



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

I. MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Membership Levels for both guard units are as follows:

A. MCCGA Full Membership=\$450 (\$50 discount before Dec. 1)

Includes:

1. Unlimited MCCGA festival attendance
2. MCCGA Championship entry
3. Field Day attendance (if held)
4. Voting privileges at General Meetings
5. One WGI Adjudication manual
6. All circuit mailings—email and postal mail

B. MCCGA Limited Membership=\$125 base fee (no discount offered)

1. Additional \$100 fee will be charged for each festival entered
2. Additional \$175 entry fee for prelims/finals show and/or MCCGA Championships

Also includes:

3. Voting privileges at General Meetings
4. One WGI manual
5. All circuit mailings—email and postal mail

C. For any unit beyond the first fully paid membership from a single school or organization, a discount of \$150 will be given on membership fees for any additional units of the same nature.

D. Non-member entrance fee is \$150 per show. Payment is due prior to festival.

E. CANCELLATION POLICY:

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 MCCGA, who will then reimburse the festival sponsor**
3. Payment will be required before you may attend your next MCCGA Festival.
4. Festival Hosts will enforce this policy (i.e. keep track of cancelled units and pass along the information to both the MCCGA Treasurer AND the host(s) of the subsequent festival(s) with the backing of the MCCGA Board of Directors.
5. Festivals cancelled due to inclement weather will not incur financial penalties.
6. Should your unit be required to withdraw from a festival on a day with inclement weather in your area or due to the policy of a school administrator, or other extreme circumstances (i.e. acts of God or nature, theft, fire, etc.) financial penalties will not be incurred.
7. To request a schedule change units must send an email to: festivalchanges@mccga.org.

II. ENTRY FORMS

A. The MCCGA office will send out and/or distribute entry forms for the various Festivals to MCCGA membership. (see Yearly Calendar)

B. In order to guarantee space in Festival lineups, each entry must be returned to MCCGA.

1. with multiple entries on one form or
2. on separate forms by the deadline of four (4) weeks prior to each Festival date



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

3. The signed entry form must be submitted with payment or Purchase Order. The entry is NOT valid until payment or P.O. is received.
- C. Performance times for Festivals will be determined by class and postmark date of completed entry, which consists of entry form plus payment or purchase order. (earliest date goes last in the Class)
 1. All entry forms will be distributed, either in person, through the mail, or over the Internet on a specified day each year. (see yearly calendar)
 2. Should there be a tie between units having the same postmark date; the tied units will be placed in random order weekly.
 3. THIS DATE IS BASED ON MEMBERSHIP/FESTIVAL ENTRY FORM POSTMARK DATE.
 4. If a unit should send in an entry form for the upcoming season, but still has an outstanding balance with MCCGA, postmark will be determined by payment received postmark.

III. FESTIVAL HOST APPLICATION PROCEDURES

- A. MCCGA sanctions festivals sponsored by member units. Members can apply to sponsor a festival, the MCCGA sponsored WGI Regional or MCCGA Championships by fully completing an application and returning it, along with the site information requested by the deadline specified by MCCGA. The Regional festival is awarded in connection with WGI.
 1. The MCCGA sponsored WGI Regional and MCCGA Championships will not be awarded to the same institution, organization, or school.
 2. In order to host a festival, the prospective Festival Host must certify that all requirements stipulated on the Festival Host Application Form have been met. The MCCGA Board reserves the right to have a representative inspect the facility to ensure this prior to awarding a festival.
- B. Units that return their application by the second summer meeting (with payment) and meet all of the requirements as stipulated on the Festival Host Application Form will be given first consideration. Applications received after the summer meeting deadline will be considered if there are show dates still available.
 1. Schedule will be posted four weeks following the second summer meeting.
 2. Any changes and/or additions to the show schedule will not be made after November 15.
- C. Festival sponsors pay MCCGA a sponsorship/administration fee of \$800.
 1. Prelims/finals festival sponsorship fee is \$800 plus \$30 per color guard performance beyond twenty-five during the entire festival (irrespective of prelims and finals)
 2. Initial payment is due with the application
- D. Judges fees are structured for a maximum of 25 color guard units, as judge's fees increase per color guard unit over 25. The festival will pay the judging costs for festivals over 25 color guard units (\$30 per unit over 25 color guard units). The MCCGA Board reserves the right to limit the maximum number of entries to any festival to the number the Board feels the facility can adequately handle.



