



2010 Season
Percussion Rule Book,
General Festival Information, and Policy Statement

I. MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Membership Levels for percussion units are as follows:

A. **MCCGA Full Membership=\$500** (\$450 before Dec. 1)

Includes:

1. Unlimited MCCGA festival attendance
2. MCCGA Championship entry
3. Voting privileges at General Meetings
4. One WGI Adjudication manual
5. 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. Non-member entrance fee is \$150 per show. Payment is due prior to festival.

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



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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 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 \$900.
 1. Prelims/finals festival sponsorship fee is \$900
 2. Initial payment is due with the application
- D. Judges fees are structured for a maximum of 25 percussion units, as judge's fees increase per percussion 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.
- 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.



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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: The order of percussion will be as follows: Scholastic Regional A, 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 forty (40) color guard performances in one day. This shall include all color guard performances 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.

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:
Unit Fact Sheet and Declaration sheet, which indicates the total number of marching members, plus any other 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.
- E. All equipment will be taken to the assigned areas. Make sure to keep equipment neatly stacked in the areas provided.
1. If dressing rooms are available, the Festival sponsor will assign them.



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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 the MCCGA Board policy 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
- 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.



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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:

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 MCGA Championships.

V. ELIGIBILITY

A. Percussion units 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. Percussion lines 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 classes 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 percussion line 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. Any high school student whose high school’s percussion 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



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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.

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 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.
- D. Classifications
Classification descriptions may be found in Appendix A to this Rulebook
- E. When units are deciding classifications, they just consider the following MCGA policy. The following rules supersede any other rules regarding classification 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 unit must perform in MCCGA in either Scholastic A 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.
- F. The MCCGA Full Board will vote on the Championships format on a yearly basis, with the results being announced no later than January 15th.
- G. Unit classification is subject to board discretion
1. **Reclassification**
Classification is subject to board discretion. Units are promoted between seasons or during a season for the following reasons:



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- a) A percussion unit that meets or exceeds the promotion score is promoted to the next higher class for the remainder of that season
- b) No board member affiliated with the appealing unit, or a unit in the appeal unit's current class will be allowed to vote.
- c) A unit 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.
- d) The Board of Directors will address a classification change made at the WGI level, in regard to MCCGA Reclassification.
 - Unit Managers/Directors/Instructors have the right to appeal a reclassification decisions (see Appeal below).

2. Appeal

- a) Units that are promoted may submit an appeal of their reclassification in writing, by mail, email or fax to the MCCGA Board of Directors.
- b) The board 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.
- 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.

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.

H. Units may submit, in writing, a request to the Executive Board to be reclassified.

I. Unit Promotion

Each year, the promotion scores below will be updated to reflect the upcoming season and any changes the membership feels necessary. The scores will be determined based on Box 5 scoring according to WGI's scoring sheets.

The promotion 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 promotion. In the event of a discrepancy between this Section and Section VI. F. 3. a., Section VI. F. 3. a. will be controlling.



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	WEEKEND									
	1/23	1/30	2/6	2/13	2/20	2/27	3/6	3/13	3/20	3/27
Regional B	68	69.5	71	72.5	74	75.5	77	78	79	80
Regional A/Scholastic A/ Independent A	78	79.5	81	82.5	84	85.5	87	88	89	90
Open	78	79.5	81	82.5	84	85.5	87	88	89	90

If total score, before penalties, exceeds the score indicated for any given weekend at an MCCGA festival AND 2 of the 3 working judges assign a review score for that unit, and will be presented to the Percussion Advisory Committee. If agreed upon by the Committee, 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. In the case of a double panel (6 working judges), 4 of the 6 judges must assign a promotion score for the unit to be promoted.

- J. If your unit plans to attend a WGI regional, please consult the WGI manual or application regarding timing.

