



# MCCGA Proposals August 10, 2008

## By-Laws

### 1. **Change the number of elected color guard class representatives (Bylaws)**

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

Proposal: Change the description of the *Color Guard Advisory Board* in Article IV.B. to read as follows:

- **Color Guard Advisory Board**

The Extended Board Members

Elected winter guard representatives for:

Middle School/Junior High units

Scholastic Regional units (includes Regional C, B, and A units)

Independent Regional A units

Scholastic A units (includes Scholastic C, B, and A units)

Independent A units

Open units (includes Scholastic and Independent Open units)

World units (includes Scholastic and Independent World units)

Rationale: We presently will elect 12 class representatives for the coming season. While this can lead to added interest and participation, there is also the downside of trying to find qualified individuals to fill so many positions. By reducing the number of positions to fill, hopefully this will be a more focused group of individuals to lead this Advisory Board.

### 2. **Merge the Percussion Education Director and Guard Education Director into one Education Director (Bylaws)**

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

Proposal: Remove the positions of Guard Education Director and Percussion Education Director and replace with a single Education Director on the Executive Board.

Revise Article V.H. (Education Director) to read as follows:

The **Education Director** shall:

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

**This Proposal split into two separate proposals**

Revise Article IV.B. as follows:

- ◆ **Executive Board**, which shall consist of the:
  - President
  - Vice-President
  - Treasurer
  - Public Relations Officer
  - Education Director
  - Percussion Coordinator
  - Chief Judge (non-voting member)

Revise Article IV.B.1 as follows:

The positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Public Relations, and Education Director shall be elected on a staggered two-year rotating basis and are considered voting members.

- a. President, Public Relations, and Education Director will be voted on in even summers.

Rationale: There is not enough responsibility in these two positions separately (percussion and guard) to warrant two unique positions. Placing these responsibilities with one individual will also allow for multi-faceted training to occur and to (potentially) save costs by combining training opportunities between both percussion and color guard. The skill set that is required for both positions is very similar, allowing one individual with that skill set to handle all of the responsibilities. Given the educational nature of MCCGA, this position is important enough to warrant holding a position on the E-Board.

### **3. Redefine Chief Judge's role to include oversight of percussion adjudication (Bylaws) Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director**

Proposal: Reword Article V.E. so it reads as follows:

The Chief Judge shall:

- Be a current or former judge for MCCGA
- facilitate implementation of appropriate adjudication for MCCGA Festivals
- see that all judges are assigned to the correct judging captions and are fulfilling their responsibilities
- facilitate the use of outside judges as well as any local judging association
- act as the liaison between MCCGA and other associations relating to judging issues
- in general, perform all duties incidental to the office of Chief Judge, and other such duties as may be assigned by the President

Remove the fifth bullet from Article V.F. that currently reads:

- see to all securing and scheduling of judges and that said judges are assigned to the correct judging categories and are fulfilling their responsibilities (i.e. on time).

Remove the sixth bullet from article V.G. that currently reads:

- be responsible for judges' sheets and tapes and other supplies necessary to run a Festival

Rationale: This clarifies that the Chief Judge is responsible for implementing all judging, regardless of whether it is percussion or color guard. Given the number of judges that may judge either or both guard and percussion, it makes sense to allow one individual to be responsible for all scheduling. Additionally, the skills that make an individual a good Chief Judge (conflict resolution, recap analysis, communication, judging principles, etc...) are fairly similar regardless of whether the judges are judging color guard or percussion. With the use of JAMA in handling percussion judging, this also makes the Chief Judge a single point of contact between the two organizations.

# Guard and Percussion Rulebooks

## **4. Membership Fees**

Submitted by Ann Duncan, President

Proposal: Change Section I A of both guard and percussion rulebooks to increase the Full Membership fee to \$475 per year.

Rationale: Due to increase in travel costs and fees for judges, there is a need to raise the membership fee to maintain the financial positive status of the MCCGA.

## **5. Festival Host Fees**

Submitted by Ann Duncan, President

Proposal: Change Section III.C. of the Percussion and Guard Rule Books to increase the Festival Host fee to \$900.

Rationale: The growing costs to run a festival from the MCCGA perspective require the need to raise the festival host fee. This proposal would be a \$100 increase from the previous year's charge.

## **6. Festival Host fee increase**

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

Proposal: Change Section III.C. of the Percussion and Guard Rule Books to increase the Festival Host fee to \$1,200.

Rationale: With the growing size of the festivals being hosted for MCCGA and the growing cost of transportation and housing for judges, it is time to again look at raising the amount MCCGA recoups from putting on a festival. The average cost of a festival to MCCGA last season was in excess of \$2,700 (the most inexpensive festival cost \$1,650). This would raise an additional \$4,800 for MCCGA while still allowing festivals to make a substantial profit and not be responsible for footing the entire bill for running a festival.

## **7. Festival performance maximum**

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

Proposal: Change Section III.G. of the Guard Rule Book to read as follows:

No festival (excluding Championships) shall have more than forty (40) color guard performances in one day. This shall include all color guard performances in prelims/finals festivals. If the festival is the only festival being held that day by MCCGA, then the maximum shall be sixty (60) color guard performances.

