



2020-2021 Proposals

Rulebooks and By-Laws

Proposal 1: Order of Performance at Championships

Submitted by: Duane Williams, MCCGA President

Proposal: Color Guard Rulebook Championships B.C. and Percussion Rulebook Championships Seeding B.

Amend this section to read: Once rounds are set, the top half and bottom half of each round will be randomized to determine order of performance. If rounds are not used, the top half and bottom half of the class will be randomized if there are more than 8 units. If less than 8 units, the entire class will be randomized. **If a class or round has an odd number of units, the “middle” seed will be drawn with the bottom half of the class/round.**

Rationale: This clarifies and puts procedures in place for rounds or classes with an odd number of units. Example: A round with 11 units. The 6th seed is the “middle” seed. Seeds 11,10,9,8,7,6 would be drawn for the first 6 performance slots and seeds 5,4,3,2,1 would be drawn for the remaining 5 slots.

Proposal 2: Exhibitions at MCCGA Festivals

Submitted by: John Sullivan, MCCGA Vice-President

Proposal: Allow exhibition performances by percussion or winds units, who are full members of MCCGA, to perform non-adjudicated at festivals that are only hosting color guards. The *MCCGA President* and *MCCGA Percussion Coordinator* would work with *Festival Hosts* to ensure there is adequate space to accommodate the unit(s). An exhibition performance by a MCCGA-member percussion or winds group will only be granted for festivals with schedules that are not at max capacity. The maximum number of percussion or winds units allowed to perform exhibition is at the discretion of the *MCCGA Executive Board* and will be determined based on the number of color guards performing and the logistics of the festival schedule. Percussion and Winds units must be full members of MCCGA and must be scheduled to attend MCCGA percussion and winds contests offered that are adjudicated during the current season. Non-members will not be granted permission to perform exhibition at any MCCGA festival.

For a MCCGA unit to be considered for an exhibition performance, the Director would need to email festivalchanges@mccga.org by January 15 of the current season to make a request to perform.

Rationale: As we look to decrease the number of adjudicated festivals we offer for percussion and winds units in MCCGA, this exhibition option allows performance opportunities for students while maintaining a percussion and winds presence in our circuit.

Financial Impact: A substantial savings as these performances would be non-adjudicated.

Proposal 3: 2021 Season

Submitted by: Zachary Barber, Oakville High School:

Proposal: Transition the 2021 winter season to a non-competitive format (See Point 1 below) that focuses on the educational and creative development of the membership, from students to directors, to build their capacity and abilities for seasons to come. With a circuit full of younger instructors and designers, and the context of the current pandemic, I believe this is the season to invest the growth of our circuit. Collectively, if our goals include fostering competitive Scholastic/Independent A, Open, and World-class groups we need to invest in our membership more.

This proposal would open up an array of unique opportunities to invest in the MCCGA circuit during the 2021 season in a way that will benefit the directors for years to come by reducing competitive demand and redirecting the focus to areas for growth. As we are faced with an unprecedented context that's filled with uncertainty we need to think outside of the box allowing us to prioritize education for both students and staff. By preparing now, we set up an environment that, regardless of the COVID19 crisis, presents students a platform to compete and work together in new ways for the 2021 season, while also continuing to educate our directors for future competitive seasons.

-Will be voted on by August 1st for planning purposes of Aug, Sept, Oct. This allows time to flesh out details and feel solid in all the avenues from planning and securing judges.

-The final decision will be made on November 1st by a board or special committee pertaining to the topic based on COVIDcrisis.

-This rule sits in place as a Plan B, that protects the 2021 MCCGA winter season. Should circumstances related to COVID-19 improve and/or health and education guidelines do not bar a typical winter season, this rule becomes non-existent. Voting now ensures the preparation and unity required come November should things have gotten worse. It's better to plan for the worst now than arrive at the destination completely unprepared and stressed for what it will look like.

-Should this proposal remain inactive, or become active, this will set up the future to have a strong plan B outline for years to come beyond 2021.

-All decision making powers from scheduling to fees will be given to the board to determine what is best for the circuit and the 2021 season should this rule pass.

Points of interest

1.) *Non-competitive digital exhibition only shows*

a.) All shows will be digital. This will limit the liability on any schools involved in hosting a show of someone contracting COVID19 or someone entering the premises that could potentially infect students or staff with COVID19. This also reduces travel costs for programs making WG more feasible.

b.) By delivering a non-competitive format we provide an educational experience for all individuals, from the standard winter guards to the band directors interested in understanding more. Issues with maintaining rehearsal space, show demand, financial cost and other factors that play into a competitive score become nonexistent as we develop membership, both student and staff, to achieve greatness in a non-traditional fashion

c.) The Proposed schedule would consist of 3 digital shows. 1 at the end of January, 1 at the end of february and 1 at the end of March. Dates will be decided by the board.