VII. CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. Finalist determination

1. The MCCGA Full Board will vote on the Championships format on a yearly basis, with the results being announced no later than January 15th.
2. For percussion championships only, if there are more than 10 groups in a class there will be a preliminary round followed by a finals. The number moving into finals will be determined by the MCCGA Executive Board. Classes that have less than 10 groups will be a finals only contest. If rounds are used in the preliminary contest, the highest scoring three (3) units from each round will advance to the finals contest and any additional units advancing will be the next highest scoring units regardless of round

B. Eligibility to compete in the MCCGA Championships

To be eligible to compete in MCCGA Championships:

- Each unit must perform within the first four (4) weekends from the first held percussion festival of the MCCGA season, or a WGI Regional; 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



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- 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 (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 defined below.
- The order of appearance at MCCGA Circuit Championships will be determined by averaging the two (2) highest scores (after being progressed by 1.5 points per week before March 1 and 1 point per week thereafter) received by a unit at MCCGA Festivals or WGI Regional 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 is used) unless a unit does not perform in finals. In this case, the prelims number is used for promotion purposes.
- Units will perform in championships in their seeding order

VIII. ADOPTION OF WGI RULES AND REGULATIONS

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.

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:
- i. answer their question/concern instantly, or...
 - ii. 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



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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 outlines 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.

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 an/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-unit 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 unit. (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.



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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.

CONDUCT: No judge may display interest or preference toward any competing unit 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

31 - 1st day to accept Membership/Entry Form (earliest accepted postmark)

December

1 – Deadline for membership fee discount

31 – Deadline for Membership/Entry Forms

February

28 – Deadline for percussion units to have first performance for Championships eligibility

28 – Scholarship Forms due

March

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

14 – Last weekend scores can be used for Championship seeding

APPENDIX A

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

1. Regional B Class



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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 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.

2. Regional A Class

Regional 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 that will allow the performers to reach high achievement. This is intended to discourage those overwriting in an attempt to be competitive and whose excessive demand on the performers precludes their proper training and development.

SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL CLASS: These ensembles tend to be very 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 CLASS: These units use the same criteria as Scholastic Regional with the exception of the age limit. Again, these are units with little or no 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

3. A Class

Class A units are a unique and special aspect of MCCGA Percussion. These are the younger or less developed participants. The goal is to assist both performers and staff in their training and development and to reward these achievements in a logical learning progression.



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SCHOLASTIC A CLASS: These units show a tendency to be similar to one another. Their choice of equipment, the formatting of their shows and the depth of their training and skills are comparable in many cases.

INDEPENDENT A CLASS: These ensembles use the same criteria as the Scholastic A Class with the exception of the age limit. Here is where the beginning student discovers the joy of performing and realizes the sense of achievement as each skill is learned.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes; maximum performance time is 6 minutes. Total interval time is 9 minutes.

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

4. Open Class

Open Class units are an exciting branch of MCCGA Percussion. There is a strong desire to grow and explore. They are open and eager to test their skills in a more challenging arena. Most will have achieved the level or training set in Class A and welcome the challenge of greater creativity. There should be sound development in a logical growing progression of challenges while maintaining the premise that growth requires new and additional training.

SCHOLASTIC OPEN CLASS: Unlike Scholastic A class, these units have discovered a much stronger personality and are not usually similar to one another. The depth of their training and skills are still comparable in many cases, primarily due to the similarity of their age and the similar number of hours put into their development. Their programs are often freshly unique and original.

INDEPENDENT OPEN CLASS: Units in this class can contain a wide range of age and some skill difference. Performers within one unit can range from 12 to 22 years of age. There is 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; maximum performance time is 7 minutes. Total interval time is 10 minutes.

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

5. World Class

World Class units are the standard setting branch of MCCGA Percussion. These are the innovators of indoor percussion who set the direction of the activity through the standards of creative design and performance achievements. They explore new challenges of dexterity, musical and physical skill within original and unique programs. They are comfortable dealing with abstraction and are strongly influenced by the Arts. Their exploration is the highest level of creative potential. They expect judges to understand and support their creative efforts and be able to make discerning separations between their achievements and those of their competitors.

SCHOLASTIC WORLD CLASS: Often this class will consist of upper classmen. The units have strongly defined personalities and are highly creative and unique. They explore innovative program concepts. The depth of their training and skills is strong.



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INDEPENDENT WORLD CLASS: These performers demonstrate a high 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 20 to 22 years of age.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes; maximum performance time is 8 minutes. Total interval time is 11 minutes.

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

6. Concert classes

Concert classes 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 that single focal point.

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

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