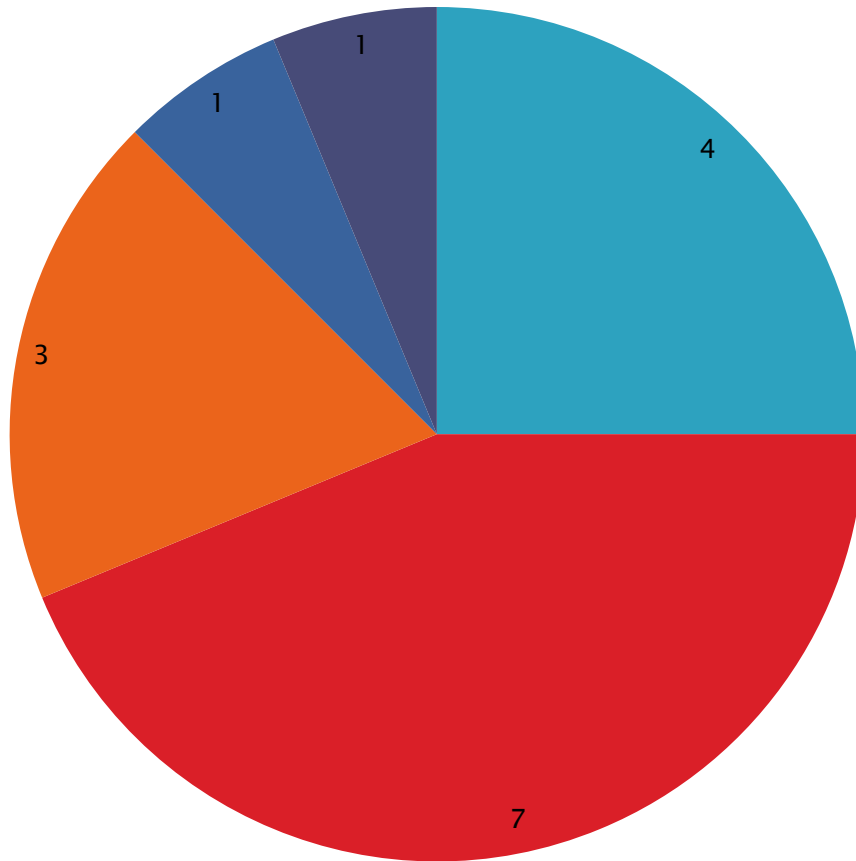
Suggestion 1: It is important for the Brass Band league to become its on body. It provides a platform for contests/concerts and does not have to be associated with another group. It will look more appealing to founders. Can the BBL create their own rules on the basis of the NIBA like suggestion 2?

# NIBA Rules Feedback

*“Only the NIBA General Council can change NIBA rules.”*

## Current rule:

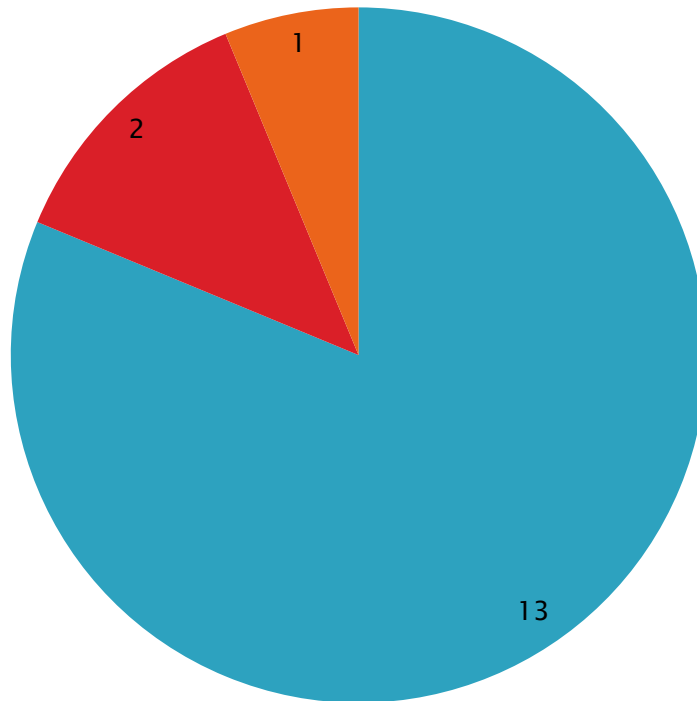
Rule 24: A band must be in membership of the NIBA in order to be eligible for membership of the Flute Band Association NI, the Brass Band League NI and the Accordion Band League NI.