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

- E. Information about your festival site must be included with your application.
1. This includes a map of your facility showing where units will enter and exit, which side is front and any other pertinent details.
 2. You should also include descriptive text about the performance area (the Gymnasium) and the warm-up facilities, as well as dimensions.
 3. Finally, you must include directions and/or maps to your site (please indicate parking, unit entrance and audience entrance sites).
- F. Festivals should follow our standard format:
1. The show begins at a set time and the order of classes as follows: Guards will perform in the following order: Regional C, Regional B, Regional A, Independent Regional A, Scholastic C, Scholastic B, Scholastic A, Independent A, Scholastic Open, Independent Open, Scholastic World, Independent World. The structure of the show itself will be determined by the show hosts and the festival director with Executive Board's approval.
 2. Unit's performance time is defined by reverse postmark date of their Entry Form (earliest date goes last in Class, etc.).
 3. Prelims/Finals formats will be awarded at the discretion of the Executive Board.
 4. The MCCGA Vice-President shall facilitate the scheduling of units.
- G. 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.

IV. FESTIVAL PROCEDURES

- A. Units performing at MCCGA festivals should not be required to perform before the time stated in the latest schedule published by MCCGA, typically the Thursday before the event.
- B. Final Festival information will be postmarked (hard copies through the mail and via the MCCGA website) one (1) week prior to that Festival by the Festival host. This information will include:
1. written directions to the site including a map or maps
 2. a map of the facility showing where units will enter and exit, which side is the front (performance side) and any other pertinent details
 3. descriptive text about the performance area (the gymnasium), as well as dimensions, and the warm-up facilities.
 4. other pertinent information concerning the Festival (dressing rooms, sound checks, food options, booster sales, parking, etc.)
- C. Turn in the following when signing in at unit check-in:
1. Music performance tape (be sure to label correct side with unit name and class) or CD (also labeled with unit name and class). Performance tapes should be cued. CD's should be labeled with the proper track number.
 2. Unit Fact and Declaration Sheet, which indicates the total number of marching members, plus any pertinent information as included on the Unit Fact Sheet.
- D. Marching members plus seven (7) will be admitted free. All others must pay admission. This included equipment crew, instructors, parents, designers, drivers, etc. as defined as per the WGI manual. In addition to the seven (7) extra passes, one director from each unit will receive a Director's Pass that will be honored at all MCCGA festivals, except the MCCGA sponsored WGI Regional.



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

- E. All equipment will be taken to the assigned Equipment areas. Make sure to keep equipment neatly stacked in the areas provided.
1. If dressing rooms are available, the Festival sponsor will assign them.
 2. Storage areas are a privilege...be prepared to store them in your transport vehicle(s) if necessary.
- F. All units will be ready to perform at the assigned times.
- G. All equipment will be inspected for proper taping and padding prior to warm-up. This includes any props that come in contact with the floor of the performance area. Please reference WGI manual for more details.
- H. VIDEO TAPING AND PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY:
1. AT MCCGA CHAMPIONSHIPS ABSOLUTELY NO VIDEO TAPING WILL BE ALLOWED.
 2. At WGI Regional(s) units will be assigned one(1) video pass only (per WGI rules)
 3. In order to protect the safety of our performers, absolutely NO FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY is allowed during a performance. Photography without a flash is acceptable.
 4. Unit Directors, Instructors, Designers, and managers are strongly encouraged to help inform their member's family, friends and parents of this policy.
- I. Trophies are awarded only at MCCGA Championships.
- J. The number of participants allowed into finals format will be at the discretion of the Festival director and will be published in advance.
- K. Festival hosts will set admission prices for all MCCGA Festivals. The host with the consideration of the MCCGA Executive Board will set admission fees for festivals with a prelims/finals format, including Championships.
- L. CANCELLATION POLICY:
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 MCCGA, who will then reimburse the festival sponsor**
 3. Payment will be required before you may attend your next MCCGA Festival.
 4. Festival Hosts will enforce this policy (i.e. keep track of cancelled units and pass along the information to both the MCCGA Treasurer AND the host(s) of the subsequent festival(s) with the backing of the MCCGA Board of Directors.
 5. Festivals cancelled due to inclement weather will not incur financial penalties.
 6. Should your unit be required to withdraw from a festival on a day with inclement weather in your area or due to the policy of a school administrator, or other extreme circumstances (i.e. acts of God or nature, theft, fire, etc.) financial penalties will not be incurred.
 7. To request a schedule change units must send an email to: festivalchanges@mccga.org.



