



2015-16 Proposals

COLOR GUARD AND PERCUSSION RULE BOOKS/BY-LAWS AND POLICY MANUAL

Proposal 1. Membership Fees

Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

- A. Full Membership \$600 (\$550 before the 2nd Monday in November)
- B. Limited Membership \$225 base fee (no discount offered)
 - a. Additional \$200 fee will be charged for each festival
 - b. Additional \$250 entry fee for prelims/finals show and/or MCCGA Championships
- C. No discount offered for additional units of the same nature
- D. Non-member entrance is \$250 per show. Payment is due prior to festival date

Rationale: Additional festival in each region (for a total of 4 per region) as well as increased attendance at each festival, increasing judges fees. Additionally, a 4th judge has been added to the percussion panels increasing total cost of judges for the coming season by an estimated \$20,000. Judges travel expenses continue to increase each year as well.

Proposal 2. Membership Fee Deadline

Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Revise the annual calendar to read receipt of Membership fees is due by the second Monday in December.

Rationale: The current due date is December 31st. In order for a unit to be able to compete at a festival, membership fees must be paid. The first festival is typically 3-4 weeks after the membership fee deadline. Moving the deadline to the second Monday of December will allow MSHSAA sanctioning to be completed earlier, schedules to be completed and published earlier.

Proposal 3. Regional Chairs

Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Under administration in Article IV in the MCCGA Constitution and By-laws add:

“When 15 or more units from a particular State or region participate in MCCGA, and are 140 miles (or further) from the current assigned regional area (Springfield, St. Louis, or Kansas City), a Regional Chairperson will be added to the administration structure of MCCGA. This additional regional chair position would fall under the same election rotation as the other regional chairpersons in the Springfield, St. Louis, and Kansas City Regions, and will be included on the MCCGA Extended Board.”

Rationale: Having the additional representation to accommodate a large number of MCCGA units that reach beyond the current regional boundaries, would provide those participants with a MCCGA Extended Board member who is a “familiar face” and a voice for their region.

For example: In the 2015 season, we had 25 units from Arkansas who participated in MCCGA. Having a *MCCGA Arkansas Regional Chair* would give those units someone they are familiar with to help them initiate their MCCGA experience.

Proposal 4. Number of units at a festival (excluding MCCGA Championships)

Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Policy Manual V.A. Festival Procedures Remove the language stating:

“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.”

Replace with:

“Each MCCGA festival (excluding Championships) will be capped at seventy (70) maximum number of units, color guard and percussion combined. Should a festival reach the 70 maximum, any unit entering the festival after the maximum has been reached, regardless of unit type, shall be placed on a wait list. If a unit is removed from said festival, the entry will be replaced by those on the wait list, by date of entry, regardless of unit type.”

Rationale: With the continued growth of our festivals and limited number of performance opportunities in each region, each festival is reaching a maximum number. During the 2015

season festivals had to be closed due to the number of color guard units entering each festival and festival site capacity limiting the number of percussion unit opportunities. This procedural change will allow each unit, regardless of unit type and opportunity to enter a festival until the festival has reached the 70 unit maximum.

Proposal 5. Annual Meeting

Submitted by: Brian Dutton, Bentonville HS

Revise Section 1 of the Policy Manual

Current Reading:

- 1.) Meetings: An annual meeting shall be held following the completion of the season prior to **June 30**. An announcement of a specific date for such meeting shall be made by or before the MCCGA Championships. Additional meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Revised:

- 1.) Meetings An annual meeting shall be held following the completion of the season **during the month of May**. An announcement of a specific date for such meeting shall be made by or before the MCCGA Championships. Additional meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Rationale: Some directors dive into more than just Winter Guard season. Drum Corps tour season is fast approaching with April camps and Move-ins near the beginning of June along with fall marching band season right after the school year concludes. Most directors have the weekends in the month of May open with no obligation to other competitive seasons. Having the meeting during this month allows for greater attendance for the entire circuit.

Proposal 6. Festival Procedures

Submitted by: Brian Dutton, Bentonville HS

Added number 5.) under

IV. FESTIVAL APPLICATION AND PROCEDURES

MCCGA sanctions festivals sponsored by member units.

5.) Festival hosts will provide a vertical timeline for contest flow.