- Suggestion 1: In order for the BBL to have associate members that don't have to be members of the NIBA, rule 24 would need amended or removed.
- Suggestion 2: Remove this rule. Bands will still require membership if they wish to use the NIBA players registry and/or compete in local contests as they stand.
- No change
- Neutral
- Don't know?

Current rule:

Rule 26: Subsidiary Leagues or Associations may only be established under the principle of Constitution and General Rule 2 and may be disbanded at the discretion of the Executive Committee.



- Suggestion 1: Remove rule 26. NIBA should not have the power to disband any of the subsidiary organisations.
- No change
- Don't know?

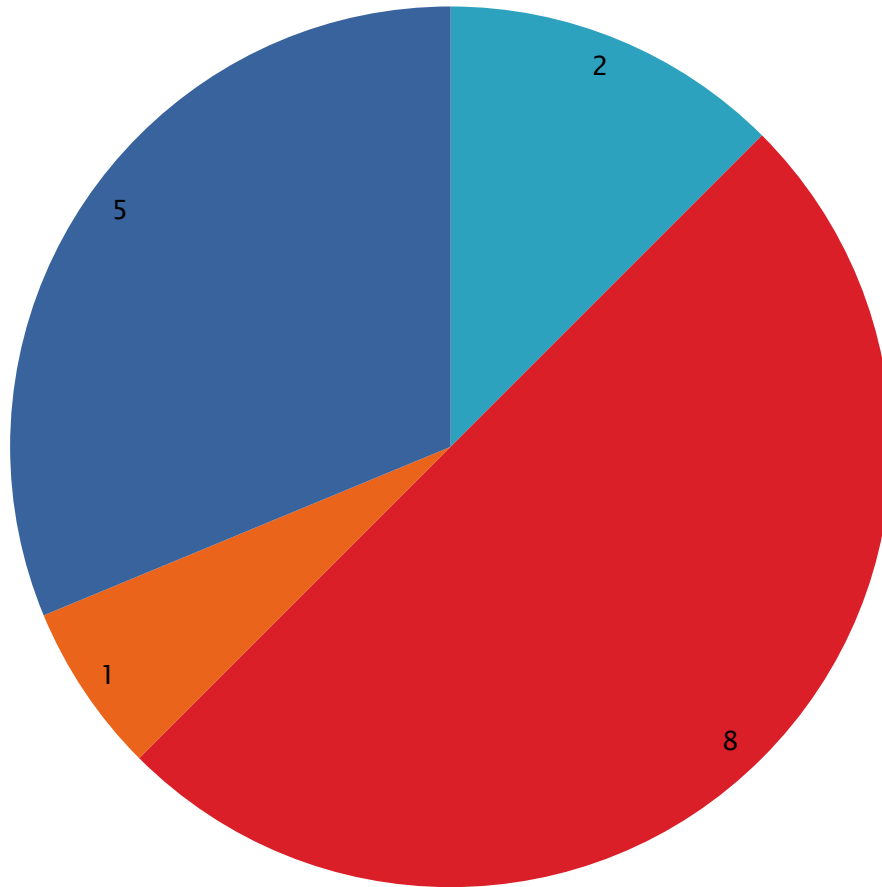
The key issue here is what is a 'subsidiary' organisation and what does that entail? We feel that if the BBL is a subsidiary organisation of the NIBA then it follows that theoretically, the NIBA could disband it. In any event, there would be nothing to stop the BBL setting up as an independent organisation.



## Player transfer Rules

Current rule:

Rule 6: A registered player is permitted to transfer only once in any twelve-month rolling period.  
This rule will not apply in the case of bands amalgamating.



■ Suggestion 1: There could be exceptional circumstances such as a band member moving house and wanting to change band, but not being able to for 12 months. There could be a clause or clarification inserted to the rule to make this distinction.

■ No change

■ Neutral

■ Other

# Other suggestions:

Add to the rule .....Exceptional cases presented to and approved by the Executive may over-ride this rule. The Executive decision in each case will be final and non-negotiable.

