



2006 Proposals June 11, 2006

By-Law Proposals

Proposal # 1

Addition of Director of Percussion Education to the MCCGA Extended Board John Sullivan, MCCGA Vice-President

Article IV Administration & Article V Duties of the Board

Proposal: With the continual growth of the percussion activity in our circuit, I propose we add a Director of Percussion Education to our extended board. All education responsibilities regarding percussion growth, both for units and judges, would be assigned to the office of Director of Percussion Education. This office would have voting rights for any and all issues that are forwarded to the extended board. As in any financial commitments proposed by a *MCCGA* Board Member, the *MCCGA* Executive Board would approve all funding necessary for percussion education. Selection for this office would occur by vote on a two-year rotation by the *MCCGA* Membership.

Rationale: Adding this position to the board would allow one individual to focus on color guard education and the other on percussion education. I believe this would create a balance between both areas of *MCCGA* by providing concentrated education for percussion and color guards.

Proposal # 2

Change of Title/Position of Current Director of Education John Sullivan, MCCGA Vice-President

Article IV Administration & Article V Duties of the Board

Proposal: To coincide with the previous proposal regarding the addition of a Director of Percussion Education, I propose we change the current Director of Education title to Director of Color Guard Education. So the offices are parallel in their roles, I suggest we place the Director of Color Guard Education on the extended board. This office would have voting rights for any and all issues that are forwarded to the extended board. As in any financial commitments proposed by a *MCCGA* Board Member, the *MCCGA* Executive Board would approve funding necessary for color guard education. Selection for this office would occur by vote on a two-year rotation by the *MCCGA* Membership.

Rationale: This would place the emphasis of the title on color guard, which would clarify responsibilities of both education offices. By placing this position on the extended board, as is suggested for the Director of Percussion Education, we would offer equal levels of administration for both offices.

Proposal # 3

Create the Board position of Chief Judge Chris Putnam, Education Director

Proposal: Add "Chief Judge" as a non-voting member of the Executive Board in the *MCCGA* By-Laws in Article IV.B. and in Article IV.B.3. Add the following language as a new section IV.H. and renumber following sections accordingly:

The **Chief Judge** shall:

- 1) Facilitate implementation of appropriate adjudication for MCCGA Festivals
- 2) see that all judges are assigned to the correct judging categories and are fulfilling their responsibilities
- 3) facilitate the use of outside judges as well as any local judging association
- 4) in general, perform all duties incidental to the office of Chief Judge, and other such duties as may be assigned by the President

Revise Article IV.E. (Education Director) to read as follows:

The **Education Director** shall:

- 5) Coordinate all educational opportunities for MCCGA including student, instructor, and adjudicator opportunities
- 6) continually reach out to the MCCGA Membership and its judges to find which opportunities are desired and work to meet that need
- 7) work with WGI and other associations to bring opportunities to MCCGA, its Membership, and judges
- 8) be a continuous resource for the Membership in answering questions regarding the rules and systems put in place by MCCGA
- 9) in general, perform all duties incidental to the office of Education Director, and other such duties as may be assigned by the President

Rationale: This realignment of the Education Director position along with the creation of the Chief Judge position will allow for these duties to be carried out in a more obvious and consistent basis. The educational opportunities are growing rapidly and require more time for the Education Director. At the same time, the Membership would like more outside judges brought in during the season and a Task Force to keep accountability of the judges and the system in the hands of MCCGA.

The best way to accomplish these goals is to set them apart and allow two individuals to handle the growing workload of this presently combined position. This is particularly true if the task force and/or review committee proposals are passed and MCCGA wants to continue to grow educational opportunities and bring in outside judges on a regular basis.

Proposal # 4
Official Course of Action Regarding Non-Effective Board Members
John Sullivan, MCCGA Vice-President

Article VI Administration

Proposal: I propose the following system be established to improve, and even possibly remove, board members who are not functioning in their office at the capacity as outlined in the *MCCGA Bylaws*:

- 1) An email from the *MCCGA President* explaining concerns about duties not being fulfilled as required by our bylaws.
- 2) If a problem continues to exist after initial email, a second email is sent (and copied to Executive Board) stating the challenge has not been resolved and that further action may be forthcoming.
- 3) If the problem is never improved or resolved, a vote is sent to the *MCCGA Executive Board* and the *MCCGA Extended Board* for possible removal of the individual from the office (or suggested resignation). A majority vote would be required to remove the person from office.
- 4) Should this occur in the beginning to middle of the season, the office would be filled by nomination and vote from the full-membership. If a removal from office is necessary after the middle of the season, then the vacancy would be determined by the *MCCGA President* (with advisement from the Executive Board).