Change Section III.G. of the Percussion Rule Book to read as follows:

No festival (excluding Championships) shall have more than thirty (30) percussion performances in one day. This shall include all percussion performances in prelims/finals festivals. If the festival is the only festival being held that day by MCCGA, then the maximum shall be forty-five (45) percussion performances.

Rationale: With the continued growth of MCCGA color guard and percussion membership, it makes sense to begin to look at these as separate events that occur at the same facility instead of a combined show. With large festivals, MCCGA will need to schedule separate color guard and percussion judges so they are fresh throughout the day. If there is only one festival being held that day, there is the opportunity to schedule two panels of judges to help ease the burden.

## **8. MCCGA taping/padding policy**

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

Proposal: Change Section IV.G. of the Percussion and Guard Rule Books to read as follows:

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 the MCCGA Board policy for more details.

Rationale: WGI has vested much of its control regarding enforcement of rules to T&P judges at the national level. As such, there are often misinterpretations along the way from sometimes over-zealous judges. To help clarify for both members and festival hosts, MCCGA's Board should devise a clear policy that is enforceable by the Festival Director.

## **9. Exhibitions**

Submitted by Brandon Johnson, Percussion Coordinator, MCCGA

Proposal: Change Section IV.P. of the Percussion and Guard Rule Books to read as follows:

Exhibitions – Exhibition performances are available only to:

1. Pageantry groups otherwise ineligible for MCCGA membership (cheer, dance, pom, etc...)
2. Units that are MCCGA members and are acting as Festival Hosts that day (one unit per festival)

Exhibition performances will not have commentary or scores provided by the adjudication panel and such performance would not count for eligibility for MCCGA Championships.

Rationale: At times, hosting a festival can be a daunting task and can require a great deal of work of the students. It may be in the students' best interests in such cases to perform in exhibition so there is not an additional strain on the students. There are also opportunities for festivals to host either a guard or percussion festival and, by circumstance, eliminate the opportunity for one of their MCCGA member units to perform that day. This would allow the unit to perform in exhibition.

## **10. Championship seeding adjustment**

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

Proposal: Change the first paragraph of Section VII.C. of the Percussion and Guard Rule Books to read as follows:

Each unit's two highest scores from MCCGA events or WGI Regionals will be determined by taking each unit's total score (including penalties) during the season and adding two points to the score for each week remaining in January or February and one and a half points during the remainder of the season. After the scores have been "progressed" using this method, the two highest scores are used for seeding purposes as defined below.

Rationale: WGI has adjusted their system (the last two seasons) and now uses 2 point progressions during February and 1.5 point progressions during March. This change reflects the traditional slower growth during the latter stages of the season. By adopting this change, we will stay in lockstep with WGI and not "over-reward" early season performances.

# Color Guard Rulebook

## **11. Redundant rules elimination**

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

Proposal: Eliminate Sections V.E. and V.F. of the Guard Rule Book.

Rationale: These are both already WGI rules (1.4 and 4.6, respectively) and we already clearly state we follow WGI's rules unless otherwise noted. Being superfluous, they can now be eliminated as rules in our rulebook.

## **12. Round medalists promotion**

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

Proposal: Eliminate the following language in Section VI.F.1.g. "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: In the past, some classes would become unusually large and would necessitate the use of rounds. This was a method of moving units from a large class and redistributing them to a smaller class. There is no longer a need for this methodology as MCCGA has seen a fairly uniform distribution the last several seasons amongst its classes.

# Percussion Rulebook

## **13. Percussion Scholastic Regional B classification**

Submitted by Brandon Johnson, Percussion Coordinator, MCCGA

Proposal: Insert a new class description (as the first classification) to the Percussion Rule Book Appendix as follows:

### 1. Scholastic Regional B Class

Regional B Class units are the newest to the winter percussion activity and tend to be very inexperienced and similar to one another in terms of show design and format. This class will allow for the beginner to be nurtured and developed with the beginning skills and qualities as their standard. The primary purpose of this classification 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 overwrite in an attempt to be competitive and whose excessive demand on the performers precludes their proper training and development. Junior high school ensembles fit well into this classification, as do first and some second year high school ensembles.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes; maximum performance time is 5 minutes. Total interval time is 8 minutes.

Winter Guard International Percussion A Class judging criteria will be used by replacing "Basic" skill descriptors with "Beginning" skill descriptors.

Redefine the Regional A Class description in the Percussion Rule Book Appendix to read as follows:

### 2. Regional A Class

Regional A Class units are still relatively new to the winter percussion activity and compete locally in preparation for moving to more regional and national competition. The primary purpose of this classification is to develop individual training that will assure each student's technical growth while preparing for the next level of competitive success. The focus is also on logic in programs while allowing the performers to reach high achievement. This is intended to discourage overwriting in an attempt to be competitive and excessive demand on the performers that precludes proper training and development.

**SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL A CLASS:** These ensembles tend to be inexperienced and similar to one another in terms of show design and format. Ensembles with limited experience as performers or with limited staff experience should consider this classification.

