



2014-15 Proposals

By Laws/Policy Manual/Color Guard and Percussion Rule Books

Proposal 1: MCCGA Elections

Submitted by: Duane Williams, MCCGA President

(Effective for the 2015 season)

Change Article IV.D to read: All elections and voting will take place during the MCCGA Annual Meeting.

Rationale: Electronic voting has yielded a comparable if not smaller vote than those in attendance at the annual meeting. During the 2013 annual meeting, there were 38 units (voting delegates) represented. The electronic vote held after the general meeting was sent to 106 units, yet yielded only 37 responses.

There were also only 9 requests for absentee ballots of which only 7 responded to the proposals vote held the week following the general meeting.

Staff changes between seasons also impact electronic voting results. To generate the vote, the previous season's primary contact list is sent the request for the vote. In several instances, the primary contact is no longer the voting delegate due to staffing changes. There are also a number of band directors listed as the primary contact who do not participate and/or forward the information to the voting delegate.

Proposal 2: Proposal Voting

Submitted by: Duane Williams, MCCGA President

(Effective for the 2015 Season)

Article IX. A: Eliminate the following language: *Within one week following the meeting, the proposals will be voted on via electronic ballot. . If a unit is unable to attend the meeting, the primary contact may apply to the Executive Board to vote via absentee ballot no later than 1 week (7 calendar days) prior to the meeting. The primary contact will have 1 week (7 calendar days) after the date of the general meeting to cast his/her vote.*

Rationale: Electronic voting has yielded a comparable if not smaller vote than those in attendance at the annual meeting. During the 2013 annual meeting, there were 38 units (voting delegates) represented. The electronic vote held after the general meeting was sent to 106 units, yet yielded only 37 responses.



2014-15 Proposals

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Proposal 3: Percussion Festivals

Submitted by: Troy Peterson, Kickapoo Winter Drumline

The number of percussion shows within the circuit will be determined by the MCCGA executive board. The executive board will allocate number of percussion events based on requests to host an event in respective region(s), dates submitted to host in respective regions, and facilities.

Rationale: The current requirement in our rulebook/policy manual- *Two percussion shows in each region of the circuit, Kansas City area, Saint Louis area, and Springfield area with the other 2 additional shows being the Percussion Circuit Regional and Percussion Championships* - is placing limits on participation, scheduling, and show allocation within the circuit in some regions. The recommendation of 6 events with a percussion regional event and percussion championship event can/should be the framework utilized to create a circuit schedule.

Finacial Impact: None

Proposal 4: Percussion Festivals

Submitted by: Doug Schaffer, Brentwood Drumline

Proposal: Change Article N of the policy manual to state the following.

There will be 9 percussion shows that will be divided into 2 shows per region of the circuit, Kansas City area, Springfield area, and St. Louis area as well as two prelims/finals shows, one on each side of the



2014-15 Proposals

state. The ninth show shall be the Percussion Championships. Of the two non prelims/finals shows in each region, every effort will be made to have one in February and one in March.

Rationale: The first portion of this basically adds another “super show” to the schedule. By having these prelim/finals shows on each side of the state, theoretically every unit has the option of attending one without having to strain the budget to travel across the state. This allows for an additional read from judges, and gives the students another performance opportunity. The second portion is meant to help with scheduling for groups. March is a difficult time to schedule due to state solo/ensemble and jazz festivals. By guaranteeing a festival in February, and potentially adding one to March with the prelims/finals show, this will hopefully make it easier for groups to attend their two shows for championships seeding, and has potential to raise membership across the circuit.

Financial Cost: Fees for one more percussion competition, ie. judges fees, etc.

Proposal 5: Percussion Festivals

Submitted by: Troy Bunkley, Washington Winter Drum line

Increase the number of total percussion shows within the circuit from 8 to 9. Two percussion shows in each region of the circuit, Kansas City area, Saint Louis area, and Springfield area with the other 3 additional shows being the Percussion Supershow (Regional), Percussion Championships, and a show awarded to a region on a rotating basis (ex. Kansas City 2015, St. Louis 2016, Springfield 2017).

