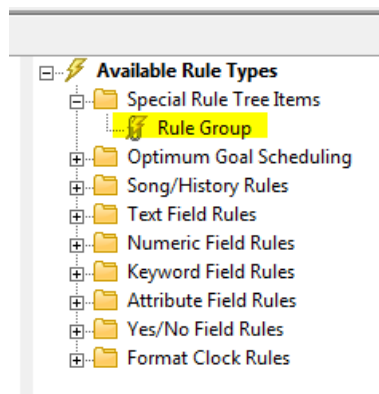


SECTION B: RULE GROUPS

From determining when the rules will be in effect, to how the rules are grouped, to determining which categories and filters apply, the Rule Group gives you pin-point control over your rules.

On the right hand side of the Rule Tree, the very first folder at the top contains Rule Groups. Simply drag a Rule Group to any category folder, or to the All Categories folder, depending on where you want your included rules to apply.



The Rule Group screen will open, allowing you set up your parameters in the Rule Properties. Besides the Description, you can configure the Availability, Time Restrictions, Group Mode, Clock Restrictions and Song Restrictions. You do not have to configure all of these options, only those you need. We'll go over each of these options in the next sections.

Description

When you enter a Description, give it a name that will be meaningful for you without having to look at the specific rules inside the Group. For instance, DayTime Gender Rules or Tempo-Night.

Availability

This section allows you to choose when the Group will be in effect. There are four choices.

1. Rules in this group are always tested
2. Rules are only available in the Automatic Scheduler: This means when you are in the Schedule Editor, these rules will *not* apply. This can be helpful if your rules are a bit restrictive and you'd like to skip those rules while editing.
3. Rules are only available in the Schedule Editor: This means when the Automatic Scheduler creating a log, these rules will not be tested. This can be helpful if you want to see whether those rules might fail when you're editing, but don't want their failures to create Unscheduled Positions during Automatic Scheduling.
4. Rules in this group are never tested: You might be wondering, "Why would I ever use this?" If you have built a Rule Group but need to turn it off for a special or any other reason, it is far more efficient to simply indicate the group is never tested than to delete it and have to rebuild all the individual rules later.

Time Restrictions

This section allows you to put the Rule Group into effect for only the time frame you wish. This essentially allows you to create “levels” of rules that take effect at different times. For instance, if Tempo were one of your fields and you wanted to play slower songs at night, you could, for instance, set up a Night Rule Group and include Tempo rules that allowed more slow songs to play.

Time Restrictions can be more discreet than an hour. By right clicking on the hour header, you can open Hour Mode and go to full, half or quarter hour coverage on specific hours.

Another Time Restriction option that is handy is the Invert feature, which will flip the restriction on the screen. Right click in the restriction window to do this.

Once you pick a restriction, you will be able to set the play mode to one of three options.

1. Test against plays in any time period.
2. Ignore failures outside this time period: This means that while MusicMaster will still see the plays outside the Rule Group time period, those plays will not cause any of the rules in the Rule Group to fail.
3. Ignore plays outside this time period: This means that MusicMaster will not even see or test the plays that occur outside the Rule Group time period. Rather, it will keep looking back to the next valid time in the restriction for failures.

This mode will apply to minimum rest, maximum rest, max plays per day, hour rotation rules, Keyword rest and the DMCA rules. If these rules are not present, the Group will Test against plays in *any* time period.

Should you have your rules set up to count the number of plays backwards or forwards, it will not count the plays outside of the Rule Group time period when the "Ignore plays outside this time period" mode is chosen.

The final Time Restrictions option determines when the Rules in the group apply. The options are Not Restricted or Restricted. By default, “Not Restricted” will be the option. This means that the restriction you have set up will be enforced as you see it. If you chose “Restricted” this has the effect of reversing the daypart restriction, much like using the Invert feature.