Change this rule from 12 months to 6 months

Needs a consultation meeting

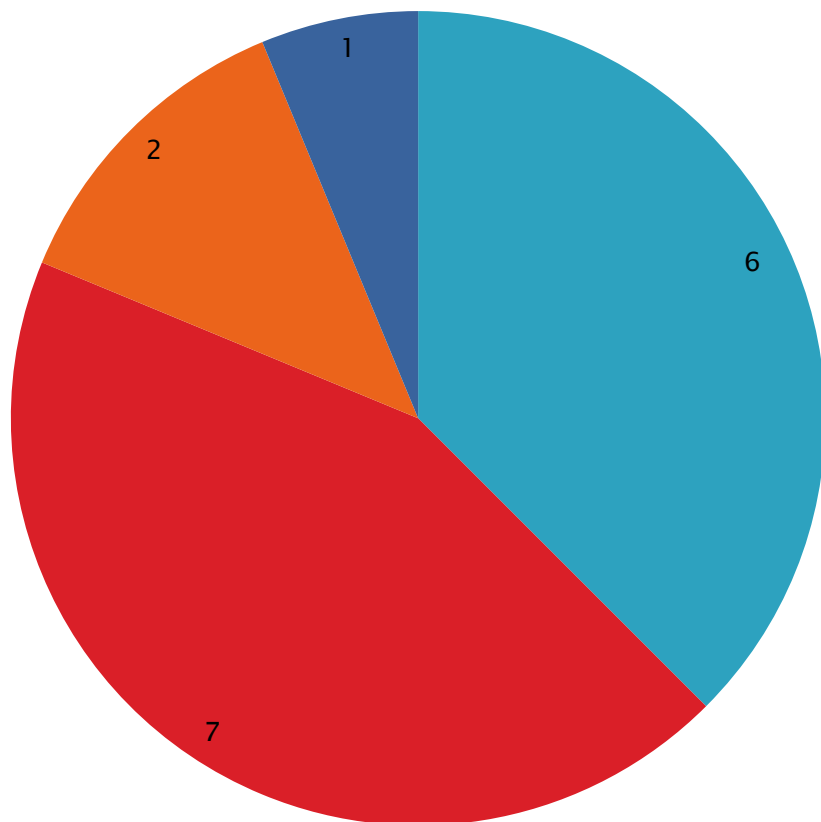
Drop to 6 months if appropriate evidence is supplied, change of address for exam

Suggestion 1: Northern Ireland is a small country and don't have the huge pool of players that the likes of England have etc with universities.

1. The rule could be brought down to 6 months instead of 12 months and including the clause of changing location.

## Contest Rules: Current rule:

Rule 3: Each player must be a registered player of the band for which he or she competes at least four calendar weeks prior to the first day of competition in any contest. A registered player will only be permitted to play for one band of each type in any contest except when holding multiple registration as defined by Registration Rules 4 and 8, playing as a deputy in accordance with Contest Rule 25 or playing as a guest in accordance with Contest Rule 28.



■ Suggestion 1: Change from 4 weeks to 2 weeks to recognise that everything is electronic now and much easier to update and change than in the past.

■ Suggestion 2: Reduce the 4-week pre-contest registration/transfer rule to 1 week. There is no real need for 4 weeks in this technological age where registrations and transfers are now handled electronically, often within minutes.

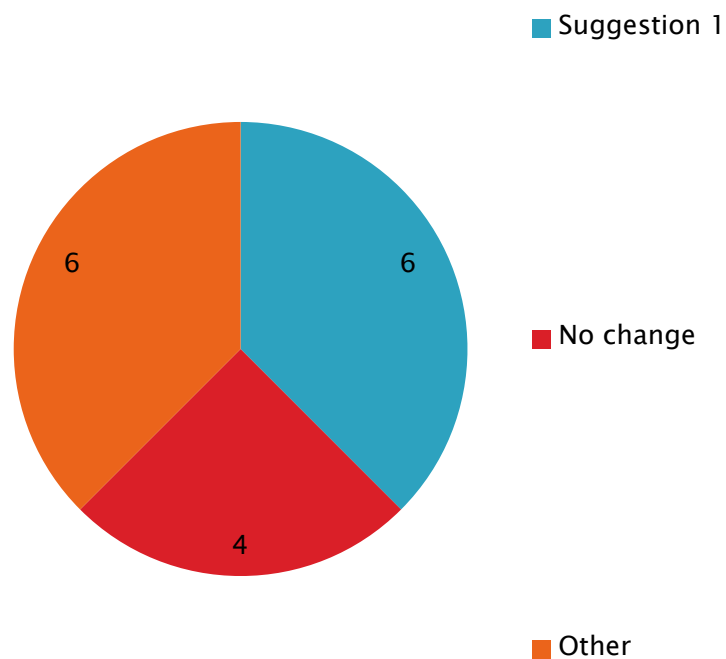
■ No change

■ Neutral

The time limits in this rule are nothing to do with the speed of recording changes. They are there to ensure that players have been regular members of their band for a reasonable period of time.