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

- M. Festival Directors are appointed by the President with approval of the Executive Board. Potential Festival Directors will be pulled from either the Extended Board or individuals who have had extensive experience and are capable of administering a festival. The MCCGA Representative serving as Festival Director at a festival will be compensated on a scale voted on by the Full Board. When practical, the Festival Director will not have a unit at the festival.

The job of Festival Director requires the assigned person:

- to act as a contact for the festival host in the weeks leading up to a festival
- be responsible in delivering either the tabulation program on disk or on a circuit laptop
- be responsible in instructing and monitoring the tabulation throughout the festival
- sign-off on timing penalties
- address sound issues and other problems that may arise throughout the day of the festivals
- and in general, perform all duties incidental to the role of the Festival Director, and other such duties as may be assigned by the President

- N. In case of any ties that determine order of performance at an MCCGA Festival or Championships, the unit with the earlier postmark date will perform later. In the event of a tie in postmark dates, a coin flip will determine which unit performs last.
- O. In any Festival or at the MCCGA Championships, any class that has more than 14 units performing shall be divided into equal rounds with not more than 10 units in each round. Each round will be a separate “festival” for purposes of rating, ranking, and awards.
- P. Exhibitions – Exhibition performances are open only to pageantry groups ineligible for MCCGA membership. Individual exceptions will be determined by the MCCGA Executive Board.
- Q. At all MCCGA events, scores will not be announced for any unit in the JH/MS class. Scores will appear on recaps and judges’ sheets distributed the day of the festival, but will not appear on the MCCGA website or any other form of distribution. except other unit directors. At Championships, only rankings will be announced.
- R. Festival hosts are required to utilize a high quality sound system.
- S. The MCCGA Executive Board of Directors will utilize the following guidelines to determine the number of finalists in MCCGA Championships. Any finalist positions unused because of lack of competing guards in a class may be added to other class at the discretion of the Executive Board of Directors.
1. The Middle School/Junior High and Regional C classes will not have a finals performance; however the champions of these classes will be given the option of performing in exhibition.
 2. The Regional B, Regional A, Independent Regional A, and Scholastic C classes will have finalists equal to 25% of the Prelims contest participants with a minimum of 3 finalists and a maximum of 7.
 3. The Scholastic B class will have finalists equal to 50% of the Prelims festival participants with a minimum of 3 finalists and a maximum of 7.
 4. All other classes will have finalists equal to 75% of the Prelims festival participants with a minimum of 3 finalists and a maximum of 7.
 5. An additional exception may be made to these numbers if the class size is such that only one



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

- unit from prelims will not make finals. In such a case, all units in the class will advance to Finals.
6. The MCCGA Full Board will vote on the Championships format on a yearly basis, with the results being announced no later than January 15th.
 7. In the case of an odd number of Prelim participants, this number will be rounded up to the next higher whole number.
 8. If rounds are used in Prelims, the first place guard in each round will advance to finals and the remaining finalists will be the highest remaining scores regardless of round.

V. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Color guards composed of members not over age twenty-two (22) as of 12:01 A.m. of the date of their respective competitive class finals performance at the MCCGA Championships shall be permitted to perform in Festivals governed by MCCGA, except in Independent World Class, where there is no age restriction. Each unit appearing at a MCCGA Festival shall be prepared to show proof of members' ages (e.g. copies of Birth Certificates).
- B. Color guards whose total membership comes from the same school or schools that feed into that school and abide by the age rule may perform in the scholastic class provided by the MCCGA. Each school unit appearing in a MCCGA Festival in a scholastic class shall be prepared to show proof of enrollment in sponsoring schools (e.g. school ID cards, yearbooks, etc.).
- C. Each scholastic color guard should comply with eligibility requirements set forth by its respective state activities association (e.g. Missouri State High School Activities Association, Kansas State High School Activities Association, etc.) and school district.
- D. No guard member may perform in more than one (1) color guard from the same sponsoring organization. – Please note that WGI rules will apply if your unit is performing at WGI regionals. Performers and directors should be aware of any state or local activities association's rules, which may not allow this.
- E. No color guard may perform with less than five (5) or more than thirty (30) members on the floor of performance at any time, including commanding officer(s).
- F. Color Guard only – The use of taped music and/or live musical instruments is optional. Proficiency of playing shall not be judged. Musicians' age and eligibility must be consistent with MCCGA rules.
- 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 guard/percussion/band/sponsor/director. Such permission must be filed with MCCGA (to the attention of the MCCGA Treasurer) prior to the student participating with the independent unit. It is the high school director's responsibility to inform the Board of this type of situation.

PENALTY: Disqualification – Any unit violating any requirement in the ELIGIBILITY section shall be disqualified and its position/standing in the Festival shall be forfeited.



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

VI. UNIT CLASSIFICATIONS

- A. All scholastic units must adhere to the scholastic eligibility rules of WGI and their appropriate High School Activities Association (e.g. MSHSAA, KSHSAA, etc.).
- B. Definitions: All definitions are general. More goes into the selection of classification than falling into specific guidelines. Considerations should include experience level of performers and/or designers/instructors; anticipated level of performers; past success of the group; etc. Refer to WGI manual for further discussion of classification.
- C. The MCCGA classification strategy has one main goal:
Provide a consistent and fair grouping of units achieving at a similar level while encouraging their future development. This goal can be met by doing the following:
- Provide unit management and staff with clear descriptions of the qualities of guards in each class.
 - Provide incentives for guards to move into the higher levels of classification.
 - Provide mechanisms for the circuit to ensure consistent and fair groupings.
 - Provide an appeal process for guards that feel they are unfairly classed.
- D. When units are deciding classifications they must consider the following MCCGA policy.
The following rules supersede any other rules regarding classifications in the MCCGA rulebook.
1. If a unit enters a WGI Event in Open or World class, that unit must perform in MCCGA events in the same class as the unit's WGI classification.
 2. If a unit would like to perform in Open or World class but does not enter a WGI Regional, the unit is subject to MCCGA promotion scores and shall start the season in Scholastic A or Independent A class.
 3. If a unit competed the previous season in Open or World class, the unit may begin the following season in that same class.
 4. If a unit enters a WGI Event in Scholastic A or Independent A class, that units must perform in MCCGA in either Scholastic A, Scholastic B, Scholastic C, or Independent A class. The only exception to this rule is if WGI promotes the unit to Scholastic or Independent Open class, whereby that unit must perform in MCCGA events in the same class as the unit's WGI classification, unless the unit withdraws from that event.
- E. Color Guard Classifications
Classification descriptions may be found in Appendix A to this Rulebook
- F. Unit classification is subject to board discretion
1. **Reclassification**
A unit may request to move to a lower class but such requests must follow the appeal process outlined below.

Units 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 Regional C at MCCGA Championships is promoted to the next higher classification 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 promotion score is promoted to the next higher Class for the remainder of that season.



