

TCGC Percussion/ Winds Procedures



FORWARD

THE PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN THIS DOCUMENT REFLECT THE MOST CURRENT PRACTICES OF THE TEXAS COLOR GUARD CIRCUIT. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND CONTEST ADMINISTRATION WILL EXERCISE DISCRETION WHEN IMPLEMENTING THESE POLICIES, AS EVERY SITUATION IS DIFFERENT.

SECTION 1: TASK FORCE

A. Percussion

Purpose

- Provide active leadership in the direction of the Texas Color Guard Circuit as it relates to the competitive aspects of the circuit and serve as a focal point for guidance and direction.
- Continually enhance and promote the Percussion activity.

Responsibilities

- Report to the Executive Board
- Philosophy & Scoring System
- Provide rules & legal rulings as it relates to questions in the Policy and Procedure document
- Serve as “promotion/review” committee
- Education
- Act as a resource on developing ongoing instructor education
- Provide skill and expertise for Instructor Symposium
- The Percussion Task force will discuss and make a recommendation to the Circuit administrator in regard to the alternating East/ West - AM/ PM Percussion Schedule.

Judging Feedback & Evaluation

- Work with the Texas Color Guard Judge’s Association as it relates to the fulfillment of the competitive philosophy of the circuit.
- Review and recommend list of adjudicators based on recommendations from the Chief Judge.

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Membership

- Five members elected by the TCGC membership at the spring meeting to two year alternating terms. Two of these will be an East and West Representative and three will be At-Large in A, Open, and World class. In the event a member of the Task Force is unable to fulfill their term, the executive board may appoint an interim Task Force member until the next scheduled spring meeting.
- Percussion Judges Coordinator will have voting rights.
- Vice President of Percussion ex-officio, non-voting.

SECTION 2: CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA

The TCGC has twelve (12) operating color guard classifications and eight (8) operating percussion classifications. Age limits for all independent percussion and color guard units will align with the standards set by and printed in the WGI rulebooks regarding Eligibility in Article 1.1. The classifications are as follows:

The following unit classification descriptions are merely that; descriptions of what units in that class will typically be attempting and achieving. These descriptions are in no way meant to limit or restrict creativity of the designer or achievement of the performer. Instead they are meant to serve as general guidelines for the instructor when making the decision as to what classification to place his/her unit during the contest season. It is expected that there will be some overlap of classes in terms of what is being attempted and what is being achieved. Often units at the top of one class will demonstrate some qualities on the next class. However if a unit is demonstrating a majority of the criteria for a particular class, then they should be competing in that class. Directors and designers should pay close attention to the criteria when creating the program and classifying the unit.

PERCUSSION CLASSIFICATIONS

SCHOLASTIC MARCHING AA

- a. All members attend the same feeder school.
- b. Ensembles are the younger less developed participants.
- c. Units in this classification will be judged using the WGI A class criteria.
- d. Scores should relate and be compared to the A class lines for the purpose of reviews and promotions.
- e. AA class ensembles have one instructor who may not be a percussionist, have members which percussion is not their primary instrument, and have little or no experience on these instruments.

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- f. Battery members may not have marched in the fall during marching band.
- g. Flam passages (other than isolated flam attacks), open diddle passages, and fast open stroke rolls will be considered as basic A class skills, not beginner A class skills.
- h. These units may have limited use of facilities to rehearse.
- i. This is where the beginner student discovers the joy of performing and realizes the sense of achievement as each skill is learned.

SCHOLASTIC MARCHING A

- a. All members attend the same school or feeder school.
- b. Ensembles may have some members with indoor percussion experience but possibly not all.
- c. This class will be judged using the WGI "A Class" criteria.
- d. A class ensembles typically have more instructors and have members, which have some intermediate level skills, but are not quite ready for the demands of Open class.
- e. These units may have some means of rehearsal facilities and manage to rehearse on a fairly regular basis.
- f. Here is where the beginning to intermediate student starts to broaden their range of performance and skills.

SCHOLASTIC MARCHING OPEN

- a. All members attend the same school or feeder school.
- b. Ensembles have some experience in the indoor percussion arena.
- c. his class will be judged using the WGI "Open Class" criteria.
- d. Open Class ensembles typically have many staff members, some of which may specialize in teaching specific segments of the ensemble.
- e. Open Class ensembles have several members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing and movement.
- f. Here is where the intermediate student explores new challenges through performance and realizes a greater sense of achievement as each more complex skill is learned.