## Current rule:

Rule 4: A professional musician will not be permitted to play in any contest held under NIBA Rules, except were the musician has been a player registered with the NIBA prior to becoming a professional. For the purposes of these rules a professional musician is defined as one who earns two thirds, or more, of his or her livelihood through playing music and as all regular bandspersons of Armed Forces and Police Forces. The Executive Committee will have the power to decide on the professional status of any player.



Suggestion 1: The BBL currently follows the NIBA registration rules re professional players. I believe that this rule should be changed. The current rule states that a professional is someone who earns a third or more of their income from playing. This rule is a hindrance to bands. We are trying to work within a very small pool of brass players in NI and to limit that further seems unhelpful and to the detriment of the movement. The rule also discriminates against people who are not from NI. You can play a professional player if they were registered with the NIBA prior to becoming a professional...I'm not suggesting we change the rule so bands can use 25 professionals in contests but there should be an allowance of 2 or 3 per band. It is highly unlikely that any band would gain a significant advantage from having one professional player in their band, other than filling an empty seat. I am aware of bands having to withdraw from contests due to being 1 or 2 players short. If the rule was different these bands might have been able to compete. This rule change suggestion was brought to the NIBA recently and rejected by their members. From what I am aware, it was mostly met with negativity from the flute and accordion bands and the majority of brass bands were in favour of the change. The BBL could take the lead here and suggest this change to their member bands. I think it would only be a good thing for the member bands and their participation in contests. It seems crazy that the NIBA only organise 1 out of 4 contests in the calendar year yet have control over all player registration.

# Other suggestions:

Are class music teachers and peripatetic tutors regarded as professionals? An advantage could be gained by the use of a professional player given the context of a piece, eg. trombone player in Year of the Dragon. Is there a possibility of implementing the 25 brass and “percussion as required”, following the model used in England. This would help to speed things up as it would eliminate the moving/adding of seats, and percussion sections would be given a “map” of where the percussion will be on the day of the contest, and rehearse accordingly.

Agree with this change as long as guests are strictly limited.

Note: England are currently trying to change their 25 brass player limit as it is very restrictive to bands trying to encourage younger players to get on a contest stage

Limits should be determined, but only based on BBL executive – NIBA rules shouldn't have determining factor.

Agree with suggestion but think the limit should be set at two players. Also think that professional players should not be allowed to compete for the soloist prize in each section at the contests. We should be encouraging the amateur players to compete for those prizes

We would leave this rule unchanged as even 1 or 2 permitted professionals if used in a principal position would have significant advantage for that band

# Other suggestions:

Agree with suggestion but think the limit should be set at two players. Also think that professional players should not be allowed to compete for the soloist prize in each section at the contests. We should be encouraging the amateur players to compete for those prizes

Only the NIBA General Council can change NIBA rules and they have already rejected this proposed change.

PROFESSIONALS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE ONLY IF REGISTERED WITH A BAND, TO AVOID PEOPLE 'HIRING' PROFESSIONALS FOR CONTESTS.