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

- 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 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.
 - g) Circuit Championship Class Winners listed below and all units that score above the last Review Score listed in Section L. Below for that class will automatically move up to the next classification the subsequent season.
 - 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.
- Unit Managers/Directors/Instructors have the right to appeal a between season reclassification decision (see Appeal below).

2. Appeal

- a) Units that are promoted between seasons may submit an appeal of their reclassification in email to the Chief Judge (Chair of the Review Committee) no later than two weeks prior to the first festival of the season
- b) The Review Committee will vote by email within three days of receiving the appeal.
- c) A simple majority is needed for the appeal to succeed. In the case of a tie, the appeal is denied.
- d) A unit requesting to move to a lower class may submit an appeal to do so by email to the Chief Judge (Chair if the Review Committee) detailing why the unit should be reclassified
- e) 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.

- G. Units may submit, in writing, a request to the Chief Judge (Chair if the Review Committee) to be reclassified.
- H. If a unit places in the top three (3) in its class or round at the MCCGA Championships, the unit must perform the next season in the same or higher class.
- I. Each year, the review scores below will be updated to reflect the upcoming season and any changes the membership feels necessary. The scores will determined based on WGI's block and post-block scores.



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

The review scores will be in effect at all MCCGA festivals and WGI Regionals beginning with the first week, through and including the sixth week of each season. If a unit has not participated in a festival by the sixth week, the first MCCGA festival the unit participates in after the sixth week is also subject to review. In the event of a discrepancy between this Section and Section VI. H. 3. a., Section VI. H. 3. a. will be controlling.

If a review 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 review if the unit is being reviewed for the first time that season in that class. If a unit is being reviewed a second time, a 2/3 vote is required to overturn a review. If a unit is being reviewed for a third time or more, a unanimous vote is needed to overturn the review. In the case of a tie, the review 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.

COLOR GUARD REVIEW SCORES

	WEEKEND								
	2/3	2/10	2/17	2/24	3/3	3/10	3/17	3/24	3/31
<i>Regional C</i>	26.7	27.5	28.3	29.1	29.9	30.7	31.5	32.3	33.1
<i>Regional B</i>	31.1	31.9	32.7	33.5	34.3	35.1	35.9	36.7	37.5
<i>Regional A/Indep. Reg. A</i>	35.3	36.1	36.9	37.7	38.5	39.3	40.1	40.9	41.7
<i>Scholastic C</i>	26.7	27.5	28.3	29.1	29.9	30.7	31.5	32.3	33.1
<i>Scholastic B</i>	31.1	31.9	32.7	33.5	34.3	35.1	35.9	36.7	37.5
<i>Scholastic A/Independent A</i>	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 choreography, 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 review 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 review purposes. In the case of a double panel (10 working judges), 6 of the 10 judges must assign a review score for the unit to be reviewed.



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

VII. CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. Finalist determination

The MCCGA Executive Board of Directors will utilize the following guidelines to determine the number of finalists in MCCGA Championships. Any finalist positions unused because of lack of competing guards in a class may be added to other class at the discretion of the Executive Board of Directors.

1. The Middle School/Junior High and Regional C classes will not have a finals performance; however the champions of these classes will be given the option of performing in exhibition.
2. The Regional B, Regional A, Independent Regional A, and Scholastic C classes will have finalists equal to 25% of the Prelims contest participants with a minimum of 3 finalists and a maximum of 7.
3. The Scholastic B class will have finalists equal to 50% of the Prelims festival participants with a minimum of 3 finalists and a maximum of 7.
4. All other classes will have finalists equal to 75% of the Prelims festival participants with a minimum of 3 finalists and a maximum of 7.
5. An additional exception may be made to these numbers if the class size is such that only one unit from prelims will not make finals. In such a case, all units in the class will advance to Finals.
6. The MCCGA Full Board will vote on the Championships format on a yearly basis, with the results being announced no later than January 15th.
7. In the case of an odd number of Prelim participants, this number will be rounded up to the next higher whole number.
8. If rounds are used in Prelims, the first place guard in each round will advance to finals and the remaining finalists will be the highest remaining scores regardless of round.

