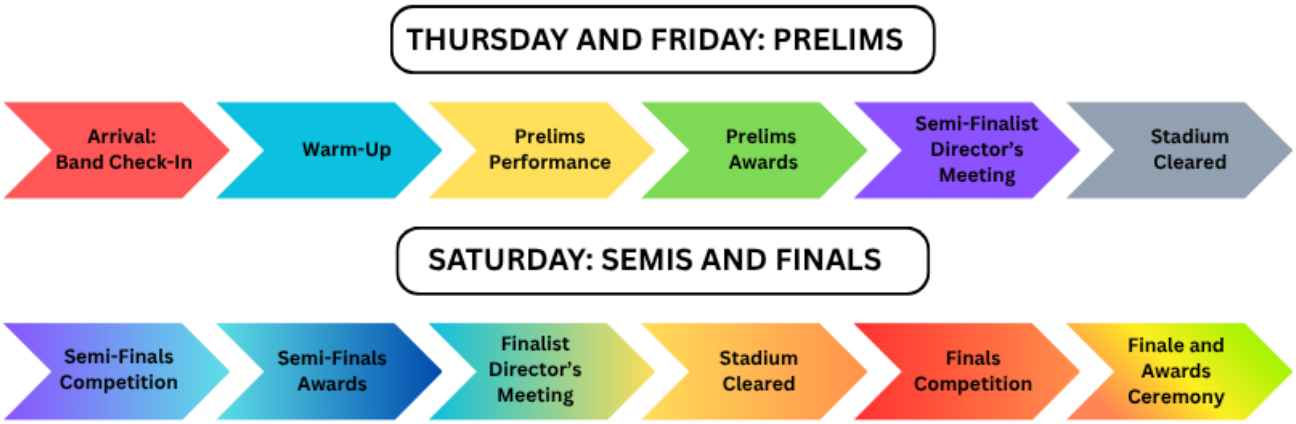
Bands of America Grand National Championships presented by Yamaha and Sweetwater

November 12-14, 2026 – Lucas Oil Stadium – Indianapolis, IN

Information Updated: September 14, 2026



Schedules

The Grand National Championships will operate on ***Eastern Time.***

Maps

For detailed POV walk-through videos, please see the Stadium Flow section.

General Field Diagram

Arrival

Band App

Each BAND is event specific. Join the 2026 BAND here.

Bus/Truck Parking

- All vehicles must display a BOA Parking pass at all times.
- There is no eating, warm-up, or stretching allowed in the parking lots
- BOA does NOT provide bus driver hospitality areas

PERFORMANCE PARKING

- Enter the **South Lot of Lucas Oil Stadium via Gate 10** off of McCarty Street
- The earliest vehicles may enter is 2 hours prior to performance, as indicated on the prelims schedule
- Vehicles must exit the South Lot 1 hour and 15 minutes after the start of your performance, unless otherwise indicated on the schedule
- BOA staff will be on hand to meet you and give your drivers parking instructions

NON-PERFORMANCE PARKING

- Parking while not in performance is available in the **IFA Event Lot 650**
  - Address: **542 Abbott Street**, accessible from West Street
  - This is a short walk to the stadium – Band Re-entry is the South Gate

OVERNIGHT PARKING

- Overnight parking is NOT allowed in the South Lot of Lucas Oil Stadium
- Vehicles may park overnight in the **IFA Event Lot 650.** 2026 Pricing will be released soon
- Vehicles must depart the IFA Lot by **6:00 AM on Sunday morning**
- Order parking passes online through the Parking Pass Form
  - For Grand National Championships, please note that there are two options: **General** and **Overnight**. General is for the buses and trucks that will be in the lots during your performance. If you need to purchase overnight parking passes, please select **Add Another Regional** below and select **Grand National Championships Overnight** to make a purchase.

Parking Passes

- **Passes Required:** Buses and equipment trucks need a parking pass for all BOA events. Use the Parking Pass Form to obtain passes (fees may apply). If you need more after your initial order, submit the form again.
  - Include any vehicle carrying/towing equipment in your truck count on the form.
- **Parking Fee:** Payment for passes requested can be paid online at the time of order, or sent to the MFA office by check.
  - Price per pass/vehicle: $
- **Staff Parking:** Staff parking passes are not available. Personal vehicles (cars, SUVs, minivans) must use spectator lots.
- **Delivery & Printing:** The parking pass template is uploaded to the event logistics page the Monday of event week. Print only the exact number you paid for/requested; staff on-site will verify.