2.) *Opportunities for solo and ensemble for student development*

a.) Digitally formatted

b.) Can be categorized by class(freshmen, sophomore etc) or by age. Refer to other circuits who do this for guidance.

c.) Provides opportunities for smaller schools that can't compete due to member turn out or financial cuts in the programs

d.) Teams, scholastic and independent, will pay MCCGA dues for the season as per usual. Students, currently on a team that is paying MCCGA dues, wishing to submit a routine or multiple routines for solo and ensemble will be charged a discounted rate per submission. Students, not currently a member of an MCCGA team, may also register for solo and ensemble but at a full price rate per submission.

e.) Students' solo and ensemble submissions will be rated by judges based on the division (scholastic regional A, AA, A, IRA, IA, IO, IW, etc) sheets to which team they belong. If students are entering without a team they will choose, as a part of registration, what sheets they will be rated against.

f.) MCCGA Membership pays \$15 per solo/group, per show. Non MCCGA membership(Students not affiliated with a team paying for MCCGA membership) will pay the regular amount as determined by WGI of \$30 per solo/group, per show.

3.) *Reduced show judging criteria for virtual exhibitions and solo and ensemble.*

a.) Zero show length requirements due to the uncertainty of rehearsal spaces

b.) Depending on the submission for a school the judging can be altered(Ex. Solos judged differently than shows in exhibition)

4.) *Reduce membership fees to \$300 help make this more accessible for all groups.*

a.) Circuit expenses will be reduced by not flying in judges or renting out spaces for shows.

b.) By reducing membership fees to \$300 and adding on the solo and ensemble opportunities we will generate lost profit from show host fees to pay for everything while meeting the needs of many ensembles facing budget cuts.

5.) *Traditional critique would be eliminated and judges tapes will be provided in place. Brief judging consultations for membership to dialogue with judges can be arranged.*

a.) Brief consultations lasting between 15 minutes. These would be offered on a limited basis, and instructors must schedule consultations in advance.

b.) Small panels of judges can be utilized to talk to people. No more than 3-4 people per panel.

c.) Discuss 2021 plans or questions you have with a panel to help develop instructors young and old.

d.) Additional fee(to be determined by the board), to participate in consultations and will occur twice a month(to be determined by the board and scheduling demands). Each team is limited to 1 consultation per month to help allow for others to participate.

5.) *Judges can be local or from across the country*

a.) Reduced fee with the promise of certainty for next season

b.) More variety and range to hire judges from all over to keep jobs intact for them

Rationale: This year has been a clear indicator that things can change much more quickly than we think. We can't wait to have a plan B, we have to have it ready for when it's time to make a decision. Waiting to make this decision later will only put us in a tough spot should COVID19 get any worse and we are struggling to provide strong opportunities for our students in a nontraditional way all while trying to maintain our own lives financially and physically if things get worse. We can't continue to take away any more opportunities from our students. By having a plan B in place we ensure that if things get worse, our students and our activity, is able to survive in a way that is safe and forward-thinking. We put

ourselves and our circuit at the front of all others by establishing the desire to educate and keep all involved safe and educated.

Color Guard Rulebook

Proposal 4: Scholastic Regional A Class

Submitted by: Matt Uppman- Belton High School

Proposal: Add a Scholastic Regional AA Class, using the current timing and score sheets for the Regional A Class. Adjust the classifications descriptions accordingly (see below). Encourage current Regional Guards to reclassify themselves for the 2021 competition season as needed and appropriate.

General Definitions:

SC/IC: No Change

Regional AA General Definition: This area is where the beginner will be nurtured and developed with the beginning skills and qualities as their standard. **Typically, these programs have performing members who are less experienced and/or instructors who are also newer or less experienced.** The prime purpose is to develop individual training that will assure each student's technical growth. It is also to focus on logic in program development that will allow the unit 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.

