

Certification System

Japan

Certification System

< Awards and certifications recognized for baton twirling >

- 【 1 】 National Proficiency Standardization Examination (6th – 1st Grade)
- 【 2 】 National Performance Standardization Competition (Introduction – Advance)
- 【 3 】 Regional Trials for National Baton Twirling Championships (Awards based on events and age group, selected to be the representative of the region)
- 【 4 】 National Baton Twirling Championships (Awards based on events and age group)
- 【 5 】 Japan Trials for the WBTF World Baton Twirling Championships (Awards based on division, selected to be the representative of Japan)
- 【 6 】 The WBTF World Baton Twirling Championships (Awards based on division)
- 【 7 】 License for Baton Twirling Instructor

The system for certifying personnel who examines or judges such 7 different events mentioned above will be explained hereinafter.

【 1 】 National Proficiency Standardization Examination

◆Prerequisites◆

- (1) In principle, the person must be at age of elementary school or above, and a member of Japan Marching Band and Baton Twirling Association.
- (2) For a person wishes to take the 4th grade examination, he will be allowed to skip 5th and 6th grades.
For a person wishes to take the 3rd grade examination, he must first complete the 4th grade successfully.
For a person wishes to take the 2nd grade examination, he must first complete the 3rd grade successfully.
For a person wishes to take the 1st grade examination, he must first complete the 2nd grade successfully.

◆Content of Clinic and Examination Paper◆

Refer to the attached paper, (1) –(6).

◆clinician and examiner◆

Must be a certified clinician of Japan Marching Band and Baton Twirling Association.

* Refer to appendix (8) and (9)

Semi-Certified Instructor

◆Eligibility for Taking Examination◆

- (1) A person must be at age of 22 years old or older. Must have the 1st grade instructor license.

◆Certification◆

- (1) National Proficiency Standardization Clinic, 6th to 4th grade clinician and examiner
- (2) Clinician and examiner of the 3rd grade instructor's workshop

Certified Instructor

◆Eligibility for Taking Examination◆

- (1) A person must be at age of 24 years old or older on the year of attending the clinic, and must complete semi-certified instructor successfully .

◆ Certification ◆

- (1) Clinician and examiner for all level of National Proficiency Standard Workshop.
- (2) Clinician for the 3rd grade instructor to certified instructor workshop.
- (3) Examiner for the 3rd grade instructor to semi-certified instructor's examination.

Headquarter Examiner

Can be an examiner for all level.

<Appendix (1)>

Baton Twirling Course

Grade 6 Instruction hours 3 hours (90 min. x 2 credits)

Goal	To enjoy baton twirling, and learn basic movements and skills	
Cre.	Types	Instructional Content
1	Basic Knowledge of Baton I	① Names of baton parts (Ball, tip, shaft, balance point) ② Grips (Regular grip, reverse grip)
	Footwork I	① Ballet position (1 st - 6 th)
	Basic Moves I	① At ease ② Attention ③ Salute ④ Basic strutting (MT 8 counts, FM 8 counts, Halt on the 8 th count, free arm movements)
2	Basic Twirls I	① Wrist Twirl ② RH Flat Wrist Twirl ③ LH Reverse Flat Wrist Twirl ④ Figure 8 ⑤ Reverse 8 ⑥ Arm Roll ⑦ Roll over Thumb ⑧ Front Two Hand - B ⑨ Front Two Hand - A
	Review	① Reviewing on examination procedure ② Clinic

<Appendix (2)>

Baton Twirling Course

Grade 5

Instruction hours

3 hours (90 min. x 2 credits)

Goal	To learn basic footwork, basic movements, and basic twirls	
Cre.	Type	Instructional Content
1	Basic Moves II	① Right Face (4 counts) ② Left Face (4 counts) ③ About Face (4 counts)
	Footwork II	① Plie ② Releve ③ Lunge ④ Points (toes and heels) ⑤ Walking Steps
2	Basic Twirl II	① Back pass ② Leg pass (2 loop · 4 loop) ③ RH Whip ④ LH Reverse Whip ⑤ Reverse 8 Flourish (RH, LH) ⑥ Figure 8 Flourish (RH, LH) ⑦ Elbow Roll
	Review	① Reviewing on examination procedure ② Clinic

<Appendix (3)>

Baton Twirling Course

Grade 4

Instruction hours

6 hours (90 min. x 4 credits)