Band Check-In

- Location: inside southeast entrance on the main concourse
- Opens 30 minutes after the first parking lot arrival time. See Prelims Schedule.
  - On Friday, Band-Check-In will be open until all Friday bands have checked-in (typically 7:00 PM). There will be a BAND APP notification on Friday evening to communicate the exact closing time.
  - Saturday bands are welcome to check-in on Friday, if they are in town.
- Closes when the last band enters the SW Tunnel, per the Prelims Schedule
- Each band must check in to receive their check-in packet (final schedule, participant segment patches, and

event credentials) and complete the Pre-Draw for Finals

Restrooms and Changing Facilities

- Restrooms: Concourse; accessible via Band Re-Entry – **South Gate**
  - NOTE: Student wristbands distributed at band check-in are required for stadium entry, even to use the restrooms.
- Limited number of portable restrooms will be available in the South Lot

Student Safety

Participant Hydration

- It is the responsibility of each band to ensure proper hydration of its members throughout the duration of the event.
  - Review the NFHS Hydration Guide
- Lucas Oil Stadium provides water stations and cups in and around all warm-up areas, and key staging locations (Missouri Street Dock, Band Exit, etc.)
- You may still bring in your own water jugs to event level.

Weather

Bands of America defers to the weather policies and safety protocols of the facilities in which we operate. On-site updates will be provided via the BAND app for this event.

STADIUM FLOW

Stadium Entry

- There will be **TWO** points of entry for groups: Southwest Ramp and Missouri Street Loading Dock.
- Each band has a specific report time to the top of the ramps per the performance schedule. Bands may NOT enter the tunnel before their scheduled report time or without BOA staff approval.
- **REPORT TIMES FOR BOTH THE SOUTHWEST RAMP AND MISSOURI STREET DOCK OCCUR AT THE SAME TIME.** Please be prepared to move in two separate groups.
  - **SOUTHWEST RAMP: Pit percussion MUST be in FRONT** of the winds, percussion, and color guard as you report to the Southwest Ramp from the South Lot.
  - **MISSOURI STREET LOADING DOCK:** Large equipment and props not going to warm-up rooms will enter and stage in the loading dock.
    - Props will exit the South Lot via **GATE 1** into the east lane closure on Missouri Street. You will proceed north in the closed lane until you reach the top of the Missouri Street Loading Dock. Proceed down the ramp.
    - Equipment and props should be fully assembled before moving into the lane closure and into the stadium. The staging area is small, and you will not have room to assemble.
    - Equipment must enter prior to the next band's scheduled entry or risk loss of priority in the flow.
    - If you have students assisting with the equipment who need to go to warm up, they may continue through the inner loading dock door and down the hall to the warm-up area. You must have parents stay with your equipment to continue it through the hallways in the staging process.
- Performance Zone credentialed access is in effect at the bottom of the ramps in both locations. **All adults entering the stadium must be credentialed appropriately.**

Warm-Up Information

WARM-UP – General

- LOCATION: Inside the stadium
- SURFACE:
  - Exhibit halls have 27’ high ceilings and concrete floors (shared space)
  - Optional music warm-up rooms have 15′ high ceilings and carpet (private)
- Groups MUST report to their assigned warm-up at their scheduled time, as BOA doesn’t provide guides. Late arrivals cannot extend their time
- BOA staff will monitor time and direct groups to the gate, providing 15 and 5-minute warnings. Groups must exit by the end of their time, starting to move out at 2 minutes
- New groups can enter as the previous one exits, following BOA staff directions
- Warm-up/rehearsal on-site is only allowed during the assigned time and location

BAND WARM-UP

- Each band starts with a 15-min Physical Warm-Up and then moves to a 30-min Music Warm-Up
- Exhibition halls are divided by curtains into 2 sections for Physical and Music Warm-Up

Physical Warm-Up

- Each band has 15 minutes for Physical Warm-Up
- Space is limited – plan your activities accordingly
- **Only handclaps will be allowed** in Physical Warm-Up
- Due to sound bleed, the following are NOT permitted: Dr. Beats, Jam Blocks/woodblocks, instrument playing, drumming, long rangers/Megavoxes/loudspeakers, and recorded music
- The band will then proceed to Music Warm-Up

Music Warm-Up – *Two locations available*

- Each group has TWO locations for Music Warm-Up: shared exhibit hall space and a private meeting room (separate from pit percussion room)
- Groups may choose to use any of their assigned music warm-up areas for any section of their ensemble during their designated time
- Music Warm-Up spaces may NOT be used during your Physical Warm-Up time
- Your battery may warm-up in either of your assigned Music Warm-Up locations, but ONLY during your assigned Music Warm-Up times per the schedule
- During Music Warm-Up you may use woodblocks or Jam Blocks only
- Amplified Electronic devices will not be permitted in the exhibit halls