Rationale: In order to better align ourselves with Winter Guard International, MCCGA needs to provide the same atmosphere in our region. Many competing units attend regionals and WGI World Championships and need to practice timing, on and off the floor and structured movement with support staff. Constantly changing from one timeline to the next extends added and unwanted stress.

Proposal 7. Performance Order at Festivals
Submitted by: Brian Dutton, Bentonville HS

Under Festival Application and Procedures Section D, number 2.

Current reading:

2.) Unit's performance time is defined by date of on-line membership entry submittal (earliest date goes last in Class, etc.). Payment must be received within 30 calendar days of on-line entry submittal or performance time will be determined by date of payment if received later than 30 calendar days of submittal of on-line registration.

Revised:

2.) Unit's performance time is by random draw creating a new contest order at each event. This draw will be randomized and overseen by the Executive Board prior to each contest.

Rationale: For the entire contest season, each unit performs in the same order until championships when seeding finally occurs. This randomization creates a new contest for the performers, and judges. The stigma that going on first extends the lowest score and going on last awards the highest score needs to end. This allows for a true read from the judges and appropriate rank versus performance order based on when your school district decided to finally allow payment for membership fees. Some school districts take their time even when a director is on top of their deadlines.

Proposal 8. Membership
Submitted by: Brian Dutton, Bentonville HS

Add #6 to MCCGA Full Membership under the color Guard Rulebook.

- I. Membership Levels
 - A. MCCGA Full Membership

6.) Every Full Membership MCCGA unit will be issued TWO director badges and ONE bus driver badge at the beginning of the competition season. These badges are used for

identification purposes at all MCCGA events and will allow entry into all MCCGA competitions. (This badge is not valid at WGI events)

Rationale: There are many units that have more than one director or band directors that attend MCCGA events. The seven additional arm bands are to be used for support for units on and off the floor, not the directors of the unit.

Proposal 9. Regional Chairs

Submitted by: Sonja Putnam, Odessa HS

Proposal: Remove all references to RCC.

Rationale: The primary role and function is to forward emails to the board and “inspect” festival sites. Having a position that simply forward email to the board is nonsensical, and with the number of repeat festivals there is little need for specific position to inspect the limited number of new sites each year. Another board member or designee can handle this role.

Proposal 10. Elections

Submitted by: Doug Schaffer

- Proposal: Add the following language to Article IV, Section 2 of the MCCGA Constitution and Bylaws, regarding elections.

“The Percussion Coordinator and Assistant Percussion Coordinator will be elected by the Representatives of the Percussion Units at the Summer Meeting.”

Rationale: We already have policies in place where Representatives from a specific region vote for their Regional Representative. It makes sense in this case for the Percussionists to vote for their primary and official representative on the Executive Board.

- Add the following language to Article IV, Section 5 of the MCCGA Constitution and Bylaws, regarding elections.

“c. The Color Guard Advisory Board will be elected by the Representatives of the Color Guard Units and the Percussion Advisory Board will be elected by the Representatives of the Percussion Units.”

Rationale: It makes sense for percussionists to vote for their representation, and color guard members to vote for theirs. We already have policies in place where only representatives from a specific region vote for that Region Representative, it makes sense that we add this other addendum for the sake of unit specific officers.

COLOR GUARD

Proposal 11. Review Committee

Submitted by: Sonja Putnam Odessa HS

Proposal: Review committee of 5 members should be appointed by Chief Judge with acceptance by executive board.

Rationale: RCC's are not necessarily qualified to promote or not promote units. It is possible, for example, to have a percussionist as an RCC.

Proposal 12. Classification

Submitted by: Sonja Putnam, Odessa HS

Proposal: Add Regional B class using same descriptors as we had previously used.

Rationale: There are too many units in the current Regional A Class for scoring to be appropriate. We see huge spreads every week in this class which defeats the idea of competition. Fewer units in Regional A would also allow for a clearer picture of which units should be promoted without contest dynamics paying such a role in scoring.

Proposal 13. Classification

Submitted by: Sonja Putnam, Odessa HS

Proposal: Change Novice Class back to Regional C using the same criteria and judges as Regional A.