➔ *Further reading:* Learn about a sample use of Time Restrictions here: [“Using Rule Groups to Ignore Weekday vs. Weekend Plays”](https://www.musicmaster.com/?p=180)
(<https://www.musicmaster.com/?p=180>)

Group Mode

This section gives you the opportunity to determine how the Group will be treated as it passes or fails tests. Options include:

1. Rule group fails when any included rule fails – This option means if any rule within the group fails, the entire rule group will fail and MusicMaster will move on to the next song. MusicMaster will not waste time testing any other rules in the group once a rule fails.
2. Rule Group fails when all included rules fail – This options means all rules within the group must fail before the entire rule group will fail. This means MusicMaster moves on when it finds a rule that it passes. The only way the group fails is if every rule in the group fails. The benefit of this option is that you might include several variations of a rule, perhaps an Hour Rotation rule. If MusicMaster tried to find a song that met *all* of the variations of your rule, it might not be able to do so. But with this setting, as long as the song considered passes one of the rules, it can move on through the testing process (if there are other rules yet to be tested) or get scheduled. Should the song not match any of the rules, then it would be passed as the program looked for something better. This basically creates an either/or option in your rules. You are telling MusicMaster that any of the options is acceptable, but at least one must be met. The more options you give the program, the easier it will be to find an acceptable song.
3. Test rules as if they are not in a rule group – This option simply means the rules are tested individually. One of the primary uses of this option it to keep your rule list tidy. For instance, you might group all your Tempo rules into a Group so they are together, but condensed on the list. That would allow you to view more of your Rule Tree at one time or only open those rules you wish to review.

➔ *Further reading:* Learn more about group mode in the following blog article: [“Rules That Play Together, Stay Together”](https://www.musicmaster.com/?p=38) (https://www.musicmaster.com/?p=38)

Clock Restrictions

Clock Restrictions allows you to determine which clocks will be impacted by the Rule Group. If you are listing multiple clocks, separate those by a comma. You can also use a wild card to apply to all clocks that match. For instance with this restriction: “AA,G?” the rules will be applied to Clock ID AA as well as any other clocks that start with “G”.

This restriction also gives you the choice to apply it so it either matches what you have set up or does not match what you have set up.

Song Restrictions

Song Restrictions allow you to create a filter that will apply to the Rule Group. For instance, you can select a specific attribute code(s) or Keyword(s) and apply specific rules to those items. You can also determine what categories will be included for the purposes of that filter.

Under Create Filter, the filter box that appears is same as you find in a Query.

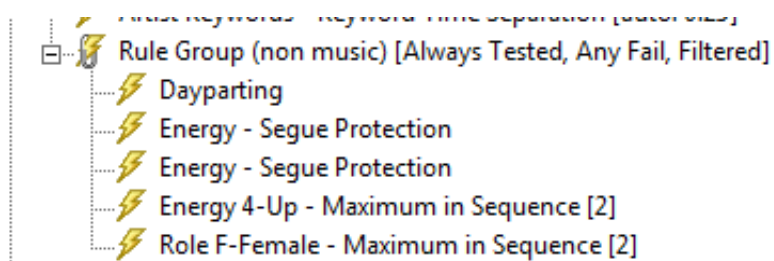
Under Categories you will be able to check off which categories must follow the Rule Group.

Note: If you have bypassed any Category using the All Category bypass option in the Rule Tree, that designation will supersede any settings here. In other words, if you bypass Category A, even if you include Category A on the category list here, it still will not be tested.

Again, with both of these options, you will also have a choice to apply it so it either matches what you have set up or does not match what you have set up.

Adding Rules to the Group

Once the Group has been established, you can then add as many rules to the group as desired. Be careful when you do this. When you drag the rule to the Rule Group, make sure the Rule Group name is highlighted. If you see a single red line, the rule will be outside the Group. If you discover this after the fact, you can do a drag and drop to put it into the Group. The rule should INDENT so the little lightning bolt next to the actual rule is slightly to the right, like this:



➔ Watch how to create a Rule Group here: <https://youtu.be/stqBZ25UOgY>