Rationale: Sometimes life issues take precedence over our activity responsibilities. The challenge when this happens is how it affects the performers, judges, and festivals. We have never had any written procedure in place which is the reason I am making this proposal.

Proposal # 5
Remove past-president position
Chris Putnam, Education Director

Proposal: Remove any reference of the position of Past-President from the MCCGA By-Laws.

Rationale: With the stability of the Executive Board, it seems to be an outdated concept and has no real purpose. If information or advice is needed or desired from a past-president, it may be obtained at any time—there is no rule against that. The decisions made by this body should be made by the duly elected members of the body.

Proposal #6
Limit RCC votes to regions
Kim Kras, Odessa

Proposal: In Article IV.B.4. of the MCCGA By-Laws, add “of the region’s chair being elected” following “Regional Chairs shall be elected by the general membership...”

Rationale: The representative of a region should be elected by that region, not by the entire general membership of MCCGA. This would allow each region to decide its representative without the influence of members of other regions.

Proposal #7
Color Guard Judge’s Task Force
Chris Putnam, Education Director

Proposal: Create a new article, as follows, in the MCCGA By-Laws in Article VI. (Standing Committees) and renumber remaining Articles:

The Color Guard Adjudication Committee will be made up of six (6) representatives elected by region between December 1 and December 15 each year. Each Region in MCCGA will be allowed two representatives on the Committee, serving staggered, two-year terms. MCCGA Members may vote for one representative for their region each year (unless a vacancy is being filled). There will be three (3) adjudicator representatives on the Committee nominated by the President of MCCGA from local judges and confirmed by the MCCGA Executive Board. The chair of the Committee will be the Chief Judge, who shall have the same right to vote in all matters as other members of the Committee. Members of the Committee may not vote or comment on a matter before the Committee if the member has an affiliation (as defined by the Rules or By-Laws of MCCGA) with a unit or class effected by the matter.

The role of the Color Guard Adjudication Committee will be to hear all concerns from the MCCGA Membership relating to adjudication problems. These concerns may be brought to any Committee member who shall, in a timely manner, bring them to the attention of the Chair. The Chair shall lead any discussion of the Committee and make any recommendations approved by the Committee to the MCCGA Executive Board. These recommendations are not binding on the MCCGA Executive Board, but should be given deference in policy decisions. At each Spring meeting, the Chair shall present to the MCCGA Membership a report approved by the Committee summarizing the discussion and recommendations (if any) of the Committee. This report may be supplemented by Committee members at the meeting with notice given to the MCCGA Secretary.

Any recommendations made by the Committee may be immediately proposed at any regularly scheduled MCCGA general membership meeting, regardless of notice or timing provisions contained herein. Any issue relating to adjudication that is not brought before this Committee may not be brought before the Members at a general meeting. If an issue has been raised with the Committee and the individual that raised the issue does not feel it has been handled appropriately, then the issue may be raised following the Chair’s report at the Spring meeting.

In this first year of its formal existence, the regional representatives with the highest vote count from last year will serve for one more year and a new vote will be taken for one representative from each region to serve two years.

Add the following duty under Article V.A. of the MCCGA By-Laws: "The President shall serve on all committees organized under these By-Laws as a non-voting, ex-officio member."

Rationale: Each year, there are many discussions that take place regarding adjudication. This committee will allow for these discussions to happen throughout the year, not just at the general membership meetings and, hopefully, can result in more quickly dealing with any issues during the season. It is always more difficult to address concerns months after the fact than to know about them and deal with them at the time. This group should also have good representation from across the Circuit geographically and have input from active judges as well.