Rationale: Providing additional performance opportunities in closer proximity to a school will reduce operational costs for units in that region. The addition of one festival will provide an additional evaluative feedback opportunity to all participating units.

Cost: Hiring of 1 additional adjudication panel.

Proposal 6: Judging Panel at Percussion Championships

Submitted by: Troy Bunkley

The adjudication panel in Percussion Championships will be comprised of a double panel of judges. (ex. 2 VA, 2, PA, 2 GE).



2014-15 Proposals

Rationale: The double panel system is used at the WGI Percussion World Championships in prelims, semi-finals, and finals competition. This type of system will allow a buffering effect for units receiving a first read from a judge. This system will bring increased accountability to the adjudicator with direct comparison of scores.

Cost: Hiring of 3 additional judges.

Proposal 7: Festival Host Application

Submitted by: Sonja Putnam, Odessa Winter Guard

Change Policy Manual IV.A.5 to read that Festival Host Applications shall be returned by June 1st and Section 6 to read that schedule will be posted no later than July 1st.

Rational: Most AD's want their calendars set during the summer for the coming school year, so it is difficult for Director's wanting to host festivals to hold facilities all the way till mid September. This will allow for more school to apply for multiple dates knowing they can "drop dates" they don't get by mid summer. This also allow for Band programs to set their calendars around these dates as well, when waiting till September is simply to late for them to do that.

Proposal 8: Festival Entry Dead line

Submitted by: Sonja Putnam, Odessa Winter Guard

Add Color Guard Rule Book II.B.4 to read as follows: A unit may enter a festival until 4 weeks prior to the festival.

Rational: If units are able to drop 4 weeks before a festival without any penalty then units should be able tot add to show till that point as well. Schedules do not usually come out till 2 weeks before a festival anyway. There are also shifts in the schedule due to promotions as well.

Proposal 9: Festival Entry Deadline

Submitted by: Jesse Skaar, Warrensburg Winter Guard

Rename Article VI of the MCGA Policy Manual to *Festival Registration and Cancellation Policy*. In addition, add the following sub-bullet (and renumber existing sub bullets).

VI. Festival Registration and Cancellation Policy



2014-15 Proposals

1. A unit may register for any festival no later than four (4) weeks prior to the festival date

Rationale: Since most color guard programs work in collaboration with their band programs, it can be difficult to finalize a performance schedule months in advance. Band directors do not always know their schedules for jazz band and concert band festivals before school is dismissed for holiday break in December.

This being said, it can be extremely difficult to register for an MCCGA festival under the current festival registration date deadline for all festivals which is the second Monday of December. For the 2015 season, the current registration date for all MCCGA festivals is December 8th, 2014.

Some logistics cannot be determined this far in advance for some programs. If a color guard program and band program share the same resources (such as a truck, trailer, etc.) it can be difficult to make a registration commitment to a MCCGA festival with the current festival registration deadline.

This proposal will give festival host schools four (4) weeks to prepare for the final count of units registered for their festival.

Proposal 10: Order of Performance at Festivals
Submitted by: Sonja Putnam, Odessa Winter Guard

Change Color Guard Rule Book II.C.3 to read that postmark date is based on when entry form is submitted. Payment (including school purchase orders) must be received within 30 days or postmark date will be the date payment is received.

Rationale: Most schools require an "Invoice" or some type of confirmation of amount to be paid before they will send payment. Postmark shouldn't rely on the speed of the Central Office of the school, but the Guard Director's submission.

Proposal 11: Cancellations due to inclement weather
Submitted by: Duane Williams, MCCGA President

I.E Cancellation Policy: Add the following language: Should a unit be required to withdraw from a festival on a day with inclement weather due to the policy or direction of a school administrator, the unit will have seven (7) calendar days from the date of the withdrawal to request admittance to another festival. Requests will be made to festivalchanges@mccga.org. Admittance subject to the number of



2014-15 Proposals

units already registered for the requested festival as stipulated in the MCCGA Policy Manual Section V.A. Festival Procedures. Requests for addition to another festival for any reason other than inclement weather after the registration deadline of the Second Monday in December will not be honored.

