



2023-24 MCCGA Proposals

Policy Manual

Proposal 1: Early Entry
Submitted by: Duane Williams, MCCGA President

Proposal: Revise Festival Application and Procedures V.D.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. Those units who are eligible for early entry and meet the requirements of payment of fees within 30 days of entry shall be randomly drawn and perform in the later performance slots of their class/round. All other units will be randomly drawn and perform in the earlier time slots of their class/round.”

Remove the underlined sentences so that the procedure reads “Units performance time is by random draw creating a new contest order at each event. This draw will be randomized and overseen by the Vice President prior to each contest.”

Rationale: The early entry stipulation was created when the annual meeting was held in person, and attendance was low. This provided an incentive for units to have representation at the annual meeting. As we have moved to virtual meetings, on average, two-thirds of the membership is generally represented, making the early entry unnecessary. This also allows for registration to open on the same date for everyone.

Color Guard Rule Book

Proposal 2: Novice Class
Submitted by: Lindsey Vento, Education Director

Proposal: Create a Novice class that will be adjudicated on the Regional A Sheet

The Novice class would be composed of first year Full MCCGA membership groups planning to compete in the SRA class, and units who finished in the bottom 30% of the Regional A contest at the previous year’s championship.

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- **UNITS SHALL:**
 - **Remain in this classification for 2 years**, with no mandated promotion, (save for self-promotion). This includes the winner of the class/round at championships.
 - The limit for Novice Class participation is 2 consecutive years. **AFTER TWO YEARS IN THE NOVICE CLASS, IF A TEAM MOVES TO SRA AND FINISHES IN THE BOTTOM 30% OF THE CLASS AT CHAMPIONSHIPS, THEY WILL BE PERMITTED TO RECLASSIFY BACK TO THE NOVICE CLASS AND REPEAT THE PROCESS.**
 - **Utilize the Regional A sheet** in order to learn from the standards of that class and grow/develop accordingly.
 - **Compete and receive dialogue and scores** at each contest and championships.

If competing at WGI, the applicable team will compete in the SRA classification. Making finals at a regional will not force an MCCGA promotion to RA.

No unit will be forced to into class. If a team chooses to remain in RA, they are more than welcome to do so. However, once the season begins, a team cannot request to move down nor self-promote mid-season.

Rationale: *Based on my math, this would incorporate the bottom 3-4 units from each round in 2023, all of whom scored under a 71.0, (equating to 30%).*

Rationale: We have visited the topic of making our RA class smaller for years. This will resolve the issue while simultaneously fostering learning and growth for the very teams who need it the most.

Because we would use the RA sheet there is no learning curve/new guidelines and rubrics for judges adjudicating for MCCGA.

Benefits

- The Regional A class will be smaller (this change will eliminate two rounds at champs) which has been a topic of discussion for years.
- New units and units requiring the most time and guidance will have the opportunity to receive it, as this model will foster commentary geared toward that.

Judges will be educated on the purpose/expectations of this class,

Various other circuits already have this classification in place.

Proposal 3: Adjust Age Restriction for Independent Units
Submitted by: Jennifer Woodworth, Elegante Independent

Proposal: Adjusting the age restriction outlined in Appendix A of the 2023 MCCGA Rulebook for Independent groups. I am proposing that MCCGA adjusts the age restrictions to allow participation in the Independent Regional A, Independent Open, and Independent World units through the age of 24 and propose a minimum age of 16 for these classifications. *Independent Regional A and Independent A members are currently allowed up to the age of 22, while Independent Open and World are currently allowed membership up to the age of 23.*

Rationale: I am writing to propose ideas and changes to expand and be more inclusive in the sport of colorguard and express my frustration with the current age restrictions and structure of the circuit.

A rationale for expanding the age restriction on the mentioned independent classifications to 24 is to allow our registered collegiate students in our ensembles to continue to participate throughout their education. A majority of our students do not graduate until around the age of 24, and they should still be able to participate in this activity throughout their education. Many of our students are also music education students, and participating in this circuit only helps expand this sport when they take on their own programs after their graduation.

The rationale to create a “minimum” age of the Independent Regional A, Independent Open and Independent World classifications is to encourage our middle school students and middle school independent groups to compete in the already existing MCCGA Independent Cadet classification. Additionally, to prohibit middle school students from competing against collegiate students. This would never happen in just about any other sport, and honestly, due to simple human mental, emotional, and physical developmental growth, this should not be happening here.