Proposal #8
Color Guard Review Committee
Chris Putnam, Education Director

Proposal: Create a new article, as follows, in the MCCGA By-Laws in Article VI. (Standing Committees) and renumber remaining Articles:

The Color Guard Review Committee will be made up of five (5) representatives elected at large by the Color Guard Advisory Board between December 1 and December 15 each year. The chair of the Committee will be the Chief Judge, who shall have the same right to vote in all matters as other members of the Committee. Members of the Committee may not vote or comment on a matter before the Committee if the member has an affiliation (as defined by the Rules or By-Laws of MCCGA) with a unit or class effected by the matter. In such case, the first non-affiliated individual from the following list will be appointed by the Chair to replace that individual: President; Vice President; Treasurer; Secretary; Class representatives—IW, SW, IO, SO, IA, SA, SB, SC, IRA, RA, RB, RC.

The role of the Color Guard Review Committee will be to hear all appeals or requests regarding class changes and review all promotions made during the season as defined in the By-Laws and Rules of MCCGA. The Chair will bring to the Committee all business in a timely manner. If a vote is required of the Committee, such vote will be taken and the ruling will be final (there is no appeal of the ruling to another MCCGA board or committee). The Committee may also be requested by another board or committee to give input or advice and such input or advice will be communicated by the Chair.

Make the following changes to this language in Section VI.G. of the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook:

Unit classification is subject to ~~board~~ Review Committee discretion.

1. Reclassification

A unit may request to move to a lower class, but such request must follow the appeal process outlined below. ~~Classification is subject to board discretion. High school units in Scholastic B, Scholastic C, Regional A, Regional B, and Regional C are promoted between seasons or during a season for the following reasons:~~

- a) A guard placing first in Scholastic B, Scholastic C, Regional A, Regional B, ~~and~~ or Regional C at MCCGA Championships is promoted to the next higher Class for the following season.
- b) A guard placing in any of the top three positions of the same Class for three consecutive seasons is promoted to the next highest Class in the fourth season.
- c) A guard that meets or exceeds the review promotion score ~~(which is determined for each weekend before the start of the season by the MCCGA Executive Board)~~ is promoted to the next higher Class for the remainder of that season.
- d) A guard competing in the Open Class or World Class at any WGI regional is automatically promoted to Open or World Class for the remainder of the season.
- e) The ~~Board of Directors~~ Review Committee will address a classification change made at the WGI level, in regard to MCCGA ~~Reclassification~~.
- f) A unit requesting that it be allowed to move to a higher class.

- Unit Managers/Directors/Instructors have the right to appeal a between season reclassification decisions (see Appeal below).

2.

Appeal

- a) Units that are promoted between seasons may submit an appeal of their reclassification ~~in writing, by mail, by email or fax~~ to the ~~MCCGA Board of Directors-~~ Chief Judge (Chair of the Review Committee) no later than two weeks prior to the first festival of the season.
- b) The ~~board~~ Review Committee will vote by ~~fax or~~ email within three days of receiving the appeal.
- c) ~~No board member affiliated with the appealing unit, or a unit in the appeal unit's current class will be allowed to vote.~~
- d) A simple majority is needed for the appeal to succeed. In the case of a tie, the appeal is denied.
- e) ~~A unit that is promoted a second time within the same classification and within the span of one season may not appeal a second reclassification.~~
- f) A unit requesting to move to a lower class may submit an appeal to do so by email to the Chief Judge (Chair of the Review Committee) detailing why the unit should be reclassified.
- g) A unit requesting to move to a higher class (self-promotion) does not need to appeal if the request is in accordance with all other guidelines in this classification section.

3.

Cut-off dates for Reclassification:

- a) Units will be reclassified to a higher class NO LATER than 2 weeks before MCCGA Championships.
- b) Units will NOT be reclassified to a lower class past week 5 of the Festival season (or two weeks before MCCGA Championships, whichever comes first).
- if necessary, timing requirement issues due to movement between classes will be addressed by the Board of Directors on an individual basis.

In Section VI.I. of the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook, replace "Executive Board" with "Chief Judge (Chair of the Review Committee)."

Remove the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th paragraphs from Section VI.K. of the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook:

Replace the above language with the following language in Section VI.K. of the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook:

"If a promotion score is achieved at a festival, the Chief Judge (Chair of the Review Committee) will forward such information as deemed appropriate to the Review Committee within 24 hours of the end of the festival so that those individuals may discuss and vote as to whether that unit should be promoted. Deference is always given the judging panel for their scoring decisions, however the Review Committee may find reasonable grounds to allow a unit to retain its classification.