B. Eligibility to compete in the MCCGA Championships

To be eligible to compete in MCCGA Championships:

- Each color guard unit must perform within the first four (4) weekends of the MCCGA season at a MCCGA Festival or a WGI Regional; by February 16, 2008, for the 2008 season. If one of the first four (4) weekends does not offer a MCCGA Festival (a WGI Regional does count as an MCCGA Festival), then an extra weekend will be added to this timeline
 - The unit must be in good standing i.e. all fees paid to MCCGA or other Members).
- AND
- Each unit must also perform in a least two MCCGA festivals throughout the course of the season. The Executive Board will address exceptions on an individual basis.

C. Championship Seeding

- Each unit's two highest scores from MCCGA events or WGI Regionals will be determined by taking each unit's score during the season and adding two points to the score for each week remaining in the season. (if there 8 weeks in the season, a score in week 5 would have 6 additional points added to it: $8 - 5 = 3$ and 3×2 points = 6 points) After the scores have been "progressed" using this method, the two highest scores are used for seeding purposes defined below.
- The order of appearance at MCCGA Circuit Championships will be determined by averaging the two (2) highest scores (after being progressed by two points per week received by a unit at MCCGA Festivals up to 2 weeks prior to Championships. 70% of the highest score and 30% of the second highest score will determine the total average score of the unit
- The two highest scores used for the seeding process must be a finals score (if a prelims/finals format if used) unless a unit does not perform in finals. In this case, the prelims number is used for promotion purposes.



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

- Units will perform in championships in their seeding order

VIII. ADOPTION OF WGI RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. The Unit Director of a Full or Limited MCCGA Membership unit will receive, prior to the start of the season, a copy of the current WGI rules and regulations by which MCCGA abides. These WGI rules and regulations work in conjunction with the MCCGA Rule Book, General Festival Information and Policy Statement. Take note that our timing requirements differ slightly. Refer to Section V above for timing clarification.

B. Regardless of WGI rules, MCCGA shall recognize “sickles” as authorized equipment and such equipment having the general shape of a curved rifle shall count toward a unit’s authorized equipment time. Operational definition of this rule shall be made by the Chief Judge.

IX. PROTOCOL AND GUIDELINES REGARDING COMMUNICATION WITH MCCGA

With the addition of the Regional Coordinator/Communication Chairpersons (RCC) to the MCCGA Board of Directors, all circuit members will be expected to adhere to the following procedure when wishing to make contact with MCCGA concerning, but not limited to:

- festival guidelines
- circuit rules and regulations
- scheduling concerns
- judging concerns, etc.

A. Circuit members will need to make contact with the Regional Coordinator/Communication Chairperson (RCC) who has been assigned to their region. For the convenience of the members, the circuit has been divided into three regions with one communication chairperson in each area (Kansas City, St. Louis and Springfield, MO).

B. Once a circuit member has made contact and discussed their questions/concerns, the RCC will:

1. answer their question/concern instantly, or...
2. make contact with the appropriate Executive Board member who can answer the concern.

In the extreme situation that the respective RCC did not satisfy the concern of the circuit member in a timely manner, contact then may be made with a member of the Executive Board. However, each circuit member will be expected to first contact their RCC before making contact with any member of the Executive Board.

By following the above procedure, it is the intent of the Executive Board that questions, concerns and challenges will be addressed quickly by the Regional/Communication Chairpersons, and will allow the Executive Board to fulfill their duties as outlined in the MCCGA Constitution and By-laws.

X. INSTRUCTORS CODE OF ETHICS (as state in the WGI Manual)

“The MCCGA feels that it is important to enforce the Instructors’ Code of Ethics. If judges and staff are expected to adhere to a professional code of conduct, then it is appropriate that this standard is exacted from the Instructional community as well.