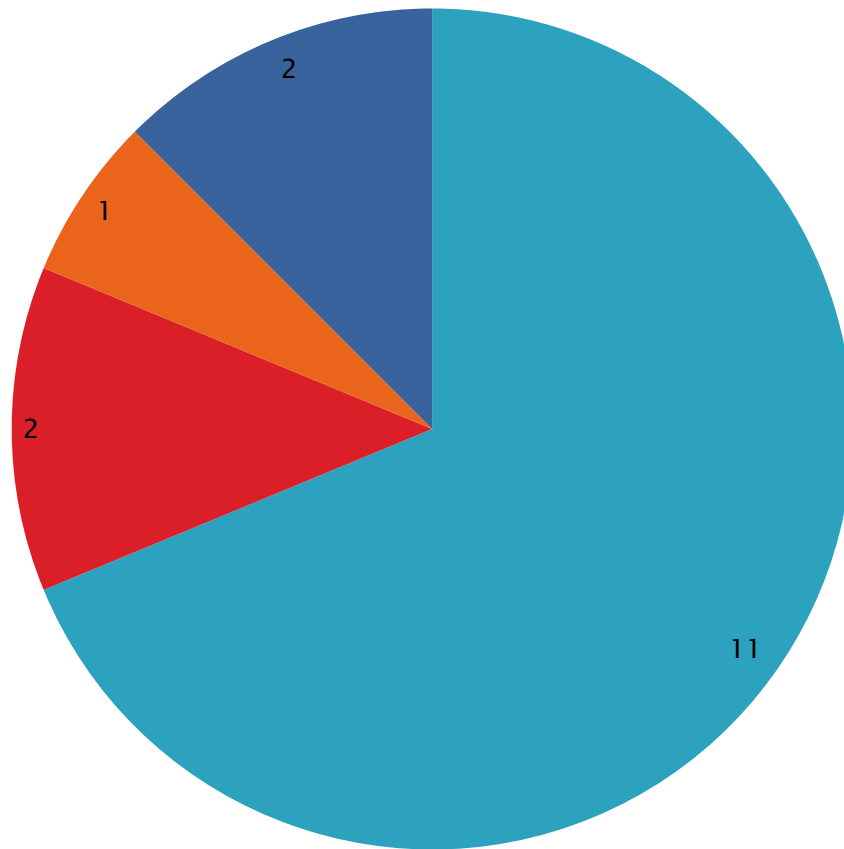
We think that if a professional player is registered under another registry we think they should also be able to register under the NIBA registration system.

Totally agree with everything in suggestion 1 – Northern Ireland is a small pool of players if you only need that 2nd baritone position filled or percussion part that means it can be covered.

Agreed that the BBL should challenge the NIBA on behalf of Brass players and lobby for a maximum of 2 professional players be permitted to compete in any brass band.

## Current rule:

Rule 11: Band players and conductors will only be admitted to contest venues upon production of an admission ticket or payment of the requisite admission fee. Admission tickets will be issued to competing bands in line with the number of players listed on their entry forms. Bands shall return all unused tickets to the NIBA. Bands will be required to pay for unused tickets not returned. The number of unused tickets will be defined as the difference between the number of players listed on a band's entry form and the number of players that sign at the registration verification desk.



■ Suggestion 1: Remove that bands will be charged for failing to return tickets as this doesn't seem to be enforced?

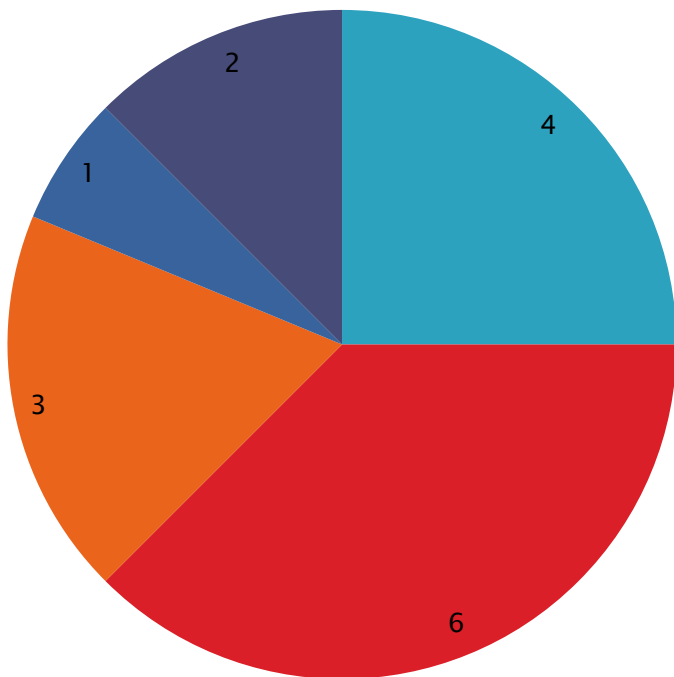
■ No change

■ Neutral

■ Don't know?