Such vote must be returned to the Chair of the Review Committee no later than the following Tuesday by 6:00 PM Central Time, unless the Chair determines an extension of time is needed. If an extension is needed, the Chair shall request permission for that extension from the Executive Board. A simple majority is required to overturn a promotion. In the case of a tie, the promotion stands and the unit is moved to the proper classification.

The decision of the Review Committee will be disseminated by the Chair to the unit at issue, the Review Committee, and the Color Guard Advisory Board."

Add the following duty under Article V.A. of the MCCGA By-Laws: "The President shall serve on all committees organized under these By-Laws as a non-voting, ex-officio member."

Rationale: Much time is spent each season by the Color Guard Advisory Board dealing with promotions, demotions, and appeals. Unfortunately, much of this is time consuming in the logistics of getting appeals in, heard, discussed, voted on, and counted. This process allows for an elected group to quickly (3 days) decide if a unit should be promoted or not during the season. The appeal process is removed and replaced, essentially, by an automatic appeal by the Chief Judge (Chair of the Review Committee). This allows the decision to be made in all cases by Tuesday and schedule changes to happen no later than Wednesday (we've had many Friday changes to schedules in the past because of appeals and the timing for all of this).

Additionally, this review committee should be made up of individuals with intimate knowledge, experience, and understanding of the promotional and classification process, as well as the judging system. This experience allows for the committee to more objectively assess the promotion in question.

It should be noted that WGI does not use scores to assess whether a unit is to be reclassified. They have instituted a committee that makes all promotion decisions on a case-by-case basis. While MCCGA is not necessarily in need of a review process like this, having a review committee in this format would enhance the promotion decisions being made within the circuit.

This automatic process also protects those units that do not understand the appeal process as well. Through the automatic appeal, there will always be a check to ensure the judges fairly promoted the unit to the next class. A unit will still always have the right to self-promote at any time within the rules.

There is also some amount of cleaning up (identifying the process for self-promotion and moving down a class). This needs to be done to codify the customs we're using presently to reclassify units.

Proposal # 9
One General Meeting a year
Matt Lang, O'Fallon Township HS

Article VI Meetings

Proposal: Move to one General Membership meeting per Season, eliminating the Summer meeting.

Rationale:

1. The current system of a Spring meeting and a Summer meeting is redundant.
2. A single meeting date stresses the importance of attendance to the membership.
3. It takes the "double reading" out of proposals. There is no need to have a "first read" of proposals followed by a final vote two months later. This does mean that proposals would need to be sent out to the MCCGA membership prior to the General Membership meeting.

Proposal # 10
Unanimous votes in caucus
Kim Kras, Odessa

Proposal: In the MCCGA By-Laws in Article VIII., add a new paragraph B. and renumber following paragraphs that reads as follows:

If a proposal passes the Spring meeting unanimously (excluding abstentions), then the proposal becomes a By-Law or Rule effective immediately without needing to be discussed and voted on again at the Summer meeting.

Rationale: Every year there are a number of proposals made in which all those attending vote in favor of forwarding the issue to the second meeting (particularly true with technical changes to Bylaws and Rules). As such, there is no need to extend further discussion to the matter at that second meeting. Additionally, this may encourage attendance to the Spring/Early Summer meeting if proposals have the potential to be passed immediately. Last year, 8 proposals passed the Spring meeting unanimously and 7 of those 8 again passed unanimously at the Summer meeting. The one that did not was withdrawn because of a change in WGI policy. It is clear that in almost all cases, proposals that pass unanimously at the Spring meeting then pass unanimously at the summer meeting.

Proposal #11
Formalize dates for Spring and Summer meetings
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Education Director

Proposal: Revise the language of the MCCGA By-Laws Article VI. to read as follows:

An annual Spring meeting shall be held following the completion of the season ~~between April 1 and July 1~~
on the second (2nd) Sunday of June. An annual summer meeting will be held ~~between August 1 and~~

~~September 15~~ on the third (3rd) Sunday of August. Additional meetings shall be held at the discretion of the President and Executive Board.