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

If undue and unfair pressure is applied to judges through inappropriate behavior, then this places the competitive experience at risk. Examples cited included but were not limited to: instructors shouting at judges in public and/or at critique, inappropriate conduct of any instructor while accompanying the guard onto the festival floor, inordinate and unauthorized telephone calls to judges, or electronic communication that is derogatory to any other MCCGA member unit or a unit's staff, directors, or members. There is also a growing concern about disruptive behavior in the warm up area, and rude behavior for the performer/staff of one group towards another. Behavior of this type is intolerable and will result in the loss of the privilege that has been violated. For example, instructors could be barred from the arena floor or festival venue or lose the right to use the warm up venue. Addressing this important issue must be a priority for every unit

The managing administrator of the situation will determine the application of the action. The managing administrator in judging issues is the Director of Education. The Festival Director is the administrator in

situation pertaining to festival personnel. The Executive Board is the administrator in matters of poor sportsmanship or inter-guard issues.”

Before a unit may attend critique, the unit must have signed up prior to the festival for critique and have listened to the judges' commentary on the cassette tapes provided during the festival. This is evidenced by filling out the Instructor's Critique Sheet provided with the judges tapes and turned in to the Chief Judge at the conclusion of the critique session with that unit. The only exception to this policy is for staffs involved in hosting a festival that day.

XI. JUDGES CODE OF ETHICS (as state in the WGI Manual)

AFFILIATION: A judge may not adjudicate a class in which a competing unit is one with which he/she has a formal affiliation as defined below.

PRIMARY AFFILIATION: Designer, Instructor, Management or performing member of the competing unit. Any judge who receives a salary from the department that sponsors the competing guard. (i.e. an individual who teaches music in the school where the music department sponsors the winter guard/percussion line or where it is connected to the Band.

Individuals may not be a MCCGA judge if they are still performing in any Winter Guard or Percussion Line.

SECONDARY AFFILIATION: Family, spouse, significant-other relationship with an individual who has a primary affiliation as described above. Secondary Affiliations may be waived relative to a specific judge and a specific class by a vote of the Color Guard or Percussion Advisory Board (whichever is appropriate) if the vote shows at least 60% of those voting in agreement of waiving the affiliation for that particular season. At no time may the judge adjudicate the unit at any festival. This will not allow the judge to judge the class at the MCCGA Championships and this waiver may be revoked by a simple majority vote of the same Board at any time during the season.

CONSULTATIONS: A current MCCGA Judge is not permitted to give any consultation to any unit other than their primary affiliation.



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

CONDUCT: No judge may display interest or preference toward any competing guard he/she may judge. Wearing a unit's insignia is forbidden. Judges are encouraged to give input regarding the ethical standards of the judging community. This should be handled through the Director of Education and the Executive Board.

XII. YEARLY CALENDAR

This calendar is included to help the unit directors know what to expect during the year and/or season

October

15 - 1st day to accept Membership/Entry Form (earliest accepted postmark)

December

1 – Deadline for membership fee discount of \$50

31 – Deadline for Membership/Entry Forms

February

16 – Deadline for color guard units to have first performance for Championships eligibility

23 – Scholarship Forms due

March

17 – WGI Guard Regional (MCCGA sponsored) in the Kansas City area

17 – Last weekend scores can be used for Championship seeding

April

5 – MCCGA Championships Guard & Percussion – Springfield, MO

10-12 – WGI World Championships – Guard – Dayton, Ohio



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

APPENDIX A

Classification in the MCCGA will consist of the following class, each reflecting a stage in the learning process: applying, knowing, exploring, or discovering.

3. Middle School/Junior High

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 self-promote.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3 minutes and a maximum performance of 4.5 minutes. Interval between performance is at least 7 minutes.

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

2. 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 guards 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 encouraged to move to Regional B after their first competitive season.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3 minutes and a maximum performance of 4.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 7 minutes.

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

3. Regional B

General Definition: This classification is suggested for inexperienced units or students with one-year guard experience. This class reflects a developing level of achievement (the exploring stage) for the MCCGA. Staff and performers should both be at a basic level yet show signs of higher impact on design and performance technique. Equipment work is primarily two dimensional with a growing awareness, exploration and use of new planes and dimensions. Dance and body movement is an introductory level and is explored in the presentation. Characterization and creativity levels are explored at basic levels.