Rationale: The Novice Class should be treated like every other class. The best way to prepare designers, instructors, and students for Regional A is to have them be judged by the same criteria. We do not put all Scholastic A, B, and C units in one class so why do we do that with Regional A?

Proposal 14. Classification

Submitted by: Linsey Vento, Blue Springs HS

Proposal: Establish a JV class beginning the 2015-16 winter season

Rationale no. 1: With our growing circuit and the continuing growth of programs in each district, the JV class would allow second tier training groups to remain on the Regional A sheet and continue the training and growth at that level each season. There would be NO promotions for this class (just as there are none for the MS class), as the personnel of that team changes dramatically every season as the majority move on the "varsity" or "A" guard of that district if the training and growth is done correctly.

Rationale no. 2: establishing a JV class without promotions would eliminate the possibility of two teams from the same school to compete in the same class.

Rationale no. 3: This keeps our activity consistent with athletic teams, competitive school based dance teams, cheer teams, and even concert band contests that adjudicate the 'concert band' with different criteria and expectations than they do the 'wind ensemble'.

Financial impact on the circuit: NONE

Proposal 15. Festival Procedures

Submitted by: Brian Dutton, Bentonville HS

Proposal: Add policy under

IV. FESTIVAL APPLICATION AND PROCEDURES

MCCGA sanctions festivals sponsored by member units.

Addition - Festival hosts will provide a space for body warmup and a separate space for equipment warmup where music may be used for both spaces. *Contest host does not have to provide music equipment.

Rationale: The rationale is two-fold. First – Our young performers already have enough to handle come contest day. Distractions and music from competing units in the same space should not be on our student's radar. They should be given an environment where they can focus on their task at hand. Our more immature performers need this. They are still learning. They are still trying to figure out what works for them. Not all performers have the ability to tune out their surroundings.

The second is the use of music. This allows the ENTIRE warm-up, even though it will have a transition between them, to have the use of music. The director of each unit will typically bring a boom-box and now should if they want to take advantage of this opportunity. Most groups have a body warm-up set to music or perform a body run of their show with assistance from their soundtrack. This policy now encourages it and allows the performers to focus solely on their "routine" when it comes to getting ready for a performance versus listening to another competing unit's soundtrack. The contest host is not responsible for the system, merely the space.

Aid in discussion: This room does not have to be high or extra-large by any means. An empty classroom, choir room, or band room is more than sufficient and can be added into the contest flow.

Cost: None

Proposal 16. Classification Descriptions

Submitted by: Billy Saccomanno, Chief Judge

Proposal: Winter Guard Advisory Board to develop a document which outlines the overall look of the following MCCGA unit classifications: Novice, Regional A, Scholastic C, and Scholastic B. This document should be reviewed and revised, if needed, every 2 years to keep current with the changes and developments of each class structure. The MCCGA Chief Judge will assist in initial development and implementation.

Rationale: This would allow the Advisory Board to take a more proactive role in the future development of the circuit and MCCGA units.

Proposal 17. Championships

Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Proposal: Remove Novice class from Circuit championships

Rationale: Novice class is purely an evaluative class with no competition between units. Units are not scored, yet receive a rating based on the criterion of 3 judges.

Proposal 18. Review for Promotion

Submitted by: Billy Saccomanno, Chief Judge

Proposal: Revise the process of unit reviews for promotion by 1 of 3 possible options below.

Proposal Option A: (Review Top 3 at each contest, and all WGI Regional finalists) Eliminate Promotion/Review scores as the “trigger” for a unit to be reviewed. Review the Top 3 units (with the exception of A, Open, World) at each contest, and all WGI Regional finalists by means of video and reclassification criteria. (Add 1 additional week to time frame notification by review committee.)

Proposal Option B: (Review only 1st place unit at each contest, and all WGI Regional finalists) Eliminate Promotion/Review scores as the “trigger” for a unit to be reviewed. Review only the First place units (with the exception of A, Open, World) at each contest, and all WGI Regional

finalists by means of video and reclassification criteria. (Keep current time frame requirement for Review Committee to notify.)