Rationale: These are the dates we've been using recently and it will help to formalize these dates so they can be planned for by all parties well in advance. This stability will hopefully lead to more regular attendance at the meetings.

Rule Book Proposals (applicable to both guard & percussion rule books unless otherwise noted)

Proposal #12 Increase membership fee by \$50 Ann Duncan, MCCGA President

Proposal: Change the amount of the MCCGA Full Membership in Section I.A. of both the MCCGA Color Guard and MCCGA Percussion Rulebooks to \$450. Change the amount of the MCCGA Limited Membership in Section I.B. of both the MCCGA Color Guard and MCCGA Percussion Rulebooks to \$125 with the fee in Section I.B.1. being \$100 for additional festivals and the fee in Section I.B.2. being \$175 for prelims/finals festivals and Championships. Change the amount of the Non-member entrance fee in Section I.C. of both the MCCGA Color Guard and MCCGA Percussion Rulebooks to \$150 per festival and \$200 for prelims/finals festivals.

Rationale: With the cost of judges and transportation going up dramatically in the last few years, the cost must be offset by higher membership fees. This will allow MCCGA to bring in outside judges and continue to compensate local judges appropriately while allowing for as many educational opportunities as possible for instructors and judges.

Proposal # 13 Rule Book Change: Festival Additions Maxine Sullivan, MCCGA Treasurer

Proposal:

Rule II.B.2. to read...

In order to guarantee space in Festival lineups, each entry forms for the various Festivals to MCCGA.
2. on separate forms by the deadline of four (4) weeks prior to each Festival date.

Rationale: Currently with the two (2) week deadline, contest schedules are being revised with additions, cancellations and promotions up to the day before a contest date. The four (4) week deadline, with the exception of a promotion, will eliminate constant revisions. This will assist contest directors, judges and units' directors with a published schedule ahead of the actual contest date.

Proposal #14 **Increase show sponsor fees to \$800** Ann Duncan, MCCGA President

Proposal: Change the amount of \$600 in the MCCGA Color Guard and Percussion Rulebooks in Section III.C. to \$800.

Rationale: The average actual cost of hosting a festival this past season (in judge's fees and transportation costs) was in excess of \$2,000. The cheapest festival to run still cost over \$1,400. We are presently only recouping \$600 of this amount from the festival host. A \$200 increase is not going to eliminate organizations from wanting to host these festivals, but it will help some to offset the costs of running the show

Proposal # 15
Cap festival performances at 50
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Education Director

Proposal: Add a new section to the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook as Section III.G. that reads as follows: No festival (excluding Championships) shall have more than fifty (50) performances in one day. This shall include prelims/finals festivals as well as percussion units.

Rationale: This presently applies only to prelims/finals format festivals. When a festival gets to this large of a number of performances, it begins to place a heavy burden on the members of the units (particularly younger units), the judges, and the staff running the festival. Fifty units can easily consume over six hours just in performance time, not to mention breaks, set-up, and tear down. I think there needs to be a limit set to keep a contest from becoming more than these individuals and groups can manage.

Proposal # 16
Remove “contest” and “competition” in Rulebook
Kim Kras, Odessa

Proposal: Change “contest,” “competition,” or its derivatives to “festival” or “performance” throughout the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook, including these sections: Name of the Rulebook, III.E.2., III.F.1., IV., IV.B.3., IV.M., V.E., VI.K. (following promotion table) , IX., XI., and XII.

Rationale: Because we are focused on our festivals not being competitive, this housecleaning is needed to ensure proper wording throughout the Rulebook. No substantive change is intended

Proposal # 17
Rule Book Change: Festival Cancellations
Maxine Sullivan, MCCGA Treasurer

Proposal:

Rule IV. I. 1 & 2. to read:

1. You may cancel from any festival up to four (4) weeks prior to the festival date with no financial penalty.
2. **Cancellations within four (4) weeks of a festival are subject to a \$100 penalty payable to the festival sponsor.**

Rationale:

This is to coincide with the four (4) week festival entry ruling. This will eliminate the last minute cancellations and revisions to a contest schedule, with the exception of promotions.