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3 minutes and a maximum performance of 4.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 7 minutes.

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

4. Regional A

General Definition: This area is where the beginner will be nurtured and developed with the beginning skills and qualities as their standard. The prime purpose is to develop individual training that will assure each student's technical growth. It is also to focus on logic in programs that will allow the performers to reach high achievement. This is intended to discourage those who overwrote in an attempt to be competitive and whose excessive demand on the performers precludes their proper training and development.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3 minutes and a maximum performance of 4.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 7 minutes.

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

5. Scholastic C

General Definition: Guards in this class have students and instructors with prior winter guard experience. This class reflects an application of beginning skills for the MCCGA. Staff and performers will be encouraged to demonstrate logical yet imaginative programs with achievable standards for performers. Guards in this Class should display all of the fundamentals and some of the intermediate qualities of performance and design. Both students and staff have talent to grow beyond the basics and explore a higher level of design and performance technique. Students shall be challenged to perform at a high level.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 5.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 8 minutes.

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

6. Scholastic B

General Definition: Guards in this class have students and instructors with prior winter guard experience. This class reflects an intermediate level of achievement (the knowing stage) for the MCCGA. Staff and performers will be encouraged to demonstrate logical yet imaginative programs with achievable standards for performers. Guards in this Class should display all of the fundamental and some of the intermediate qualities of performance and design. Both students and staff have talent to grow beyond the basics and explore a higher level of design and performance technique. Students shall be challenged to perform at a higher level.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 5.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 8 minutes.



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

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

7. Scholastic A

General Definition: Guards in this class have at least some members with strong experience. This class reflects a high level of achievement for the MCCGA. Both staff and performers have talent that goes beyond the basics and some intermediate design. Guards in this class should display all of the fundamental, many of the intermediate, and some of the advanced qualities of performance and design.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 5.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 8 minutes.

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

8. Scholastic Open Class

General Definition: Guards in this class have generally discovered a much stronger personality and are not usually similar to one another. The depth of their training and skills are still comparable in a great many cases, primarily due to the similarity of their age (generally 14-17) and the similar number of hours put into their development.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 6.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 9 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) Scholastic Open Class judging criteria will be used.

9. Scholastic World

General Definition: These guards have strong defined personalities and are highly creative and unique. They explore innovative program concepts. The depth of their training and

skills are strong, but SOME might not reach the maturity level of the Independent World class primarily because of their age limitations.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 7.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 10 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) Scholastic World Class judging criteria will be used.

10. Independent Regional A

General Definition: This area is where the beginner will be nurtured and developed with the beginning skills and qualities as their standard. The prime purpose is to develop individual training that will assure each student's technical growth. It is also to focus on logic in programs that will allow the performers to reach high achievement. This is



2008 Season
Color Guard Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

intended to discourage those who overwrite in an attempt to be competitive and whose excessive demand on the performers precludes their proper training and development.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3 minutes and a maximum performance of 4.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 7 minutes.

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

11. Independent A

General Definition: Guards in this class have at least some members with strong experience. Both staff and performers have talent that goes beyond the basics and some intermediate design. A wide range of skills and physical development can exist. Programs are usually unique. Occasionally a few individuals will demonstrate a high level of skills.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 5.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 8 minutes.

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

12. Independent Open

General Definition: These guards still contain a wide range of age and some skill differences. There is a greater consistency in the range of skills and physical development. Programs are unique. A few individuals will demonstrate a high level of skills. Some advanced challenges will exist.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 6.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 9 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) Independent Open Class judging criteria will be used.

13. Independent World

General Definition: Performers demonstrate the highest degree of physical development. They are very experienced and fully trained. Programs are unique and innovative and these components are important at this level. Some very sophisticated challenges will be placed on the performers who are often over 20 years of age.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 7.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 10 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) Independent World Class judging criteria will be used.

14. Penalties will be waived for lack of authorized performance and/or equipment time during the first two weekends of the performance season.