Proposal Option C: (First round of unit reviews) Eliminate Promotion/Review scores as the “trigger” for a unit to be reviewed. Review the Top 3 units (with the exception of A, Open, World) at each contest, and all WGI Regional finalists, to be reviewed and reclassified by 5th weekend of contests. Additionally, all 1st place units, including all WGI Regional finalists will continue to be reviewed until 2 weeks prior to MCCGA Championships. (Notification time: Wednesday prior to 5th weekend of contests, or earlier, depending on results of Review Committee votes.)

Rationale: Over the years in many circuits, scores have been relied upon quite heavily in determining a unit’s promotion and/or reclassification. There has been an increased movement to adjust this philosophy in a variety of ways. One such option is to remove the scoring of judges as a major determining factor, as well as encouraging the local steering committees and/or advisory boards to take a more proactive role in determining what is best for the units within their local circuits. Additionally, MCCGA has winter guard units in Scholastic C and B that compete at WGI regionals and are placing well enough to make finals in the WGI Scholastic A classification. These units are competing in a higher classification, and as such, deserve review to a higher classification within MCCGA.

By removing scores as the “trigger” for a unit to be reviewed, this helps place more “like” units within a classification, and supports the philosophy stated in the MCCGA Rule Book “Eligibility”, Page 3, Section 4 that states the following:

“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.”

Proposal A supports the option of placing “like” groups together, especially during the early season. Proposal B is most similar to how WGI handles unit review. Proposal C most closely supports placing “like” groups together throughout the season, while allowing units to develop and complete their programs. Reclassification criteria would need to be developed by review committee. Adoption of any of the suggested proposals assists in forward thinking for the future success and the development of MCCGA as a whole.

Proposal 19. Review for Promotion

Submitted by: Brian Dutton, Bentonville HS

Add proposal into promotion policy in conjunction with standard promotion score.

- Any guard that places in the top two and earns a score with a 10% gap or more between them and the next lower ranked guard in any round of Regional A, Scholastic C or Scholastic B will automatically be promoted into the next competing class.

Ex. Top three at a contest: 3rd – 64.2 2nd – 67.5 1st – 75.0

10% of 3rd place is 6.42 points and added to 3rd place’s score gives a total of 70.62. Since 2nd place is under this sum, second place stays in their current class.

10% of 2nd place is 6.75 points and added with 2nd place’s score gives a total of 74.25. Since 1st place exceeds the difference of 10%, the competing unit in first place would automatically be promoted to the next class.

- If the calculation warrants a promotion for 2nd place given the 10% gap, first place will automatically be promoted regardless of score difference.

The image shows two Color Guard Association logos at the top. Below them are two score sheets for Scholastic Regional A. The first sheet is for Round 1 and the second is for Round 2. Each sheet has columns for Equipment Areas (J. Drilling, Voc, Exc, TS), Tot, Sub Total, Timing & Penalties (Pen, A. Value, Tot), and Total. The Round 1 sheet lists teams like Bentonville JV, St. Clair HS Winter Guard, etc. The Round 2 sheet lists teams like Hopkins HS Old Winter Guard, etc.

2nd place with 10% = 70.499 thus 1st place would not be promoted.
 3rd place with 10% = 64.559 thus 2nd place would not be promoted

2nd place with 10% = 65.065 thus 1st place WOULD be promoted.
 3rd place with 10% = 64.031 thus 2nd place would not be promoted.

Rationale: Any guard that exceeds a score gap of 10% in Regional A, Scholastic C, B, or A between them and their closest competitor in the upper echelon of any class should be promoted in order to encourage growth of our activity on the regional level.

Cost: None

PERCUSSION

Proposal 20. Creation of a Novice Class
 Submitted by: Doug Schaffer

This class would utilize similar language of definition as the Color Guard Novice Class. Performers would be the “youngest or being introduced to percussion.” Units should explore Beginning/Limited vocabularies, etc.

Rationale: The Regional class is very good now, as is the entire circuit. This would be a class that is hopefully less intimidating for newer groups. Ideally this class would be driven by groups from smaller programs, that are unestablished, that have only one instructor who may be the Band Director, but is not a percussionist. This class would be dedicated to those groups for a chance to have this ensemble, but not necessarily be in a competitive setting. The judging could either be handled by the percussion judges at that particular competition, or done in the same method as Novice Guard Units, where “3 members of the instructional community of MCCGA” serve as the judges and provide a longer critique.