Proposal # 18
Addition of Email Communication for Festival Changes, Additions, and Cancellations
John Sullivan, MCCGA Vice-President

Proposal: Rule IV. L. 7

Scheduling shows can be a difficult process, especially when units change, add, or cancel to or from a particular festival. I propose we establish one email address (i.e. festivalchanges@mccga.org) so all communication is going to one email address.

Rationale: I have found by determining schedules each week that miscommunication occurred, at times, when emails with show changes might be going to one of three board members. As a result, a unit might be placed or removed from a schedule by error, causing a series of revisions to a particular schedule.

Proposal # 19
Change definition for exhibitions
Kim Kras, Odessa

Proposal: Change the language of the MCCGA Color Guard and Percussion Rulebooks in Section IV.P. to the following:

Exhibitions – Exhibition performances are open only to ~~guards or percussion~~ pageantry groups ineligible for MCCGA membership. Individual exceptions will be determined by the MCCGA Executive Board.

Rationale: The present language allows only for guards and percussion units. It may be that a school's dance team or cheer team or some other organization would like to be able to perform in exhibition. These other types of organizations, if related to the pageantry activity, should be allowed to perform in the interest of helping all students grow as performers.

Proposal # 20
Separate Color Guard and Percussion Championships
Submitted by Kim Kras, Odessa

Proposal: Add a new section to the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook as Section IV.Q. that reads as follows:

At MCCGA Championships, if the format chosen is not a prelims/finals format, the color guard contest and percussion contest(s) must be held on a separate date or at separate venues.

Rationale: The Color Guard Championships are becoming such a large event in its own right that it is time we continue the system used this past season where percussion and color guard units are not all vying for time in the same arena on the same day. WGI has experienced this and successfully moved to this format for their Championships. Last season was an unequivocal success and should be replicated moving forward.

Proposal # 21
Change Regional class minimum equipment times (Color Guard Rulebook)
Chris Putnam, Education Director

Proposal: In the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook, under Section VI.E., change all minimum equipment time requirements with a minimum of 3 minutes to a minimum of 2 ½ minutes.

Rationale: With such a narrow window of time for a Regional class program (3-4 minutes), it becomes difficult to explore the design elements of dance in isolation within the program. By allowing the equipment minimum to be reduced to 2 ½ minutes, this will allow groups to spend more time on dance and movement without equipment. The A class rules require only 3 ½ minutes of equipment, but have a maximum show time of 5 ½ minutes. This allows for a much greater exploration and training in this fundamental area of our activity.

Proposal # 22
Create a Middle School/Junior High class (Color Guard Rulebook)
Lindsey Hansen, Odessa MS

Proposal: Add the following language in the MCCGA Color Guard Rule Book as Section VI.E.1. and renumber remaining sections to follow:

Intermediate Class

General Definition: This classification is for units with students not in a grade higher than 9th. This classification is specifically for the middle school or junior high school guard. These guards are exploring winter guard show design, technique and performance (the discovering stage). This class is dedicated to building strong technique for the unit and performer. Equipment work is basic and one or two-dimensional. Units in this class may not be promoted at any time without the unit's approval.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3 minutes and a maximum performance of 4 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 7 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) Regional Class A judging criteria will be used.

Revise the current Section VI.E.1. as follows:

Regional C

General Definition: This classification is for units with *little to* no winter guard experience or new students seeking introduction to the winter guard activity. This classification is specifically for ~~the first-year high school guard or middle school/pre-high school units. These guards are~~ exploring winter guard show design, technique and performance (the discovering stage). This class is dedicated to building strong performance skills and technique for unit and performer. Drill movement is part of the judging criteria, while equipment work is basic and/or one to two dimensional. First year high school units would be ~~required~~ *encouraged* to move to Regional B after their first competitive season. ~~Units may appeal under the Appeal directions in Section E. 2 of the Rule Book, General Contest Information, and Policies-Guidelines.~~

Remove Section VI.D.5. from the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook.