PIT PERCUSSION

- LOCATION: private meeting room
- SURFACE: carpet
- Carts used to transport equipment can NOT exceed 67″ in width at floor level. At 36″ from the ground, the narrowest point is 64″
- Battery may warm up with the pit percussion, but they must exit the room per the pit percussion schedule
- Pit percussion moves to the gate 15 minutes before band report time

WIRELESS SYSTEMS AND ELECTRONICS

- **There can be no sound bleed into the performance area**
- Wireless microphone transmitters, wireless networks, and audio and/or lighting control devices may not be used in warm-up areas
- Wired instruments, including guitars, keyboards etc. may be used in warm-up at reasonable volumes or while not amplified

Instrument Repair

- A small repair kit and limited number of instruments are available. See warm-up staff to borrow a loaner instrument.

Motorized Vehicles

- Motorized vehicles are allowed with **a bib (diaper) type covering underneath the engine/battery** to protect the field from leaks (acid, fuel, oil).
- **Off-road mechanized vehicles can only pull equipment trailers for set-up and take-down.**
- Unlock front ensemble carts' wheels during transport to prevent field damage. Pneumatic or similar-style wheels of sufficient size/rating are recommended for large instruments/props.

Band Flow Video
Pit Flow Video
Prop Flow Video

Performance

Field Entry Timing

The full entrance sequence and announcement examples are listed in the BOA Adjudication Handbook.

THE SEQUENCE

At the Gate: Band arrives at the gate per schedule (no band guides). Explain your setup to BOA Staff for clarity.

Goal Line: We will move the band to the GOAL LINE. BOA staff will count down the start of your 4-minute set-up time.

Take the Field: 4 minutes before show time, enter the field as you have rehearsed. All setup (prop staging, warm-up, etc.) MUST be within these 4 minutes.

- **Props:** Rehearse field entry with prop movers for a smooth performance day.
- **Front Ensemble:** A BOA official will coordinate this entrance at the same time as the band entrance.

Announcement: At 3 minutes 15 seconds (of the 4 minutes), the announcement begins. BOA Staff can cue your drum major(s) for the announcement and salute (optional).

- **Note:** The BOA announcement does NOT ask, "Is your band ready?"

Perform: Begin after the announcement. All adults must be off the field at this time.

Clear the Field: You have 2 minutes after your show to clear the field (or be making substantial progress towards the exit side) – all props, personnel, and parents.

Gate Dimensions and Stadium Flow

- BOA's prop rules apply regardless of venue's gate and tunnel dimensions. See Adjudication Handbook.

BAND FIELD ENTRY – Northeast Tunnel

- Back, Side 1
- Gate is 10′ wide, with a 8′ height restriction

PIT PERCUSSION AND PROP FIELD ENTRY – Northwest Tunnel

- Front, Side 1
- Gate is 15' wide, with a 12′ height restriction
- This is shared with another band's pit/props during your staging time
- Props/Equipment larger than 8′ tall and/or 10′ wide may NOT enter the field with the band at the Band Entrance Tunnel. They MUST enter with the Pit/Prop on Front, Side 1.

FIELD EXIT – Southwest Tunnel

- Front, Side 2
- Gate is 14' wide, with a 12′ height restriction

Field Exit - Group Photos at Prelims

- At the conclusion of your Prelims performance, bands will exit side 2, and take the field level stairs to the South end zone seating area for a group photo taken by Jolesch Enterprises.
- Students with limited mobility should utilize the Family and Players Suite Elevator bank directly past Field Exit and take it up to Street Level. Upon exiting the elevator bank, go out the glass doors, and turn left. Pass through the pipe and drape and join your band in the Jolesch Photo Area.
- Pit equipment and props should be taken out of the Southwest Tunnel by parents.
  - Students responsible for props, guard, and other equipment will have a small area to drop equipment in the Southwest Tunnel so they can proceed up the stairs immediately to the band photo area.
- Please note there is plenty of time to allow for full band, small group, and sectional photos prior to your Lot Departure Time. However, we encourage you to have color guard and percussion take small group photos first so that they may return to the tunnel to help clear any remaining equipment that has not exited.
- Groups will exit the building on street level via the south doors.
  - Those needing to return to the field level to collect equipment should move to the southwest corner (section 132) and take the stairwell down to field level inside the Family and Players Suite Elevator bank.

