

# 2025 Owl Marching Invitational Directors Packet

The following information is provided for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Odem Owl Marching Invitational at the Odem Owl Stadium on Saturday, September 27th, 2025. You will be responsible for all information and local ground rules in this packet, so please read carefully. If you have any questions or concerns, you can email me at [rashs@oeisd.org](mailto:rashs@oeisd.org) or call me at my cell phone (361)537-6191.

We are conducting this contest in accordance with the UIL Area 5 Judge Format. Any rules that are in place for UIL are in place for this contest as well. You may find the full rules for marching here under subsections (h) and (i), and then the Area-specific rules on the left:

<https://www.uiltexas.org/policy/constitution/music/region-marching-band>

## General Information

1. Arrive at Odem High School (1 Owl Square, Odem, TX 78370) 30-45 minutes before your warm-up time. Please avoid being there too early in advance so we may maintain our parking lot flow. You may wait for your entry time along the back end of 'Owl Square' if you need a place to park until that time. Have your buses unload students at the Southwest High School Parking Lot. Your equipment trucks will unload at the northeast end of the High School Parking Lot (Other Half). A monitor will meet you and stay with you until you have left the field and returned to your buses. **PLEASE INFORM SPOUSES, BAND STAFF, SUPERINTENDENT, and PRINCIPALS** that they absolutely may NOT park in the bus parking lot. **Food deliveries may not take place in this lot.** **ABSOLUTELY NO TENTS OR FOOD TRUCKS SHOULD BE SETUP IN THIS AREA!**

All groups must stay within the designated areas for Loading/Unloading. **Due to construction, we are unable to accommodate any other spots.** If you need an extended unloading time to assemble props/sems for a longer time, we will do what we can accommodate in one of the grass areas in front of the bus lot. Please contact us in advance to discuss the best way to do this.

2. Once equipment has been loaded onto the trucks/trailers after the performance, they must move to the truck lot shown on the map. Buses should be moved to the Baseball field parking area. Should we need additional vehicles to move, we may also use our Tennis Court/Pool Parking Lot.
3. If you have larger props that need assembly, there is a grass area by the Odem-Edroy ISD Marquee sign adjacent to the lot that you may use for that purpose and for extra truck parking. Entry to the field is through a double-wide gate with no overhang to limit size.
4. Warm-up areas will be in our Grass Band Practice Field (see maps). No pit warm-up is allowed at the stadium or in the parking lot. In case of bad weather or excessive heat, the warm-up area may be moved inside our Band Hall and Jazz Room/Stage. Please look at the maps to see Inclement Weather warm-up sites. **ABSOLUTELY NO WARM-UP OF PHYSICAL OR MUSIC IS ALLOWED OUTSIDE OF WARM-UP TIME!** (Failure to comply with the rule may result in a penalty of point deductions to disqualification at the discretion of the contest host. This is in line with UIL Rules.)

5. The warm-up time is 30 minutes. Your time includes entering **and** exiting the warm-up area. At the 25-minute mark, you must start moving your band out of the warm-up area and head to the stadium. Restrooms are available inside the high school for students in the main hallway.
6. An extended goal line is used as the starting point for the bands. **Percussion keyboards and front ensemble equipment (including drum major stands but NOT props or guard equipment) will move to the 20-yard line on the front sideline as their starting line.** Your band will wait there until the preceding band has completed their performance. When the official on the track gives you a signal, the stadium announcer will say, “(Name of Band) High School, you may now enter the field to prepare for your performance.”

You will then begin moving into the starting position for warm-up/set-up, and the 5-minute set-up time will begin on the scoreboard clock. Timing and announcements will follow UIL rules, so be familiar with them. This includes the use of the UIL Script timing. The scoreboard clock will stop with 20 seconds left and be reset to 8:00, and drum majors will be introduced as the clock is reset. The final 20 seconds will be kept on a stopwatch in the Press Box. When those 20 seconds have expired, the Scoreboard Clock will change from 8:00 to 7:59, and judging of your show shall begin.

7. Owl Stadium has artificial turf with painted standard markings. Any pit or prop equipment pushed or pulled on the field surface must have large inflatable tires or tires with a minimum of 8-inch wheels (pneumatic wheels/casters). Any equipment with smaller wheels must be lifted and placed into position.

**Anything that leaves a residue on the turf will not be permitted, and Violators will be billed for damage!**

**(i.e., Glitter, fire extinguishers, fog machines, confetti, and powder)**

There is a 7-lane artificial surface track around the football field, which may be used to move equipment and personnel. All gasoline-powered vehicles must have protection under the chassis and be leak-free. Electric vehicles need no such protection.