Rationale: Adding a Middle School class would allow those kids to be evaluated with others of their same experience level, just as the Regional C class allows for new HS units. The turnover rate for middle schools kids is doubled due to the fact that MSHSAA only allows grades 7-8 grade to participate. This would allow units to focus on the fundamentals and design basics, which is usually the primary reason to begin a middle school program

Proposal #23

Correct location in the Rule Book for Championship promotions (Color Guard Rulebook)

Chris Putnam, Education Director

Proposal: Remove Section VI.H. from the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook, renumber the following sections, place the following removed language as Section VI.G.1.c., and renumber the following sections:

A guard placing first, second, or third in a round in Scholastic C, Scholastic B, Regional A, Regional B, and Regional C at MCCGA Championships is promoted to the next higher classification for the following season.

Rationale: This rule is stuck in an odd place in the Rulebook. No substantive change, just a housekeeping detail so all Championship promotion rules are in one place in the Rulebook.

Proposal # 24

Rotation Period on Accepting Promotion Score Proposals (Color Guard Rulebook)

John Sullivan, MCCGA Vice-President

Proposal: Rule VI Unit Classification

I propose we place a rotation period on when we accept proposals for promotion scores. My suggestion is we make this a two-year rotation. Over the last few seasons we have voted in different promotional scores for the next season. I believe we need more than one season to determine if the table of scores is benefiting our units.

Rationale: The constant changing of the promotion scores can be confusing. By holding to one scale longer than one season, I believe as a circuit we can better evaluate the process before casting our vote "for or against" a particular system.

Proposal # 25
Promotion Scores (*Color Guard Rulebook*)
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Education Director

Proposal: Renumber the promotion table in the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook in Section VI.K. for the upcoming season's weekends as follows:

	WEEKEND								
	2/3	2/10	2/17	2/24	3/3	3/10	3/17	3/24	3/31
<u>Regional C</u>	26.7	27.5	28.3	29.1	29.9	30.7	31.5	32.3	33.1
<u>Regional B</u>	31.1	31.9	32.7	33.5	34.3	35.1	35.9	36.7	37.5
<u>Regional A/Indep. Reg. A</u>	35.3	36.1	36.9	37.7	38.5	39.3	40.1	40.9	41.7
<u>Scholastic C</u>	26.7	27.5	28.3	29.1	29.9	30.7	31.5	32.3	33.1
<u>Scholastic B</u>	31.1	31.9	32.7	33.5	34.3	35.1	35.9	36.7	37.5
<u>Scholastic A/Independent A</u>	35.3	36.1	36.9	37.7	38.5	39.3	40.1	40.9	41.7
<i>Open</i>	39.7	40.5	41.3	42.1	43	43.9	44.8	45.7	47.5

If the total of a unit's vocabulary, composition, and repertoire scores exceed the score indicated for any given weekend at an MCCGA festival AND 3 of the 5 working judges assign a promotion score for that unit, that unit is promoted for the remainder of that season. This score must be achieved in a finals performance (if a prelims/finals format is used) unless a unit does not perform in finals. In this case, the prelims score is used for promotion purposes.

Rationale: There are no changes to what was used during the 2006 season. The only change now might be if WGI makes a change that would impact the scoring ranges for Box 5 for the A or Open classes or the point breakdown for the captions (What vs. How).

Proposal # 26
High School Student release to Independent Unit
Charlie Bourrage, Vivace Winter Guard

Proposal: Amend Rule V. G.

Any high school student whose high school's winter guard unit is a member of MCCGA may not perform with an independent unit without the written permission of the high school's guard/percussion/sponsor/director.....
 TO SAY

Any high school student whose high school's winter guard unit is a member of MCCGA may not perform with an independent unit without written permission of the high school band staff or school administration.

Rationale: The school administration would be aware of student absences during competition season for long trips. Also give the student freedom to choose which unit they wish to march in without being penalized.

Proposal # 27
Independent Class Directors Code of Conduct Regarding Members Changing Units
By: John Sullivan, MCCGA Vice-President
Director, The Pride of Missouri State/National Avenue from Missouri State

Proposal: Add Rule V.H Eligibility

With a tremendous growth in independent units in MCCGA, I propose we initiate a *Directors Code of Conduct Regarding Members Changing Units*. I believe the proper procedure between Independent Directors is for us to contact another Director when one of their performers seriously inquires about membership in our color guards. Though this is not something MCCGA should "police", I do believe it would be appropriate for our circuit to include this code of conduct in our bylaws.