SCHOLASTIC MARCHING WORLD

- a. All members attend the same school or feeder school.
- b. This class will be judged using the WGI "World Class" criteria.
- c. Ensembles demonstrate a high degree of physical development.
- d. All the performers contribute to the consistent high level of performance being demonstrated.

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- e. World Class ensembles are trendsetters in the indoor percussion activity.
- f. Programs are unique and innovative and these components are important at this level.
- g. Some very sophisticated challenges will be placed on the performers.

INDEPENDENT MARCHING CLASSES

- a. These classes are for percussion units who wish to combine the elements of percussion and marching but do not fall into the definition of a scholastic unit.
- b. The age limit is 14-21.
- c. This class will be judged using the WGI criteria.

SCHOLASTIC CADET CONCERT CLASS

- a. Scholastic Cadet Concert Class.
- b. This class is for Middle school or Junior High Students only.
- c. This class will be judged using the AA class criteria of “ Beginning” Skills.

SCHOLASTIC CONCERT A

- a. All members attend the same school or feeder school.
- b. This class is for those scholastic percussion sections who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only.
- c. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature.
- d. Ensembles utilizing marching battery equipment will be included in the appropriate Scholastic Marching classification.
- e. Ensemble instrumentation will define entry into this classification.
- f. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or allow for better presentation of musical performance only (no guard auxiliary members allowed).
- g. One non-student conductor is allowed in the concert classes only.
- h. This is not a marching/visual class.
- i. Credit will be given for musical elements only.
- j. A class ensembles have members who are beginning to understand the skills required to perform at beginning playing levels.

SCHOLASTIC CONCERT OPEN

- a. All members attend the same school or feeder school.
- b. This class is for those scholastic percussion sections who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only.

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- c. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature.
- d. Ensembles utilizing marching battery equipment will be included in the appropriate Scholastic Marching classification.
- e. Ensemble instrumentation will define entry into this classification.
- f. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or allow for better presentation of musical performance only (no guard auxiliary members allowed).
- g. One non-student conductor is allowed in the concert classes only.
- h. This is not a marching/visual class.
- i. Credit will be given for musical elements only.
- j. Open class ensembles have several members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing.

SCHOLASTIC CONCERT WORLD

- a. All members attend the same school or feeder school.
- b. This class is for those scholastic percussion sections who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only.
- c. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature.
- d. Ensembles utilizing marching battery equipment will be included in the appropriate Scholastic Marching classification.
- e. Ensemble instrumentation will define entry into this classification.
- f. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or allow for better presentation of musical performance only (no guard auxiliary members allowed).
- g. One non-student conductor is allowed in the concert classes only.
- h. This is not a marching/visual class.
- i. Credit will be given for musical elements only.
- j. Performers in World class are experienced and fully trained.
- k. Trend setting programs and performance levels are often displayed.

SECTION 3: RECLASSIFICATION; PERCUSSION

The purpose of the TCGC reclassification process is to ensure units with the same defined characteristics, as described in the TCGC Class Descriptors, are identified as competitors within the same classification. Members drawn from the Percussion Task Force will serve on this committee to hear or recommend any potential promotion.

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Competing Units who are believed to be misclassified, will be individually noted by each judge at the contest that day for purposes of later discussion. This process will NOT be based on score, but rather the judge's impression and recommendation based on PERFORMER SKILLSET, SHOW DESIGN and CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA as a guide. Units that have been recommended for promotion will be notified by 12:00 pm on the Monday following the Contest.