Goal	To learn smooth flow of baton during basic twirl combination	
Cre.	Type	Instructional Content
1	Footwork III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Kicks (straight, roll, fan, hitch) ② Toe step ③ Split Jump ④ Balance step
2	Basic Twirl III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Neck wrap ② Back catch ③ End swing turn under ④ Hand roll ⑤ Reverse hand roll ⑥ LH elbow wrist double roll ⑦ Two arms roll ⑧ 8 fingers & 4 fingers
3	Basic Twirl IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Cartwheel - B ② Reverse Cartwheel - B ③ RH Flat reverse 8 ④ LH Flat 8 ⑤ Hand flip
	Combination I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① RH flat whist (LL front point) - slide - neck wrap - back pass (LL front 3rd position) ② RH hand roll (LL front point) - RH reverse hand roll (RL 4th lunge) - elbow roll (LL front point) - circle both arms and swing down (LL front 3rd position)
4	Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ① Reviewing on examination procedure ② Clinic

<Appendix (4)>

Baton Twirling Course

Grade 3

Instruction Hours

9 hours (90 min. x 6 credits)

Cre.	Type	Instructional Content
	Goal	To learn applied twirling skills and basic movements of marching
1	Basic Moves III	Changing direction in 4 counts, L pattern
	Footwork IV	① Arabesque ② Samba step ③ 1 spin (L)
2	Applied Twirl I	① Thumb flip (RH, LH) ② Thumb toss (RH, LH) ③ LH Reverse flat toss ④ RH flat toss ⑤ 2 finger 8 (RH, LH)
3	Applied Twirl II	① RH Flat 2 finger, reverse 8 ② RH wrist elbow double roll ③ Double elbow roll ④ Reverse cartwheel flip
4	Combination II	① Thumb toss (LF front point) - RH grab - reverse 8 (LL 2 nd lunge) - outside loop (RL 3 rd front) ② RH flat 2 finger reverse 8 (LL front point) - pass - LH flat 8 - reverse flat toss - RH grab (LL 3 rd front) - both arms in front of chest (LL 3 rd front) ③ RH wrist elbow double roll (RL front point) - underhand catch (LL 2 nd lunge) - outside loop (RL 3 rd front) - double elbow roll (LH catch) - back pass (LL 3 rd front)
5	Review	① Reviewing on examination procedure
6	Review	① Clinic

<Appendix (5)>

Baton Twirling Course

Grade 2

Instruction Hours

12 hours (90 min. x 8 credits)

Goal	To learn smooth combination of applied twirling skills	
Cre.	Type	Instructional Content
1	Basic Moves IV	Changing direction in 1 count, L strutting (with beat)
2	Body work I	① Cabriole (front, side, back) ② Cartwheel (both hands) ③ Grande jete ④ Fly away leap
3	Applied Twirling III	① Fishtail (RH, LH) ② Reverse fishtail (RH, LH) ③ Grab behind back ④ Layout roll ⑤ Across the back (RH, LH)
4	Applied Twirling IV	① 8 finger (RH, LH) ② LH under hand flip ③ Thumb flip - blind catch ④ Thumb toss - 1 spin ⑤ LH reverse flat toss - 1 spin
5	Combination II	① Grab behind back (LL front point) - outside loop (RL front point) - Thumb flip blind catch (LL 4 th lunge) ② LH reverse flourish whip (RL front point) - LH under hand flip - RH back hand catch (LL 2 nd lunge) - outside loop (RL 3 rd front) ③ Double elbow roll (LL front point) - layout roll
6	Routine I	① Routine (8counts + 32 counts)
7	Review	① Reviewing on examination procedure
8	Review	① Clinic

<Appendix (6)>

Baton Twirling Course

Grade 1

Instruction Hours

12 hours (90 min. x 8 credits)

Goal	To learn higher level of skills, and to develop proper expression and performance skills	
Cre.	Type	Instructional Content
1	Basic Knowledge of Baton II	① Explanation of different terms used for twirling
2	Body work II	① Illusion (RL) ② Reverse Illusion (RL) ③ Tour jete ④ 2 spins
3	Applied Twirling V	① LH Under hand toss ②RH Thumb Toss ~ Leg Catch ③Flat Back Neck Roll ④Triple Elbow Roll ⑤Front of Neck Roll
4	Applied Twirling VI	①Angel Roll ②RH Thumb Toss ~ 2 Spin ③RH Thumb Toss ~ Blind Catch ④LH Reverse Flat Toss ~ Back Catch ⑤Cut Backs
5	Combination IV	① RH Flourish Whip (RL 3 rd front) - RH Thumb Toss - Back Hand Catch - Reverse Illusion ②LH Reverse Flat Wrist (RL 3 rd front) - LH Reverse Flat Toss (RL 3 rd front) ③RH Wrist Elbow Double Roll (LL front point) - Cut Back - Fish Tail (RL 4 th lunge) ④RH Reverse Fish Tail (LL side point) - Angel Roll
6	Routine II	① Routine (8 counts + 64 counts + 8 counts)
7	Review	① Reviewing on examination procedure
8	Review	① Clinic