**Current rule:**

Rule 12: Each band shall provide, no later than one week before the day of competition in any contest, details of guest players – comprising their names and the bands they are registered with – that will play on the contest platform. The Membership & Registration Secretary will produce a registry report based on the submitted lists containing names, signatures and photographs that shall be signed by each player and checked and verified by the contest scrutineers prior to being given permission to compete. A list of players that competed will be retained in the Registry database.



- Suggestion 1: Add in that guest players can be registered up to 24 hours prior to contest with an additional late fee charged.
- Suggestion 2: I think guest players should be able to be submitted up to 1 week prior to contest
- No change
- Don't know
- Other

SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE, SAY 3 DAYS.

Retain the rule but allow the BBL Executive to review and permit guests after the deadline in extenuating circumstances.

Agree with rule 1, but should be no late fee.



### Current rule:

Rule 25: If, due to personal illness or accident, or the death or illness of or accident to an immediate relative or dependent, a player is unable to play in a contest and the officials of the competing band so affected desire a deputy, application to use a deputy may be made to the contest organisers. A doctor's certificate in respect of incapacity due to personal illness or accident must be presented with the application, if practicable. Self completed certificates will not be accepted. Deputies must be registered players of the NIBA or another formally constituted similar organisation that operates a similar formal player registration system recognised by the NIBA. On the day of competition, deputies may be played from bands of any type in the same grade as, or a lower grade than, the band desiring to use them. Bands competing in Grade 4 or 5 may also play deputies from bands no more than one grade higher than that in which they are competing. For the purposes of this rule Melody Accordion, Melody Flute, and Melody Plus Flute Bands will be regarded as Grade 4. The grade of any band from which a deputy is played will be regarded as that in which it last competed in a contest held under NIBA rules. Deputies may not be requested from a band that has never competed in a contest held under NIBA rules. Professional musicians, as defined under Contest Rule 4, will not be permitted to play as deputies.

Comment 1: The unnecessary strictness of the rules could be putting bands off from competing in the NIBA Contests E.G: –  
Needing a sick note for a player who isn't well if you have used  
guest spaces.

# Other Comments:

No change x2

Remove ruling

A signed statement from the incapacitated member would suffice. GP's are busy enough without having to produce sick notes. We don't think it would deter bands from contesting though.

Continue with the rule, but implement the rule comment 1

Remove the needs for doctors notes etc and allow players to play in sections lower than the one they are registered in

Needs looked at and simplified accordingly, but again should be determined by the bbl executive rather than NIBA

Change so a self cert is acceptable as some GPs charge money for a letter if the illness is less than 5 days in duration.

Request for a doctor's note should be at contest organisers discretion. Common sense should be used, there is no need to produce a certificate if the circumstances are well known e.g. serious illness, death in the family etc. This will build trust and understanding in the banding family.

We think a sick note (when self certification is the norm) is unnecessary/difficult.

Just allow an additional guest player for such circumstances. Deputy players don't really work particularly in Own Choice contests.

Think the rules are a little strict and don't think there is a need for a sick note. Also think a deputy can be requested from a band whether it has contested under NIBA rules or not but do agree with the rule as it stands regarding professional musicians.

SICK NOTES UNNECESSARY. REMOVE THIS REQUIREMENT.

Current rule:

Rule 28: Any band will be permitted to play a maximum of two guest players at a contest. A player may only play as a guest player with one band in any contest. Guest players must be registered players of the NIBA or another formally constituted similar organisation that operates a similar formal player registration system recognised by the NIBA. On the day of competition, guest players may be played from bands of any type in the same grade as, or a lower grade than, the band desiring to use them. Bands competing in Grade 4 or 5 may also play guest players from bands no more than one grade higher than that in which they are competing. For the purposes of this rule Melody Accordion, Melody Flute, and Melody Plus Flute Bands will be regarded as Grade 4. The grade of any band from which a guest player is played will be regarded as that in which it last competed in a contest held under NIBA rules. Guest players may not be requested from a band that has never competed in a contest held under NIBA rules. Professional musicians, as defined under Contest Rule 4, will not be permitted to play as guest players.

