

To assist in defining for our units and our festival hosts the rules MCCGA will enforce relative to padding and taping equipment, the MCCGA Board has developed the following policy and examples. It must be noted that penalties for violating these rules may only be enforced by an MCCGA Festival Director or judge. This includes whether particular equipment is allowed to enter the performance area.

Percussion

According to WGI Percussion rules:

“For the protection of the wooden competition floors, all equipment must be properly taped or otherwise be prepared to assure that damage to the floors will not occur. Inspection will occur at all Regionals and Championships. Damage to the floor such as may occur by dragging the tympani; wheels on carts locking, etc. will be the responsibility of the ensembles and is subject to penalty.”

Clearly this is a vague and broad definition and the subsequent penalty is as well (.1 up to disqualification at the discretion of the Chief Judge). The rationale for the rule is that any item that may cause damage to the floor must be taped or padded to provide protection. It is important to note that the rule allows for penalties for damaging the floor, not for not taping or padding equipment.

So, it is not against the rules to not tape or pad equipment, but it puts the unit at risk for not doing so and, as an MCCGA policy to protect our festival hosts, the following items must be taped or padded prior to entering the performance area (regardless of whether the unit uses a tarp or not):

- Tympani pedals (where the tympani pedal rests on or near the floor)
- Vibraphone, chime, or other pedals (where such pedal may touch and damage the floor)
- Music stand bases
- Wheel locks that may contact the floor (if they are long enough to do so if overextended)
- The bases of any props
- Additionally, all wheels on carts and equipment must be in good working order

This list is meant to be an exhaustive list. If there is an item that a festival host believes may cause damage to the floor, it is imperative that the Festival Director be advised immediately so that the festival is not delayed. Only the Festival Director may prohibit a piece of equipment from entering the performance area.

Color Guard

According to WGI Color Guard rules:

“All equipment tips on rifles, flagpoles, and sabres must be padded or taped. The bottom of all props, flats and scenery made of wood, metal or PVC type plastic must be padded or taped so as not to damage the floor. Soft soled shoes need no added protection. Hard-soled shoes must be taped.”

This rule is fairly specific and the penalty is as well (2 point penalty). Relative to the protection of equipment, the penalty is for not having padded or taped the equipment, irrespective of the damage done to the floor (this sort of damage is often hard to tell because marks are typically small and made under the tarp laid on the floor). Consequently, units that refuse to tape or pad their equipment will be subject to penalty even if they leave no mark on the floor.

However, relative to props, the rule is that they be padded or taped so as not to damage the floor. The intent here is clearly to prevent damaging the floor through dragging or otherwise harming the floor in setting up, performing, and tearing down these props. This can include malfunctioning wheels, dragging a prop on its (non-taped) side, etc...

To define this rule, the following items must be taped or padded prior to entering the performance area (regardless of whether the unit uses a tarp or not):

- Flag pole tips (if a hard plastic cap is used, it must be padded or taped)
- Rifle tips and butts (this does not include the bolt, strap, or any other part of the rifle)
- Saber tips and the base of the hilt (this does not include the blade or the sides or face of the hilt; only the end where the hilt attaches to the saber)
- Any other prop equipment (sickles, poles, sticks, etc...) that has a tip or end must have each end taped or padded
- The bases of any props
- Additionally, all wheels on carts and equipment must be in good working order

This list is meant to be an exhaustive list. If there is an item that a festival host believes may cause damage to the floor, it is imperative that the Festival Director be advised immediately so that the festival is not delayed. Only the Festival Director may prohibit a piece of equipment from entering the performance area.