Field Markings

- There will be 3 sets of hashmarks
- Professional field markings: white, 70'9″ from both sides. These are marked every yard.
  - Professional numbers (full) are marked every 10 yards.
- NCAA/Texas High School markings: yellow, 60' from the front and back sidelines and 40' apart. These are marked every 5 yards.
- High School field markings: white, 53'4" from the front and back sidelines and 53'4" apart. These markings will be placed every yard.
  - Small dashes to indicate the top/bottom of the HS numbers are marked every 10 yards.
- **Livestream microphones will be placed 1 foot outside the 15-foot line on the 35 and 50-yard lines**

Director Viewing Area

- LOCATION: lower level in section 139 (rows 22, 23, 24) near the 50-yard line
- ROUTE: Field level stairs

Director Audio Control

- LOCATION: TBA
- ROUTE: TBA
- This area is available ONLY for competing band staff DURING YOUR BAND'S PERFORMANCE to help direct and control audio levels.
- Each band will be allotted up to TWO passes per band authorizing entry.
  - You must receive the proper credentials from Band Check-In.
  - If you are working with multiple bands, you must have the proper credentials for each band.
- You will be allowed into the suite ONLY when your band takes the field, and you must leave the area as your band is exiting the field.
- Band staff who remain in the area outside of their allotted timeframe will be subject to a penalty.

Adjudicators

- LOCATION:
  - Visual judges will be located in the Upper Suite Level – above the Lucas Oil Stadium neon lights
  - Music Judges will be located in the Upper Suite Level – above the Lucas Oil Stadium neon lights
- Adjudication Panel Biographies are posted online on the event's Spectator Guide. Caption assignments will be released on event morning at Band Check-In.

Adjudication Handbook

- Refer to the BOA Procedures & Adjudication Handbook for detailed information on BOA adjudication, procedures, and competition philosophy.
- Review and share the Philosophy Statement on amplification/electronic enhancement with your audio team.

Adjudication Handbook

Scores, Recaps, Commentary, and Educational Video

- Bands of America utilizes CompetitionSuite for scoring and evaluation commentary.
- Bands performing will be added to the system in early September.
  - If you do not have an existing account (tied to your primary email address), you will receive an email that your group has been created, and you have been added to it.
  - If you have an existing account, you can modify members of your CompetitionSuite group in early to mid-September.
- Bands of America Fall Championship events in CompetitionSuite will typically not appear in your "upcoming events" until the week of the show.
- All scores and recaps will be released after the Finals Awards Ceremony.
- Music for All will provide participating directors with a link to an educational video copy of their band's performance through BOX5 Media. Read the Educational Video Policy.

Award Ceremonies

- PRELIMS awards take place on Friday night. This is a Drum Majors ONLY ceremony.

- A Finalist Directors Meeting will be held right after Preliminary Awards. Drum majors are encouraged to attend. You'll receive the semi-finals schedule, field passes, and Semi-Finals Awards information.
  - LOCATION: Meeting Rooms 9/10 on event level (near front ensemble warm-up rooms)
- SEMI-FINALS: Drum Majors Only
- FINALS: full band Olympic-style retreat.
- Class champions not advancing to finals are invited to perform in exhibition and the Finals Awards.
- Read the Awards Ceremony Walkthrough.
- Finale Staging Map (PDF)

Post-Performance

Photography

Jolesch Enterprises will be on-site taking group, section, and field-level action photos and awards photos. See Site Overview Map for group photo location.

Ordering information is available online at joleschenterprises.com.

Picnic Location

- There is no picnic area available at this event.
  - We recommend using the Circle Center Mall Food Court, Arts Garden, and local establishments.
- Outside food and beverage are NOT allowed to be brought into the stadium.
- The stadium will be cleared, and concessions will be closed during the dinner break between Prelims and Finals.

Potbelly Sandwich Works

Music for All and Potbelly Sandwich Works have teamed up to offer participating bands low-cost, individual boxed meals to assist in meal plans for lunch or dinner on event day.

Contact – Megan Coss from Potbelly can provide quotes and order confirmations.
megan.coss@potbelly.com Call: 847-954-7125

Easy Ordering – Order forms are available online HERE. Just complete the order form and send to Megan **10 days before event day.**

Delivery – Potbelly will deliver your meals to your band's point of contact on event day, at the show site.

Potbelly Info

2026 Order Form

Credential Policies

Each Band will receive 31 credentials for adults working with the band (6 laminate name badge credentials, 25 field passes). These are included as part of the registration fee. Each band will be allowed to purchase an additional 10 credentials, for a total of 41 credentialed adults per event. All additional credentials must be purchased 30 days prior to your event by credit card only. Read full credential policy here.