**INDEPENDENT REGIONAL A CLASS:** These units use the same criteria as Scholastic Regional A with the exception of the age limit. These are units with limited experience in the activity, and tend to be younger in age overall.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes; maximum performance time is 5 minutes. Total interval time is 8 minutes.

Winter Guard International Percussion A Class judging criteria will be used by replacing "Basic" skill descriptors with "Beginning" skill descriptors.

Rationale: With the continued growth in the Regional class of percussion units, there is a need to add an additional class to allow more units to be competitive each week. By stratifying the class into these two classes, there will be more opportunities to have competitive success while still allowing for growth and development that is "correct" for the level of performers and instructors in these classes.

#### 14. Regional A class elimination

Submitted by Greg Hamilton, Gateway

Proposal: Eliminate the Regional class for percussion. The upper level A class groups would be put into the Open class. The lower level A class groups and current regional groups would create the A class division. These classifications would be only for MCCGA contests and not necessarily WGI contests.

Rationale: We currently have two classes (Regional and A) being judged on the same sheet. (A class). This forces judges to apply the same criteria to two different classes using the same criteria. By its nature, the A class sheet is designed for groups at the basic level and the Open sheets for groups at the intermediate level. Currently all of the groups participating in MCCGA would fall into these two classes.

#### 15. Unit Classifications

Submitted by Kirby Spayde, Odessa HS Percussion Ensemble

Proposal: Add the stipulations for Percussion Units to perform in Open or World class the same as guard. Section VI, to read as follows:

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.

Rationale: To help keep rules and regulations comparable and thus less confusing between the color guard and percussion units.

## **16. Concert Class criteria/rules**

Submitted by Kirby Spayde, Odessa HS Percussion Ensemble

Proposal: Redefine the Concert Class description in the Percussion Rule Book Appendix to read as follows:

The Concert Class is open only to scholastic units at the A, Open, and World class levels (see eligibility rules in the Percussion Rulebook for participating at the Open and World class levels). This class is designed for those groups whose single emphasis is the exploration and development of musical presentations. Such exploration may involve original musical compositions, or a blend of arrangements to display their development and virtuosity. The expectations of the judge will be different from those of the marching ensemble. In this class, the concert stage will be set to deliver the sound from a single focal point.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes; maximum performance time is 6 minutes (A class), 7 minutes (Open class), or 8 minutes (World class). Total interval time is 9 minutes (A class), 10 minutes (Open class), or 11 minutes (World class).

Winter Guard International Percussion Concert Class judging criteria will be used.

Rationale: WGI has updated their rulebook in recent seasons with more specific criteria for the Concert classes. The MCCGA rulebook has not been updated to reflect these changes and define the specific character of the concert class in MCCGA. Given the limited involvement of units in the concert classes, it seems advisable at this time to have a single class offered locally only for scholastic units with the option of Open and World class for units competing at WGI events.

## **17. Percussion Championship format**

Submitted by Greg Hamilton, Gateway

Proposal: For Percussion championships only, if there are more than 8 groups in a class there will be a preliminary round followed by the top 8 groups moving on into finals. Classes that have less than 8 groups will be a finals only contest.

Rationale: This will allow for a truly championship format and create a fair competitive scenario for all groups involved. Prelims would be a morning/afternoon contest and finals would be a late afternoon/evening contest. The circuit could still do a retreat for the preliminary round so all of the groups could have that experience.

**Amended – Ann Duncan will have exact wording with the new rule book**

## **18. Percussion Promotion Scores**

Submitted by Nathan Spurling, Marionsville HS

Proposal: A set of bump scores shall be devised and utilized for promotion of percussion units through the season. The bump score should increase from week one to the final performance week before Championships. The bump scores will be determined by the percussion President, Vice President and advisory board prior to the beginning of the season and should be based on the overall raw score of the unit (score prior to penalty). A unit attaining a bump score on any given week may go through the current appeal process.

Rationale: As the number of percussion units in our circuit has grown, the quality and excellence level have too. However, the diversity in ability and achievement has increased as well. To date very few if any percussion units have been moved up classifications through the season. It seems that the percussion judging community has been hesitant to promote groups. (as evidence this past season, there were as many as 5 units that have remained in the regional class for four or more seasons) The purpose of the bump score is to take the act of promotion indirectly out of the judge's hands. While the judging community SHOULD focus on rewarding units for growth, there should not be a specific focus on promotion. Bump scores would allow the adjudicator to focus on the number earned by the unit, thus promotion is a set goal, not something that MIGHT happen on a given weekend. Further, if percussion classifications are expanded, bump scores will help to even the ability and performance level in each classification. The expectation of growth and excellence should be placed on the unit and instructor. If they achieve they will be promoted- which should be the goal of all units. Further this will help the circuit in the classification strategy"

[to] 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 units in each class.
- Provide incentives for units to move into the higher levels of classification.
- Provide mechanisms for the circuit to ensure consistent and fair groupings.
- Provide an appeal process for units that feel they are unfairly classed."