<Appendix (7)>

【 2 】 National Performance Standardization Competition

◆Overview◆

The National Performance Standardization Competition was originally sanctioned by the Japan Marching Band and Baton Twirling Association (Formally, All Japan Marching Band Baton Twirling Association). However, after Japan Sport Baton Association became independent in June, 2002, the Competition was sanctioned by the JSBA.

The purpose of this competition is to enhance the quality of correct skills and performance through the Solo Twirl event.

The level of skills are divided into 4 levels, introduction, beginner, intermediate, and advance, and it is an easy way to encourage athletes to participate in competition from beginners. Routine and music used is all pre-set, and all participants will receive Gold, Silver or Bronze awards.

◆Prerequisites◆

The participant must be a member of regional Sport Baton Association.

◆Competition is for◆

Kindergarten athletes to adult athletes

◆Event◆

Solo Twirl

◆Division and content of performance◆

(1) Introduction: Performance designed at 6th to 5th grade of the National Proficiency Standardizing Examination levels

(2) Beginner: Performance designed at 6th to 3rd grade of the National Proficiency Standardizing Examination levels

(3) Intermediate: Performance designed at 6th to 2nd grade of the National Proficiency Standardizing Examination levels

(4) Advance: Performance designed at 6th to 1st grade of the National Proficiency Standardizing Examination levels

◆Music used◆

Rainbow march (1 min.)

◆Judging◆

Content of judging (refer to appendix (9) are evaluated into A, B, or C, and an overall evaluation is expressed in term of Gold, Silver or Bronze.

◆Award◆

Athletes will receive Gold, Silver or Bronze award.

◆Others◆

The routine can be learned at a various clinic offered by JSBA. Also, educational materials such as video tape, script, and music can be purchased.

Judges

Regional Sport Baton Association will be selecting judges to sanction competitions at their own region.

Standard of Evaluation

【Solo Twirl】 National Performance Standardization Competition

Content of Judging	A	B	C
① Baton Technique ▪ Correct maneuvering ▪ Stable rhythm ▪ Correct pattern ▪ Smoothness	correct execution	Correct execution, But there are some instability	incorrect
② Body Technique ▪ Correct posture ▪ Correct footwork ▪ Correct pattern	Correct execution	Correct execution, But there are some instability	incorrect
③ Performance ▪ Performance with confidence ▪ Expression of enjoyment ▪ Proper costuming	Excellent	Good	Fair

Content of Judging	Evaluation																	
	A	A	A	A	A	A	B	B	B	B	B	B	C	C	C	C	C	C
①Baton Technique	A	A	B	A	B	C	A	A	B	A	B	C	A	A	B	A	B	C
②Body Work	A	B	B	C	C	C	A	B	B	C	C	C	A	B	B	C	C	C
③Performance	A	B	B	C	C	C	A	B	B	C	C	C	A	B	B	C	C	C
Total Evaluation	Gold			Silver									Bronze					

- ※ ① A for baton technique with NO C' s in other two contents, then Gold is given.
- ※ ① B for baton technique with 2 C' s for others
 ① C for baton technique
 } then, Bronze is given.
- Anything other that the above, all receiving Silver

【 3 】 Regional Trials for National Baton Twirling Championships

【 4 】 National Baton Twirling Championships

◆Overview◆

These Championships were originally sanctioned by the Japan Marching Band and Baton Twirling Association (formally, All Japan Marching Band and Baton Twirling Association). However, after Japan Sport Baton Association became independent in June, 2002, the Championships were sanctioned by the JSBA as of the 28th Championships.

The Championships offers Solo Twirl, Two Baton, Dance Twirl, Solo Strut, and Pair events, and over 600 athletes from 9 different regions compete to be the grand champion.

◆Structure◆

Regional Championships are conducted for all events, and their top level athletes will represent their region for their age group and event. Those representatives will gather at the Nationals, and compete for the event they represent for. The top 8 athletes of each age division will be selected for the final round. After champions of each age division are selected, those champions will perform for the last time, and all judges will vote to select the grand prix champion.