Regional A/IRA General Definition: This class will include a mixture of **both beginning and intermediate** staff and performers. A wide range of skills and physical development **may** exist. Occasionally a few individuals will demonstrate skills at a higher level than the ensemble. The prime purpose is to continue to develop individual training of student's technical growth while also working to integrate more advanced skills and imaginative show design. Similar to the Regional AA Class, it will also focus on logic in program development that will allow the unit to reach high achievement **in preparation of moving to the Scholastic Scoring Sheets.** This is intended to allow Regional Groups an opportunity to be competitive in a class that is not ready/able to be on the Scholastic (Or Independent) Score Sheets yet.

Current RA Definition: This area is where the beginner will be nurtured and developed with the beginning skills and qualities as their standard. The prime purpose is to develop individual training that will assure each student's technical growth. It is also to focus on logic in program development that will allow the unit to reach high achievement. This is intended to discourage those 2020 Color Guard Rulebook who overwrite in an attempt to be competitive and whose excessive demand on the performers precludes their proper training and development.

Scholastic AA General Definition: Guards in this class have students and instructors with prior winter guard experience. This class **reflects an intermediate level of achievement** for the MCCGA. Staff and performers will be encouraged to demonstrate logical, yet imaginative programs with achievable

standards for performers. Guards in SAA should display all of the fundamental and some of the intermediate qualities of performance and design. Both students and staff have talent to grow beyond the basics and explore a higher level of design and performance technique. Students shall be challenged to perform at a higher level.

Current SAA Definition: Guards in this class have students and instructors with prior winter guard experience. This class reflects an intermediate level of achievement for the MCCGA. Staff and performers will be encouraged to demonstrate logical, yet imaginative programs with achievable standards for performers. Guards in SAA should display all of the fundamental and some of the intermediate qualities of performance and design. Both students and staff have talent to grow beyond the basics and explore a higher level of design and performance technique. Students shall be challenged to perform at a higher level.

Scholastic A General Definition: Guards in this class have at least some members and instructors with strong experience. This class reflects a **high level of achievement** for the MCCGA. Both staff and performers have talent that goes beyond the basics and some intermediate design elements. Guards in this class should display all of the fundamental, many of the intermediate, and some of the advanced qualities of performance and design. A wide range of skills and physical development may exist. Occasionally a few individuals will **demonstrate skills at a higher level** than the ensemble.

Current SA Definition: Guards in this class have at least some members with strong experience. This class reflects a high level of achievement for the MCCGA. Both staff and performers have talent that goes beyond the basics and some intermediate design elements. Guards in this class should display all of the fundamental, many of the intermediate, and some of the advanced qualities of performance and design. A wide range of skills and physical development may exist. Occasionally a few individuals will demonstrate skills at a higher level than the ensemble.

Scholastic Open/IO: No Change

SW/IW: No Change

Rationale:

1. SRA class is just too large. In the 2020 Season there were 23 guards in SA, 31guards in SAA and 65 guards in RA.
- 2) We do not put all Scholastic (A and AA) units in one class, so why do we do that with Regional? From my (informal) understanding, SAA Guards do not typically go to be competitive at WGI, however SA Guards do.
- 3) There are too many units in the current Regional A Class for scoring to be appropriate to gauge accurate growth. For example, a guard on March 7, 2020 took 2nd place in one of two RA rounds. At the same festival that guard was 8th between those two rounds and was 16th overall in RA of that weekend. There was a 22 point difference between the lowest RA Guard and the Highest RA Guard of the

weekend. (There was a 9 point spread in SA and 14 point spread in SAA.) The spread feels drastic. Fewer units in each class would encourage appropriate competition and allow for a better demonstration of appropriate skill sets in each class.

4) Some guards need to be in RA, but some that are competing there because they are not quite ready to make the step to the Scholastic A class sheet (SA/SAA). There is a need for that “stepping stone” class to allow a better educational foundation.

5) Some of the groups may have only a few members who are excelling, but some of their team is still at lower Regional A level, so the entire ensemble is not ready to make the jump to the next sheet.

6) Many shows in the RA class are overwritten in order to be competitive. The class is meant as a training class for both the performers and for their directors, but we are unable to support the vast difference of skills in one training class.

7) Adding this additional class would give some of the groups who have been sitting in the middle of the RA class a chance to rise to the top of the RAA class by performing skills that are meant for their levels and fostering their development.

8) Theoretically not any more rounds to integrate and no additional awards at Championships, just dispersing into other classes. Rounds are currently maxed at 12 units. Most RA rounds in 2020 had about 10 units.

9) This could encourage smaller schools to participate in pageantry arts that have a limited skill set or leadership that truly need a beginning foundation. More units participating would encourage growth of the sport as a whole, generate more exposure and revenue to MCCGA, and further spread proper education of Color Guard.