Rationale: My thoughts are two-fold on this issue:

- 1) It is a professional and courteous outreach that should be followed by all of us within the Independent Director ranks.
- 2) Retention is important to all who direct Independent Units, and we can not always rely on a performer to inform us when they are considering a change.

Items of Discussion General

Item # 1 Mentoring Program Lindsey Hansen, Odessa

Item: Beginning a Mentoring Program

Rationale: Having a small group of individuals that would be accountable to new units and directors. Having a certain individual designated to you and your program would allow those new units and directors to ask questions, learn the process, feel more comfortable with their beginning experiences of the circuit, and ultimately make it a more successful experience for the students .

Item # 2 Intervals between classes Charlie Bourrage, Vivace Winter Guard

Item: Request for a full interval break regardless of number in classes between each class competing at festivals:

Rationale: Give Judges who have competing units to switch positions from the box with also keeping the show running on time. With a number of judges that have affiliations, the panel can switch position without being rushed in preparation for the next unit they evaluate.

Item # 3 Photo Area Charlie Bourrage, Vivace Winter guard

Item: Create a Photo Area in the stands for those parents/spectators of units who wish to take photography during their unit's show.

Rationale: There were a number of shows where parents/spectators were taking flash photography, after a number of announcements about it. This Proposal will allow those people to sit in a certain area so the T/P judge can monitor during the show for safety reasons.

Items of Discussion Percussion

Item # 4

Percussion Championship Location Bill Castillo, Belleville East

Item: Change the location of the percussion championships to a larger facility (UMSL, MSU, etc)

Rationale: While FHC is a nice high school, the warm-up facilities were far too small. Groups were put in the wrestling room and sound volume was a concern to the instructors that I spoke to. I heard of a few groups not doing any playing in that room because of the noise. Also, the hallways are too small to allow multiple groups to pass by each other. Another reason is the gym. The gym that championships were held in were too small for the crowd and the groups. A smaller gym is a louder gym and clarity becomes an issue.

Item # 5

Percussion Judge's Certification Bill Castillo, Belleville East

Item: Require stricter certification of judges.

Rationale: I heard from more than one instructor about the tapes we were receiving from some PA judges. After hearing some of my own group's tapes, I can't help but agree. In the PSA class, it is about teaching the kids to become better. Having a judge say that he can't judge your group until you fix your technique is not helpful. Note the bad technique and move on.

Item # 6

Addition of a Percussion Academy John Sullivan, MCCGA Vice-President

Item: Within the first few years of *MCCGA*, our circuit hosted color guard academies. After several years of that event, the emphasis of color guard training shifted a different direction and the academy was discontinued. I am proposing we initiate a percussion academy to offer classes for students, designers, and judges. It could be staffed by circuit percussion instructors, national percussion designers, and *WGI* percussion judges. Since percussion judging in our circuit is governed by *MCCGA*, this would give us an opportunity for a judges training session that same weekend.

A nominal fee for those attending would need to be charged to help incur some of the costs for such an event. The *MCCGA Percussion Academy* could be held in St. Louis, for example, or a great amount of interest might merit a second (or even a third) academy(s) in Kansas City or Springfield area(s).

Rationale: With the growth that is evident in the percussion area of *MCCGA*, and with more lines attending *WGI* competitions (regionals and championships), I believe the *MCCGA Percussion* community would welcome more opportunities for training. Our percussion students can benefit from an academy as it will give them exposure to a variety of instructors, and allow them to build camaraderie within the performer ranks.

Items of Discussion Color Guard

Item # 7 Color Guard Critique Charlie Bourrage, Vivace Winter guard

Item: Have 5 stations for critique(2 minutes)....One for each judge:

Rationale: This rule change will hold each judge accountable for their comments, and also you're able to get more one-on-one commentary from the judges in the critique room.

Item # 8 Color Guard Critique Charlie Bourrage, Vivace Winter guard

Item: Units wishing to participate in critique MUST listen to tapes/ fill out critique forms. With the exception of those unit director's who host the day's festival.

Rationale: This will also hold the judges accountable for their commentary, and also educate unit directors to understand what the commentary is. The judges need education just as much as the instructor's... this rule will force unit directors to take the initiative to be prepared coming into the critique room.