◆Events◆

(1) Solo Twirl—Music: “Keefer’s Special” (1min 45sec)

Only one baton is used to compete for the skills of baton twirl. At the introduction part of the music, an athlete must salute to the judges, and start twirling from the first note. At the end, an athlete must salute again for acknowledging the ending of performance.

Well balanced aerial, roll, and contact material is required, as well as quality of technique, speed, precision and dynamic performance.

<Division> Women lower elementary school age/ women upper elementary school age/ women junior high school age/ women senior high school age/ women university age/ women adult/ men junior/ men senior

(2) Two Baton—Music: “The Little Giant” (1min 30sec)

Using 2 batons to compete for the skills of baton twirling. Salute is the same as the solo event. Constant use of 2 batons along with good technique is required.

(3) Dance Twirl—Music: “New York New York” (1min. 42sec)

The balance of dance work to the music and baton technique is required for this event. An athlete moves through the floor freely with beautiful and graceful costume. The combination of baton technique and dance movement enhances the quality of musical expression, which is unique part of this event.

(4) Solo Strut—Music: “The Little Giant” (1min. 30sec.)

“Strutting” is to walk though with gracefulness. The event requires precise technique and timing, and must perform to the beat of the music. With many restriction on stepping, an athlete must show high quality of baton and body technique.

(5) Pair—Music: “Circus Extravaganza” (1min. 30sec.)

The event takes two baton twirlers to compete for their twirling technique and pair work. The main object is to show how two persons can work together, move together, and complement each other during their performance. It also requires to have exchanges.

<Division> Men Women elementary school/ men women junior high school/ men women senior high school/ men women university and adult

Judges

For the National Baton Twirling Championships, judges are selected from the participants of judges workshop,

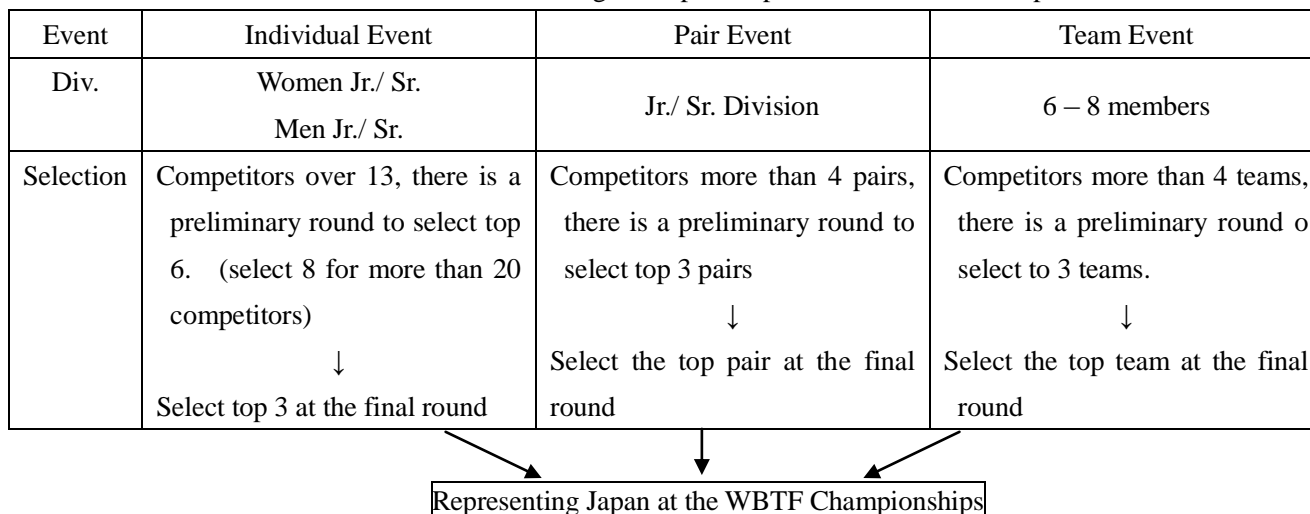
and appointed by JSBA Board meeting. (Currently, judges certification scheme has been prepared.)