# Suggestions

Suggestion 1: Proposed revised Rule 28 (already submitted to NIBA for discussion/approval at next AGM). Any band will be permitted to play a maximum of two guest players plus an additional maximum of one percussion player at a contest. A player may only play as a guest player with one band in any contest. Guest players must be registered players of the NIBA or another formally constituted similar organisation that operates a similar formal player registration system recognised by the NIBA. On the day of competition, guest players may be played from bands of any type in the same grade as, or a lower grade than, the band desiring to use them. Bands competing in Grade 4 or 5 may also play guest players from bands no more than one grade higher than that in which they are competing. For the purposes of this rule Melody Accordion, Melody Flute, and Melody Plus Flute Bands will be regarded as Grade 4. Percussion guests can be played from any band regardless of grade and instrumentation. The grade of any band from which a guest player is played will be regarded as that in which it last competed in a contest held under NIBA rules. Guest players may not be requested from a band that has never competed in a contest held under NIBA rules. Professional musicians, as defined under Contest Rule 4, will not be permitted to play as guest players.

Suggestion 2: Add a legacy rule for questing in line with other European countries. For example, if a player was registered with a lower section band at the age of 18 or under and then subsequently registers to play for a higher section band, they should be allowed to go and play with their home band. This would help lower section bands compete

Suggestion 3a: There are many ex professional / experienced musicians who can transfer up to help senior section bands maintain their positions but no help for lower section bands from transfer down, this rule needs changed to enable lower section bands to compete. If the rule to allow members to be registered with their initial training band it would go a long way to help,

Suggestion 3b: As a lower section band we train our youth from 8 to 18 and then lose them to mostly Championship section or senior section whilst this is fantastic for them and we want them to go further it's detrimental for us, sometimes loosing 4-5 in one go. They should be able to do both this would keep lower section bands in the contest market...if members of lower section bands are able to transfer to senior bands to help them, I really don't see why lower section bands can't avail of the same, then perhaps you would see more at contest and a more rounded contest after a few years.

# Suggestions

Suggestion 4: A relaxation of registration requirements and use of guest players for lower section bands could be considered in order to further encourage their participation.

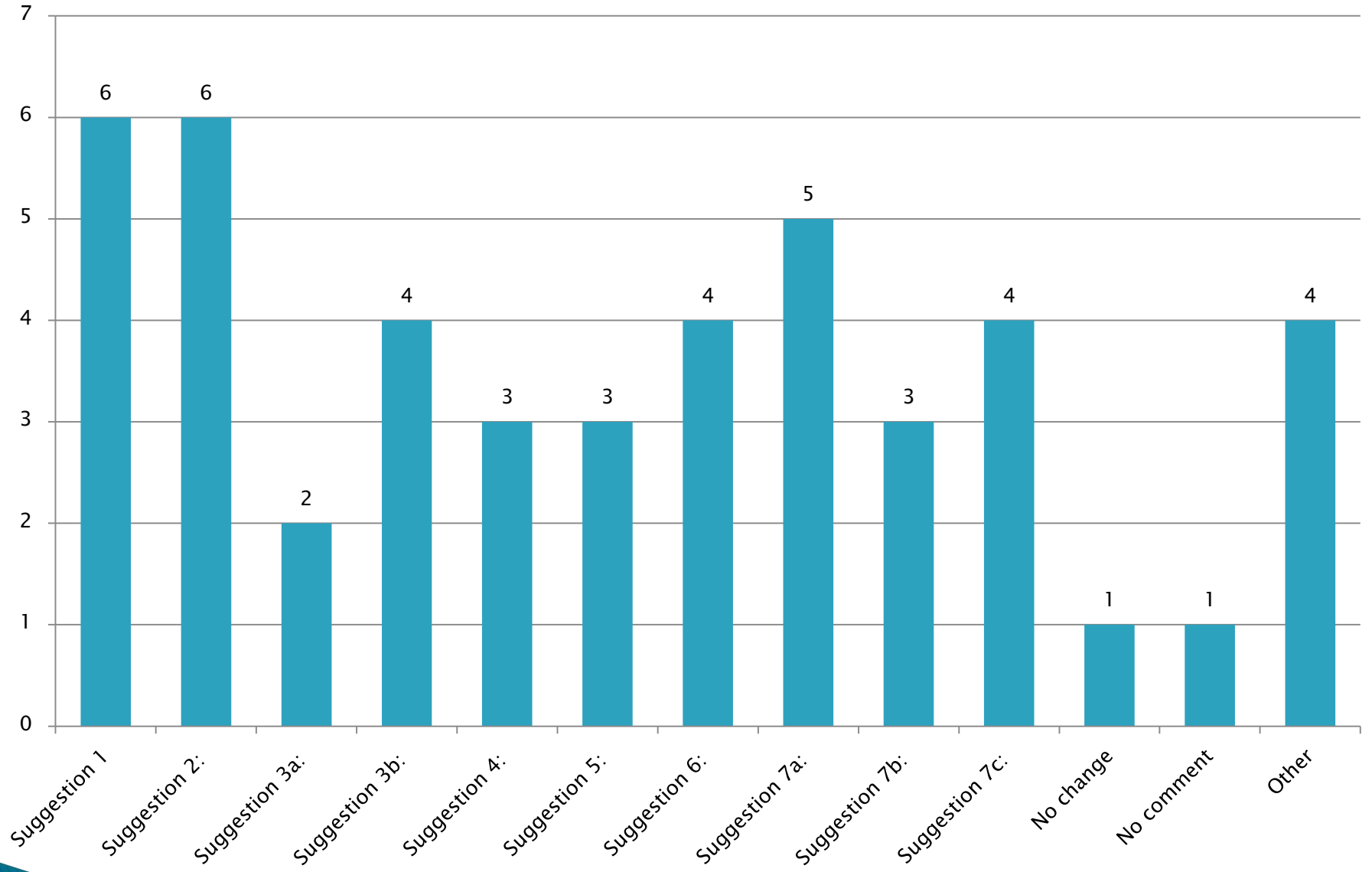
Suggestion 5: A player from a grade 2 band should be allowed to contest with a grade 3 band and same in other sections grade above allowed to play down one grade same as being allowed to play up a section