Rationale: This addition provides a unit the opportunity to “make up” a festival in which they were not able to participate due to inclement weather.

Proposal 12: Circuit Championships
Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Replace V.D Championships that states: *Championships for all units judged will be held one week prior to the WGI Color Guard World Championships. If such weekend is Easter weekend, then these Championships will take place two (2) weeks prior to the WGI Color Guard World Championships with the following language:*

The date of Circuit Championships for all units judged will be determined by the Executive Board by June 1st of each year for the following season.

Rationale: The current rule does not provide provisions for changes to the WGI World Championships schedule. Using the current rule, the 2015 MCCGA Championships will fall on the same weekend as WGI Percussion World Championships, eliminating our percussion units from participating in both events.

Proposal 13: Number of units in round
Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Change V.F. Championships to read: In MCCGA Festivals and Championships, any class that has *more than 12* units performing shall be divided into equal rounds with not more than 12 units in each round. Each round will be a separate “contest” for purposes of rating, ranking, and awards. Rounds at Championships will be seeded in a manner similar to the method used by WGI for seeding the World Championships rounds.

Rationale: The current rule states that a class that has 12 or more units will be divided up into rounds with no more than 10 units in each round. It stands to reason that if a judge can accurately evaluate 11 units in a single round, they can do the same with 12 units in a round. The current rule also lengthens the festival and/or circuit championships by requiring a class to be broken up into additional rounds. During the 2014 season, there were 6 festivals in which classes were split up into rounds with 5-6 units



2014-15 Proposals

in each round whereas with the new language, the class could have been adjudicated in one round lessening the length of the festival day. At Circuit Championships, the Regional A class under the current language was divided into 4 rounds. With the new language, it could have been conducted in 3 rounds, thus shortening the length of championships at that site.

Proposal 14: Membership Fees

Submitted by: Liz Keune, Lee's Summit West

Revise Membership Level fees to state:

Membership levels for units are as follows:

- A. MCCGA Full Membership= \$565 (\$515 before the second Monday in November)

Includes:

1. Unlimited MCCGA festival Attendance
2. Voting privileges at General Meetings
3. WGI Adjudication Manual
4. All circuit mailings-email and postal mail
5. An additional fee of \$50 will be assessed to attend MCCGA Championships

- B. MCCGA Limited membership=\$190 base fee (no discount offered)

1. Additional \$150 fee will be charged for each festival entered
2. Additional \$200 entry fee for prelims/finals show and/or MCCGA Championships

Also includes;

3. Voting privileges at General meetings
4. WGI Adjudication 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 \$135 will be given on membership fees for any additional units of the same nature. (A school and/or organization with two guards would be eligible for the discount. A school with a percussion unit and a guard unit would not be eligible for the discount.

- D. Non-member entrance fee is \$215 per show. Payment is due prior to the festival



2014-15 Proposals

Rationale: By raising every units entry fee by \$15 with competing in MCCGA, the monies will go directly to the photographer of each show. The photographers spend countless and tiring hours preparing their own equipment, travel at their own cost and shooting all day events. Furthermore, the photographers offer pictures for purchase at a reasonable rate and most importantly they provide educational viewing purposes for each event.

Proposal 15: Membership Fees

Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Revise Membership Level fees to state:

Membership levels for units are as follows:

- E. MCCGA Full Membership= \$600 (\$550 before the second Monday in November)

Includes:

6. Unlimited MCCGA festival Attendance
7. Voting privileges at General Meetings
8. WGI Adjudication Manual
9. All circuit mailings-email and postal mail
10. An additional fee of \$50 will be assessed to attend MCCGA Championships

- F. MCCGA Limited membership=\$225 base fee (no discount offered)

6. Additional \$150 fee will be charged for each festival entered
7. Additional \$200 entry fee for prelims/finals show and/or MCCGA Championships

Also includes;

8. Voting privileges at General meetings
9. WGI Adjudication manual
10. All circuit mailings- email and postal mail

- G. 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. (A school and/or organization with two guards would be eligible for the discount. A school with a percussion unit and a guard unit would not be eligible for the discount.