【 5 】 Japan Trials for the WBTF World Baton Twirling Championships

【 6 】 The WBTF World Baton Twirling Championships

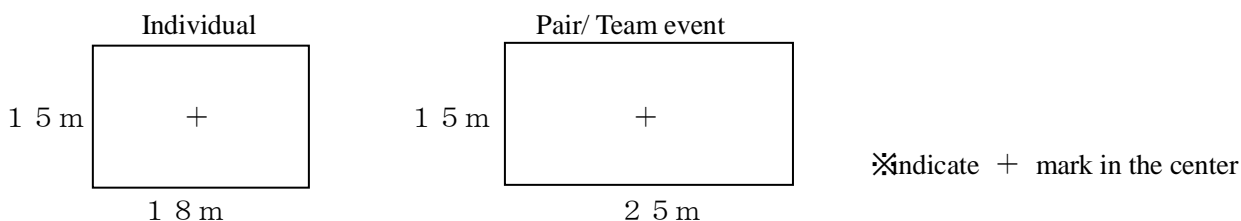
◆Overview◆

For the trails for the WBTF World Baton Twirling Championships, there are individual, pair, and team events.



Individual event:・・・For juniors, they perform compulsory and freestyle, and for seniors, they perform short program and freestyle. The 10% of compulsory score and 90% of freestyle score are used to determine the finalists.

◆Competition floor◆



※Height of the ceiling must be at least 10m.

Judges

The judges who judge these event must be certified by the WBTF.

<Appendix (8)>

【 7 】 License for Baton Twirling Instructor

◆Prerequisites◆

- (1) A person must be a member of Japan Marching Band and Baton Twirling Association, and must attend all classes of the Instructor's workshop.
- (2) A person must be at the age specified for the license intended to receive, and must have prerequisite license.

3rd Grade Instructor License

A person must be at the age of 18 or older, and must be a graduate of high school.

2nd Grade Instructor License

A person must be at the age of 19 or older, and also must hold the 3rd grade instructor license. However, if a person holds the 1st Grade National Proficiency Standardizing Certificate, then he does not need to have the 3rd grade instructor license.

1st Grade Instructor License

A person must be at the age of 20 or older, and also must hold the 2nd grade instructor license.

Semi-certified Instructor License

A person must be at the age of 22 or older, and must hold the 1st grade instructor license.

Certified Instructor License

A person must be at the age of 24 or older, and must hold the semi-certified instructor license.

◆Responsibility◆

A licensed instructor must contribute to the development and promotion of marching band and baton twirling education.

◆Clinician and Examiner of the National Proficiency Standardizing Clinic and Examination◆

Certified Instructors and Semi-Certified Instructors are allowed to be clinicians and examiners of the National Proficiency Standardizing Clinic and Examination.

(Certified Instructors can teach all grades, and Semi-Certified Instructors can teach 6th to 4th grades.)

◆Clinicians of the Instructor's Workshop◆

Certified Instructors and Semi-Certified Instructors can be appointed as the clinicians for the instructor's workshop provided by Japan Marching Band and Baton Twirling Association.

(Certified instructors can teach all level, and Semi-Certified instructors can teach the 3rd grade instructor license course.)

◆Examiners of Instructor's Workshop◆

Certified instructors and Semi-Certified instructors can be appointed as examiners for the instructor's workshop.

(The headquarter examiners can give examination to all level, certified instructors can give to semi-certified level to the 3rd grade instructors, and semi-certified instructors can give to the 3rd grade instructors)

◆The headquarter examiners◆

The headquarter examiners are selected from certified instructors, and appointed by the Board meeting.

◆Instructors Examination◆

Refer to appendix (9)

New system for Baton Twirling Instructor Certification system

<Instructor License>

Certified Instructor

Prerequisites: 24 or older, Semi-Certified Instructor
 Certified for: examiner of 6th to 1st grade Proficiency Clinic & Exam
 : Clinician for 3rd grade to certified instructor workshop
 : Examiner for 3rd grade to semi-certified instructor examination
 (headquarter examiner can examine all level)

Semi-Certified Instructor

Prerequisites: 22 or older, 1st grade instructor license
 Certified for: examiner of 6th to 4th grade proficiency clinic and exam
 : clinician for 3rd grade instructor workshop
 : examiner for 3rd grade instructor

1st Grade Instructor

Prerequisites: 20 or older, 2nd grade instructor license
 Certified for: assisting 6th to 4th grade proficiency clinic and exam
 : assisting 3rd grade instructor's workshop

2nd Grade Instructor

Prerequisites: 19 or older, 3rd grade instructor license
 Certified for: assisting regional level clinics

3rd Grade Instructor

Prerequisites: 18 or older, high school graduate
 Certified for: assisting local level clinics
 *those already passed the 1st grade proficiency, they do not need to receive the 3rd grade instructor license

<Proficiency Exam>

1st Grade Proficiency

2nd Grade Proficiency

3rd Grade Proficiency

4th Grade Proficiency

5th Grade Proficiency

6th Grade Proficiency

*New system will be introduced in 2007