The following is a breakdown of Appeal Process:

- If at least 2 judges recommend such, then the unit is promoted with the opportunity to appeal.
- If a unit director desires to appeal a promotion recommendation, they must do so in writing to the Chief Judge for Percussion, Jason Harvey, at jharvey400@gmail.com as well as provide a recent video link (via a web service such as YouTube or Vimeo) of the unit's performance by 5:00 pm the Tuesday following the show.
- The Chief Judge and 2 members of the Percussion Task force members (not in the initial class in question) will discuss said appeal and return a recommendation by 12:00 pm Wednesday. This decision will be final and this process cannot be repeated.
- Additionally, The Chief Judge has the authority to recommend for review, by the Percussion Task Force, any unit through their third show of the season. In the event that the group in question either is in the initial class of competition or involves their personal group or one that they are affiliated with, they will NOT serve on the hearing committee for that particular evaluation.
- A unit may be recommended for promotion up to and including their last show before championships.
- Units who are promoted and do not perform in their new classification before championships will be seeded in the middle of their new classification.

SECTION 4: COMPETITION STRUCTURE

The Circuit will sponsor a yearly calendar of competitions, established by the Board at its fall meeting. Shows with fewer than twenty-five (25) color guards and/or six (6) marching percussion units signed up four (4) weeks before the date of the contest may be cancelled in part or in whole at the discretion of the Executive Board or at the request of the contest host. Units signed up for a cancelled show will be allowed to enter into any contest in the same regional area. All contest host fees will be returned to the host of a cancelled contest.

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- A. As the TCGC follows all UIL eligibility rules, a roster listing all eligible performing members in a unit must be turned in by each competing guard at their first performance of the season. This roster must be signed by the Principal (Scholastic Units) or the guard director (Non-Scholastic Units) and must be updated as unit membership or eligibility changes.
- B. As per the WGI competition structure policies, the following requirements must be met in order to certify color guards and/or percussion ensembles with members from different schools within a district:
 - 1. Any color guard or percussion ensemble that combines students from multiple schools within their district must compete under the name of a single school. Combined units or ensembles may not combine school names or use any other name. For example if Mountain East HS and Mountain West HS combine, they must choose one of those names as the official name. They would not be allowed to compete under The Mountain High Schools for example, as it does not legally exist.
 - 2. The principals of all schools involved must sign off on the roster of performers. This roster must be notarized. If a school does not have a notary on campus, it is the responsibility of the director to make those arrangements.
 - 3. A copy of the school district policy that allows sharing of resources within the district must be provided to the satisfaction of WGI.
 - 4. If these requirements are not met, the unit in question must compete as an independent group or limit the membership to only students attending the school which is registering for competition.
- C. To qualify for Circuit Championships, every unit must compete by a date designated by the appropriate division.
- D. All color guard and percussion units must compete at a minimum of two contests in order to qualify to compete at the Circuit Championships. The evaluation of a field day performance does not count as one of these shows. Scores earned by attending any certified WGI regional will count as one performance score.
- E. Performance order at regular season shows for all units will be: By postmark date of unit's membership application fee through the weekend of compete-by. For units in the same classification that have the same postmark date, order will be determined by random draw. All guard classes with 13 or more entries will be split into rounds with a maximum of 12 units per round. For all remaining shows, units will perform in random draw order. Classifications using rounds will use a seeding process to facilitate an equity in each round and then randomized using the averages from two weeks prior. The draw for

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performance order will be done by January 1st. Draws will be done electronically. Unit reclassification due to promotion will be considered a lateral slide into the next class, i.e., if a unit's draw is fifth, they will maintain their relative draw position in the new class.

1. Tentative schedules for regular season contests will be released 2 weeks prior to each event.
 - i. With the exception of the postmark requirement for early season contests, all shows will be scheduled the same way as before.
 - ii. If we have pull-outs within the 2 week window, we will make small adjustments to the schedule, however we will not re-randomize or re-seed rounds.
 - iii. For example,
 1. Order in a round might be, Guard A, Guard B, Guard C, Guard D
 2. Guard B pulls out day before contest
 3. Order becomes Guard A, Guard C, Guard D
 4. No changes to the rounds are made
 - iv. Schedules will be finalized by Wednesday the week of the contest.
- F. No guard member shall compete in more than one color guard in the same show.
- G. For all shows, the Circuit will provide: All Judges sheets for the show; all judges digital voice recorders as well as media and devices to copy and record comments; tape for marking stands; all mailings, information, maps and sound system; Trophies for all scholastic and independent units at regular season shows and championships; and a floor of a minimum of 60' x 90". Medals will be provided to both scholastic and independent units at Circuit Championships. Competing independent and scholastic color guard world class units will not receive placements or announced scores at any local TCGC shows, not including circuit championships, in which they will be randomly seeded. In lieu of that, world class unit directors/staff will be given time with the adjudicators from that contest, to promote the adjudicator education at the local level.
- H. A unit with two or more complaints filed against them shall come before the Executive Board for disciplinary action.
- I. A contest host may secure a bond of \$50.00 from each unit that wishes to have a private classroom issued to them. This bond will be returned to the unit at the conclusion of the show provided no damage has been done to the facilities that were used by the unit. This service may be provided at the discretion of the show sponsor.