8. All band members are to remain off the field except during their performance. Band directors are asked to strictly enforce this policy. Directors will be held responsible for the behavior of their students.
9. There will be EMS personnel on hand for the contest. Most medical issues at marching contests tend to be due to dehydration. Please ensure that your students properly hydrate so that they can have the best possible experience at the Owl Marching Festival!
10. Balloons are prohibited at Owl Stadium, either by participants or spectators. Noisemakers, i.e. air horns, cowbells, etc., are not allowed. Please inform your parents and supporters that balloons and Noisemakers will not be allowed in the stadium.
11. Umbrellas (and other shading devices) must be completely closed and lowered while bands are performing. (Please inform your parents of this in advance)
12. We plan to provide each group with an educational copy of their performance via Google Drive by midnight on Sunday. The recording will utilize our camera and external XLR mics that will be mounted to the front of the press box. If you prefer to use your own equipment, please let us know; we cannot make both recordings for copyright concerns.

13. Admission for the general public is \$8.00 per person. There is no charge for pre-school age (5 and under) Children. Tickets are available at this link in advance: <http://odemhsband.ludus.com> We will accept cash and credit cards (fee required) at the gate. Tickets are valid for the entire contest with in and out privileges as long as spectators do not lose their wristbands.
14. Spectator parking is primarily available in the lot behind the home side stands, and between our pool and the tennis courts on the other side of the old high school gym. Due to construction, we have a pass-through fence 'tunnel' adjacent to the construction area that can get you there from the tennis court lot to the ticket booth. There are signs posted to help guide spectators. Additional overflow parking is available in our Elementary and Intermediate Parking lots on the north side of the district block.
15. The ticket booth will be open about one hour before the start of the contest. The ticket booth will be open on the stadium's home side (Northwest end). All seating is general admission and is on a first-come, first-served basis. "Seat saving" will not be tolerated. OEISD personnel will enforce this if necessary. Please ask your fans to cooperate. The judges' area in front of the press box will be roped off. Please ask your fans to stay out of that area not to disturb the judges.
16. Band students and band sponsors will be allowed free admission to the visitors' stands. Students must wear a uniform/shirt or have a band director present to identify them as band members to be allowed admission to the visitors' stands. Any band student or sponsor wishing to view the contest from the home side must pay the admission fee.
17. There will be NO changing rooms. Restrooms are located close to the warm-up areas in the HS, and there are some at the stadium on the far side by the concession stand.
18. No Video passes are being utilized this year due to the contest copy of the recording. If you wish to waive the recording and use your own device instead, please contact us via email at least 48 hours in advance so we may work out your special arrangements.
19. Passes for school personnel, i.e., bus drivers, assistant directors, school administrators, etc., will be available at check-in. Gate passes are NOT for parents; parents accompanying your band must sit with the band on the Visitor side of the stadium.
20. For the safety of all participants, please ensure that parents and or directors supervise students throughout the contest!
21. Access to the seating area will be restricted during each band's performance. We will close all entrances with 2 minutes left on the clock of each band setup time. Please inform your fans and students of this courtesy rule and advise them to show up at least 30 minutes before YOUR band performs.
22. Concession stands will be provided at the Home Side only for this event. The Odem Owl Band Boosters are running the concessions. PLEASE FREQUENT THEM OFTEN!
23. Commemorative T-shirts are available for sale from the Owl Band Boosters.
24. There will be an awards ceremony on the field at the end of the contest following the last band performance. All drum majors should report to the area under the scoreboard. If you wish to leave earlier and miss awards, that is understandable; just please let us know when you check in.

**NO OUTSIDE FOOD DELIVERIES TO THE STADIUM OR SCHOOL WILL BE ALLOWED. OUR BOOSTERS HAVE GREAT CONCESSIONS!!! IF YOU NEED A PICNIC LOCATION THERE IS A PARK A COUPLE BLOCKS AWAY!**

# Scoring/Placement Procedures

One round will be held for the competition this year. Bands will be judged using the UIL 5 Judge Area system with 3 Music Judges and 2 Visual Judges. *Note: There will not be separate Guard and Percussion captions this year.*

Schools will be scored using the criteria UIL has set for that using Competition Suite to tabulate and send commentary back to directors after their performance.

Each Class will have 1st through 3rd Place trophies awarded.

Following class awards, we will also award 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Places overall. (Note: In Competition Suite, everyone will appear in one classification this year, with SCHOOL CLASS, i.e., Odem 3A for the name to help us delineate class versus overall awards)

## Final Notes

Please remember that operating a contest of this magnitude requires tremendous planning. Our volunteers will do their best to make this a great experience for you and your band; however, you can help by ensuring that your students, staff members, and parents adhere to the rules. If you have any questions, please call my cell phone at 361-537-6191. On behalf of Odem-Edroy ISD, we wish you and your band the best of luck!

Steven Rash  
Director of Bands  
Odem High School