- H. Non-member entrance fee is \$250 per show. Payment is due prior to the festival



2014-15 Proposals

- I. Any unit attending a Premiere event will receive a \$25 discount on their membership fees

Rationale: Judges fees and travel expenses continue to increase due to the increased number of units attending festivals and increased airline prices. These expenses account for the majority of the MCCGA annual budget. Quality adjudicators for all events is a priority for MCCGA and we must be able to support the costs associated with this. The addition of a Premier weekend in each region prior to the start of the contest season will incur costs as well.

Proposal 16: Championships Scheduling

Submitted by: Jesse Skaar, Warrensburg Winter Guard

Add the following addendum to Article V of the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook:

V. Championships

G. There is a performance scheduling conflict with another performing color guard of the same school or organization at MCCGA Championships. In this case, the color guard will be shifted to the next non-conflicting performance time within the ranking. All groups with potential conflicts must notify in writing with in 24 hours of the MCCGA Championships schedule being released. Non-affiliated groups or groups not traveling together discretion of the MCCGA Executive Board.

Rationale: With the continual growth of our circuit, we now have several color guard programs developing more than one unit to attend MCCGA Championships. Currently we have adopted the notion to have two host sites for color guard for MCCGA Championships. It is imperative that the MCCGA Executive Board considers the scheduling conflicts that can arise with two (2) or more units from the same school competing at different host sites for MCCGA Championships. Many of the color guard programs with multiple units share the same director and/or staff, as well as the same means of transportation.



2014-15 Proposals

Proposal 17: Seeding for Championships

Submitted by: Duane Williams, MCCGA President

Revise the seeding process to state: "The order of appearance at MCCGA Circuit Championships will be determined by averaging the two (2) most recent scores received by a unit at MCCGA Festivals or WGI Regionals. These scores will be "progressed" by adding 1.5 points per week, throughout the course of the regular season. After progression, 70% of the highest score will be added to 30% of the second highest score to determine the total average score of the unit.

Rationale: The change to the progression scores from 1.5 pts, through March 1st and 1 point per week thereafter to 1.5 points per week throughout the course of the regular season aligns with the WGI methodology passed for the 2015 season.

Proposal 18: Critique

Submitted by: Billy Saccomanno, Chief Color Guard Judge

Incorporate an online critique sign up sheet for each festival to be finalized no later than 4 weeks prior to each contest. No units will be able to sign up after the "cut-off" date.

Rationale: For the past 3 seasons, the one constant feedback I have been receiving from the judges is to have a list of units coming into critique. This helps in the judges preparing more detailed notes for those units. This will also help with the scheduling of contests if we know which units will be attending critique to assist with laying out the time structure of each contest. Sometime we have allocated time and units do not show up for critique. This will help in better managing the contest day.



2014-15 Proposals

Color Guard Rule Book

Proposal 19: Maximum number of performers for Middle School Units

Submitted by: Sherri Peterson, Kickapoo Emulation

Middle School units may consist of an unlimited number of members, but may not have more than thirty performers at a time performing inside performance space.

Rationale: If a program currently has more than 30 students interested in participating, it would require an audition or possibly creating two units. These situations don't always contribute to positive outcomes for units or students. At this introductory level, we should encourage growth and participation in younger students within our activity - not limit it. In order to maintain a safe environment, limiting the "performing" number at one time to 30 would address safety, as well as, align with WGI/MCCGA rules for performing members in other classifications.

Financial impact: None

Proposal 20: Scholastic Classification

Submitted by: Sherri Peterson, Kickapoo Emulation

If a SB or SC class unit from our circuit attends a WGI Event during the course of the competitive season and makes finals at the event, the unit will be promoted to the SA class for the remaining portion of the season in the circuit.

Rationale: Units that make finals at a WGI regional in the Scholastic A class, should be competing in the same "like" classification within our circuit. This allows for better competitive alignment within our circuit. Celebrate the accomplishment and embrace the success!