Arguments against this proposal might be because there are units that compete in WGI within the MCCGA Circuit. However not all of our units do, and many ensembles may never participate in WGI for a variety of reasons. Those groups that choose to participate in WGI can restrict themselves to the WGI age restrictions for their units so that they can still align with the rules for WGI. Additionally, with the potential merger of DCI and DCA coming, if more regional circuits expand on age restriction for independent groups, this move could also influence WGI to update their rules moving forward.

Could this impact membership in scholastic units, no. This would not impact the scholastic units, as this proposal is only for all independent units. The biggest change would be allowing an additional year or two of participation of our independent performers, and prohibiting middle school students from competing against collegiate students.

Proposal 4: Order of Performance
Submitted by: Jennifer Woodworth, Elegante Independent

Proposal: change in the order of performance at competitions to create a flow where Independent Cadet would perform after Scholastic Cadet, and all other independent groups would perform after all scholastic ensembles (essentially having the competitions run from youngest participants to oldest participants).

Rationale: The rationale of changing the order of competitions from youngest to oldest performers would also minimize the contact and intermingling of middle school students and collegiate students. Additionally, and very importantly to me as a collegiate director, as a recruiting tool for all our collegiate units, performing after the high schools allows the high school students to see the potential programs ranging from Independent Regional A, Open and World that they could audition for when they graduate from their respective high schools.

Additionally, like many other collegiate winterguard units, I am trying desperately to grow my unit, but the current age rules, and performance order are prohibitive to not only my unit, but the other collegiate groups as well. I have no doubt, other collegiate groups within our circuit are feeling this reality. It is heartbreaking to tell a registered college student that they can't do something they love simply because

they are now “too old.” This is especially true when this happens right after our football season has ended, and these students suddenly have no choice but to stop doing what they love in the middle of their academic year.

I am aware that there is a “Senior” class, however that is unappealing for me as a director and, to my students simply because we WANT to compete. Traveling to Missouri from Kansas simply to do an exhibition isn’t a justifiable expense to ours and many other institutions. The act of competition creates an intrinsic and extrinsic motivation necessary, especially to our busy college students. Increasing the age of the independent class could also potentially eliminate the need for the “Senior” class altogether, unless there are “Senior” groups that wish to continue to participate. Perhaps this age increase and reorganization of performance order could entice more units to participate, thereby increasing the membership of the circuit itself, and expanding the love of this sport.

Proposal 5: Order of Performance at Championships
Submitted by: Duane Williams, MCCGA President

Proposal: Eliminate V.C. of The Championships section of the rulebook that reads: “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 use, 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 there are an uneven number of units in a class/round, the “middle” unit will be drawn with the top half of the class/round” so that performance order follows the seeding process with the lowest seed in a class/round performing first and the highest seed in the class/round performing in the last time slot.

Rationale: Aligns with the WGI rules for seeding. This also eliminates any manual intervention of the schedule caused by the need for a random draw. Competition Suite cannot randomize a partial round, so a manual random draw is required to complete the Championships schedule.

This will also allow for quicker creation/posting of the schedule.

We have seen little movement from a unit’s seeded position to final placement, regardless of performance order in the last 2 years. Examples from the 2023 season are below on **Attachment A** at the end of this document.

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ATTACHMENT A

Scholastic A Round 2			
Performance Order	Seeding within Round	Final Placement	Movement
Wentzville Liberty	8	8	0
Rockwood Summit	9	9	0
Ozark Varsity	6	7	-1
Pattonville	7	6	1
Lee's Summit	4	5	-1
Francis Howell North	5	4	1
Grain Valley HS	1	1	0
Lafayette	3	3	0
Blue Springs A	2	2	0
Scholastic AA Round 2			
Performance Order	Seeding within Round	Final Placement	Movement
Bentonville West	10	10	0
Republic	11	12	-1
Kickapoo	8	6	2
Seckman	9	8	1
Fort Zumalt North	7	9	-2
Timberland	12	11	1
Fayetteville Eminence	3	2	1
Blue Valley West	2	4	-2
Oakville	4	3	1
Mascoutah	5	7	-2
Liberty North	6	5	1
Blue Springs South JV	1	1	0
Scholastic Regional A Round 4			
Performance Order	Seeding within Round	Final Placement	Movement
Winnetonka	10	10	0
Hillcrest	11	11	0
Harrisonville	8	9	-1
Parkway Central	7	6	1
Freeburg	9	8	1
Lathrop	4	5	-1
Lindbergh	2	3	-1
Branson	5	4	1
O'Fallon Township JV	3	2	1
Truman	6	7	-1
Belleville East	1	1	0