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- J. A unit may not do an audible sound check while another unit is setting up.
- K. There is a two-week cancellation deadline for all competitions. Units canceling less than two weeks before a contest will be assessed a fee based on the schedule below. This fee must be paid in full before the unit will be allowed to compete at their next scheduled contest, or if at the end of the season, this fee must be paid in full before that unit will be allowed to register for the next contest season. The circuit will then disburse the appropriate amounts to show sponsors. The contest director must be contacted directly in order for a unit to cancel at any time. Unforeseen circumstances (such as bad weather, vehicle or equipment problems) will be reviewed by the Executive Board for possible waivers of the policy.

Less than two weeks	\$100.00	All fees paid to TCGC
No Show	\$200.00	

- L. Total amount will be paid to TCGC. TCGC will credit/reimburse the show sponsor at the conclusion of the contest when settling all financial aspects with the Contest Directors.
- M. A director may purchase additional director badges to be bought at the time fees are paid for an amount set by the Executive Board. The total number of director badges issued to the unit should be equivalent to the total number of director wristbands received for circuit championships.
- N. The TCGC has exclusive rights of its logo and name on all souvenir and promotional items.

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O. TCGC will use the following time allowances at all shows:

Percussion Class	MAX PERF. TIME	MIN PERF. TIME	INTERVAL TIME
World	8 min.	4 min.	11 min.
Open	7 min.	4 min.	10 min.
A Class	6 min.	4 min.	9 min.
Cadet	6 min.	4 min.	9 min.

- P. The circuit sound system will not utilize speed adjustment at any contest. Any speed adjustments should be done by the units during music editing, prior to soundcheck and performance.
- Q. The speed, pitch and volume level may be set by units during sound check. However, the volume may be adjusted during a unit's performance at the discretion of the Head Judge or Contest Director.
- R. Timing and Penalties will be enforced at all TCGC contests, as per WGI Classes. Non-WGI classes will use TCGC Guidelines.
- S. TCGC discourages independent color guards from utilizing membership composed of any high school students who were previously enrolled in an active winter guard high school program and have not yet graduated. TCGC also discourages independent color guards from utilizing membership who have outstanding monies owed to a previous unit.
- T. Color Guard Critiques will be offered at a minimum of two shows throughout the competitive season, one on or near the beginning of February, and one on or near the beginning of March.
1. Dates and locations will be determined by TCGC Judge's Coordinator. Critique is optional for units.
 2. Critique schedule will be posted when contests schedules are approved. A list will be made available of which shows will offer critique prior to the show's sign up.
 3. Units must sign up for critique before the critique date.

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4. Units who sign up for critique but then decide not to attend must notify the contest director before critique.
- U. Whenever possible, TCGC will designate the first five feet of bleachers as the safety zone on the back side stands only to allow all percussion ensembles additional performance space all the way to the back side bleachers without penalty. This information should be included in the diagram (gym layout) of each contest and be made available to all competing percussion ensembles. While the competition area will be increased whenever possible, all percussion ensembles must be prepared to perform within a minimum sixty by ninety foot (60'x90') competition area.

Section 5. Policy and Procedure Document

- A. The Executive Board will maintain and keep current the Policy and Procedure Document (P&P).
- B. Only "clerical" issues can be adjusted in the P&P without a vote. This includes proposals that were passed but not included in revision, grammatical errors, or formatting errors.
- C. Any adjustments will be reported at the end of the document each year.
- D. The P&P can be changed through the Proposal Process.
 - a. Any member in good standing can submit a proposal.
 - b. A proposal must be co-sponsored by any one (1) member.
 - c. Proposals will be presented and voted at the Spring Meeting unless tabled.