Proposal 21: Scholastic Classification

Submitted by: Jason Bergman, Eureka Winter Guard

Remove the Scholastic C class from the Scholastic Classification system and rename Scholastic B to AA so that those classes judged on the Scholastic A sheets are A and AA

Rationale: With WGI now splitting A class into two equal size classes at WGI World Championships in 2015, I feel that making our A class into two classes aligns our circuit better with WGI.



2014-15 Proposals

Proposal 22: Novice Judging

Submitted by: Billy Saccomanno, Chief Color Guard Judge

Novice class to be judged and critiqued by 3 members of the instructional community of MCCGA. Host and Regional representative will choose the staff members for each festival.

Rationale: This is a perfect opportunity for the instructional community to become more involved in the development of beginning non-competitive units. The critique for these units could be extended in time and possibly include video critiquing with the unit's staff and students. This could also encourage the instructional community to develop further interest in judging in general.

Financial Impact: This could save the circuit some money as working panel of judges would not have to be paid for these extra units.

Percussion Rule Book

Proposal 23: Percussion Classification System

Submitted by: Doug Schaffer, Brentwood Drumline

Proposal: Create a scholastic C class for percussion units.

This C class would adhere to all the policies of A and B class regarding timing and judges sheets. This class would be specifically for those lines showing more advanced skills than the "beginner" skills on the regional sheets, but still very new to the activity.

Rationale: The lines in between classes have blurred drastically, which is a great thing because it means there is more quality teaching happening at all levels. That being said, there are some groups exhibiting skills well beyond that of "beginner" in the regional class that are not quite ready for B class.

Furthermore, some units in B class, while still well above the "beginner" level, could be benefitted by having a new class of more similar lines to them in skill level.

The point could be made that the classes are too small to add another one, but I feel that this will only shrink Regional and B class by about 3 or 4 lines respectively. That means we would have three classes



2014-15 Proposals

of 6 lines instead of two of 9. It is also possible that with this additional class clearing up some space in regional class, some other units may try to participate as well.

Financial Cost: Medals for one more class at Circuit Championships.

Proposal 24: Class Criteria

Submitted by: Doug Schaffer, Brentwood Drumline

Officially put criteria for Open class in the Rule Book.

Rationale: MCCGA is lucky to have an Open class drumline. That being said, just for the sake of formality, if we have an Open class unit, we should have Open class in our Rule Book.

Financial Cost: None since there was an Open class line at Championships this year.

Proposal 25: Percussion Classification

Submitted by: Doug Schaffer, Brentwood

Change the language in Article 4, Section E, Subsection 1 of the Percussion Rule book read:

Any unit judged on the A class sheets (Scholastic A, B, and C if we have that class, and Independent A class) can compete in A class at WGI without having to change classes. The only exception will be if WGI promotes the unit into the Open class, in which case the unit must then compete in the same class in MCCGA. If a Regional class unit competes in WGI, they will be bumped up to the next class so that they will be judged on the same sheets at both WGI and MCCGA events.

Rationale: There was a scholastic B group that competed in A class at WGI, and then proceeded to compete in B class at MCCGA championships. This change would simply make the policy the same as what is already being enforced. It also holds the benefit of allowing groups to travel to WGI for the sake of experience, then come home and compete in a more appropriate class.

Financial Cost: None



2014-15 Proposals

Proposal 26: Percussion Promotion Review

Submitted by: Doug Schaffer, Brentwood Drumline

Bring back the promotion scores system utilizing the following growth chart.

Weekend	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Reg-C or B if there is no C	68	71	74	77	80	82	84	86	88
C-B	55	58	61	64	67	70	73	76	79
B-A	65	68	71	74	77	80	83	86	89
A-Open	75	78	81	84	86	88	90	92	94
Open-World	75	78	81	84	86	88	90	92	94

If a group is in A or Open class, and competes in WGI, then that group will only be eligible for promotion by WGI. If there is no C class, then that row of the table will simply be eliminated.

Rationale: Many people seem to be confused as to what the promotion process actually is. The lines have been blurred between the classes and as such, many people are having trouble distinguishing what exactly is a Regional, B, or A show. This takes some of the guess work out of it, and makes it as simple as "if you perform this well on this day, then you are a class up."

Financial Cost: None