Director Name Badges

Cost of Additional Name Badge: $118 *(this is the 2025 price; 2026 information will be available soon)*

- Valid for performance zone (flow areas and field) access during your band's performance ONLY.
- Valid for entrance into the spectator zone (stadium concourse and general admission seating areas) for BOTH Prelims and Semi-Finals
- This credential allows access into the stadium for Finals, however all seats are reserved for finals competition.
  - A name badge will NOT allow access into reserved seats. You need a reserved seat ticket to enter this area.
- A person with a name badge does NOT need a field pass, ticket or hand-stamp, although a ticket is required for reserved seats.
- **Name Badges must be visible at all times**.
- Name badges are not tradable and may not be shared with other participating bands.

Use of name badges will be monitored, and penalties assessed for abuse of the rules.

Field Passes

Cost of Additional Field Passes: $70 *(this is the 2025 price; 2026 information will be available soon)*

- Valid for performance zone (flow areas and field) access during your band's performance ONLY. Be sure to give these to those people who absolutely must be at field level assisting your band on and off the field. Uniformed STUDENT band helpers do not need a field pass.
- Valid for entrance into the spectator zone (stadium concourse and general admission seating areas) **for day of performance ONLY.** A ticket is needed if the pass holder wants to enter the stadium on the opposite day of Prelims.
- **If the band does not perform on Saturday in either Semi-Finals or Finals, those people with a prelims field pass will need a ticket to enter the stadium for these events.**
- Semi-Finals Field Passes will be distributed at the Semi-Finalist Director's Meeting.
  - Allows admittance into the stadium through either the pass gate or ticket gate but does NOT allow access to reserved seats.
- Finals Field Passes will be distributed at the Finalist Director's Meeting.
- Allows admittance into the stadium through either the pass gate or ticket gate but does NOT allow access to reserved seats.

Medical Staff

- A maximum of two (2) Band Medical Staff passes will be distributed per band.
  - Passes must be requested 30 days in advance online via the Director Name Badge and Credentials Form.
- Valid for performance zone (flow areas and field) access during your band's performance ONLY.
- **Adults with these passes must limit their role to medical responsibilities and may NOT assist with any equipment that is part of the performance (i.e., moving, setting up, etc.).**
- Allow entrance into the spectator zone (stadium concourse and general admission seating areas) for BOTH days of Prelims and Semi-Finals.
  - **If your band does not perform in Finals, a ticket is required to enter the stadium.**
  - A medical staff pass will NOT allow access into reserved seats. You need a reserved seat ticket to enter this area.
- BOA will provide an on-site medical crew all day.

Student Entry/Re-Entry

- **Students have FREE admittance into the facility for BOTH days Prelims AND Semi-Finals.**
  - Each group will be provided STUDENT ONLY wristbands at band check-in. The number given is based on the number of students listed on the Student Roster.
- Students who do not perform in Finals will need a ticket to enter the stadium.
  - Ticket options are listed on the Grand National Championships Tickets at a Glance flyer.
- Adults and/or chaperones traveling with the group will require credentials valid for that session, or a purchased ticket for entry into the stadium.
- LOCATION: Students should enter as a group at Band Re-Entry – **South Gate**. See Site Overview Map.
- Only clear bags and emergency bags will be permitted.

Bus and Truck Driver Wristbands

- Bus and truck driver wristbands will be distributed at Band Check-In.
- One wristband will be provided for every vehicle listed on your parking pass request form.
- A wristband will NOT allow access into the performance zone. You must have a valid field pass or name badge credential.
- Valid for entrance into the spectator zone (stadium concourse and general admission seating areas).
  - A wristband will NOT allow access into reserved seats. You need a reserved seat ticket to enter this area.

Participating Band Grand Nationals Tickets

Pre-Order ticket form is available July 6, 2026 at 1:00pm EST. Pre-orders requested by July 27 will be seated first. Tickets will go on sale to the public on August 10, 2026.
A maximum of 200 tickets may be purchased together as a block, and you may purchase multiple blocks.
Ticket orders will be processed in the order of submission. Please make sure your order is complete prior to submitting. ADDITIONAL RESERVED SEATS CANNOT BE PLACED WITH A PRIOR ORDER ONCE THE FIRST ORDER HAS BEEN PROCESSED.

Read the full Tickets at a Glance document for further information and pricing.

- 2026 Semi-Finals Ticket Map
- 2026 Finals Ticket Map
- Online Order Form for Grand National Group Tickets – *available July 6, 2026 @ 1:00 pm EDT*

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Group Orders Available!
Order Information below.

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