Suggestion 6: Increase permitted number of guest players to 3 across all sections.

Suggestion 7a: If a member of a band is selected to represent Northern Ireland at the European Youth Brass Band, that band should be allowed 1 extra guest player at any contest where that player is missing for that reason.

Suggestion 7b: Allow non soloists to guest with lower section bands, i.e. no principal players and no individual prizes can be awarded to them.

Suggestion 7c: Players should be allowed to guest for free to their first band, in addition to any other guesting rules. The idea being that players who would like to progress to a more senior band can do so with less impact on their “home” band who may have nurtured them from a young age and with whom they may hold a sense of loyalty whilst also holding a desire to progress to a more senior band. Limits could perhaps be placed so that only lower section bands can be advantaged by this facility and only to a maximum number of previous players e.g. 4.



# Other Comments

Suggestion 2: Add a legacy rule for questing in line with other European countries. For example, if a player was registered with a lower section band at the age of 18 or under and then subsequently registers to play for a higher section band, they should be allowed to go and play with their home band. This would help lower section bands compete

Suggestion 7c: Players should be allowed to guest for free to their first band, in addition to any other guesting rules. The idea being that players who would like to progress to a more senior band can do so with less impact on their "home" band who may have nurtured them from a young age and with whom they may hold a sense of loyalty whilst also holding a desire to progress to a more senior band. Limits could perhaps be placed so that only lower section bands can be advantaged by this facility and only to a maximum number of previous players e.g. 4.

These suggestions will help lower section bands to be able to compete and develop.

Suggestion 7a: If a member of a band is selected to represent Northern Ireland at the European Youth Brass Band, that band should be allowed 1 extra guest player at any contest where that player is missing for that reason.

Band should not be penalised due to a young member being able to compete on the European stage

Suggestions 3a and 3b and 7c give long established bands a big advantage over those who haven't been about as long.

most of these suggestions are valid, increase number of guest players to 4 regardless of instrument, and look at the option of guesting down but not in a principle seat rather than lower bands having to approach professionals most bands will struggle once we come out the far side of this long spell of inactivity, players may have lost interest and found other things to do with the free time, lower sections bands will need more support. root and branch reform of the rules maybe needed to help the movement recover from covid. the NIBA should not have over arching control of decisions of brass band movement. /as regards to age of junior players and home bands the age limits could be increased to align with the age brackets of european youth.

We should be doing everything we can to encourage people to participate with bands in contests, within reason of course

A relaxation for the low bands needs to be consider. Youth players are keen to improve with higher section bands but must be able to go back down to play with their home band in the lower sections. We think they're would be a considerable rise in entries if this rule was changed in the lower sections. Two guest players can play down in Grade 4. If they are already playing for a Section 2 band.

If a player plays with a higher section band, that player may be the glue that keeps together a village band (lower section) meaning this band won't go out without that particular player.

It will boost the numbers in contests.