

# 2017 WGI Color Guard Steering Committee Meeting

## Las Vegas

### Attending:

Carol Abohatab  
Brian Giddens (A/Open Rep)  
Michael Shapiro  
Rick Subel  
Andy Toth  
Karl Lowe  
Curtis Costanza  
Dale Powers

### SpinFest-

We eased into the meeting discussing future SpinFest possibilities.

- September of 2018 is loose target per WGI Board directive.
- Would like to try to separate from the 'clinic' model and move to the gathering as a 'convention'.
  - Targeting the larger population of Instructors
  - Rebranding the name to shape expectation
- Color Guard as a career would guide sessions
- Moderated Open discussions instead of 'presentations'
- Judge attendance would help build the total community and get Instructors and Judges an opportunity for communication.
- Would need to coordinate with Judge Summit and/or Circuit Partnership Meeting

### Reviews

(Dale presented last year's data)

- 4 Reviews at requests of the Unit (to reclassify pre/early season)
- 11 Reviews inside season

Discussed shifting the reclassification standard

- Supported by A/Open Survey
- We have been using the middle of (non-finalists) Semi-Finals as the threshold for reclassification
- For the 2018 Season we will lower that threshold to the entry into Semi-Finals
  - Discussed who those guards would be based on 2017 finish order.
  - Found anomalies that causes us to use the bottom neighborhood of Semi-Finals (3-4 groups)

Discussed our follow-up to reclassified Units

- Became a bit of a workload for Instructors
  - No way to predict needs in order to schedule
  - Degree of follow through from the unit was inconsistent, questioning the merit of the effort from SC Instructors

- If WGI 1on1 is available, then that perhaps becomes the resource for reclassified units.
  - “Experts” lists include many people that have units that have progressed through the classes.

There was an offer from a 2017 reclassified unit to help create “Reclassification Packet”.

- Don’t feel comfortable endorsing a single approach
- Would be comfortable offering the contact to units as needed.
- Would feel the video comparison from the point of reclassification to the Finals performance would be a good tool.

### **Authorized Equipment**

We were asked by the CGAB to broaden the definition of “rifle” in rule 4.2.2.

- Understanding that these implements have always contributed to the IA Equipment score
- This rule only impacts the authorized equipment time.
  - Discussed the value of the equipment time rule to weigh the “symptom vs. cause” of this issue
- Understanding that our directive was to open up possibilities and not limit them.
- Decided on intentionally vague wording to allow for more possibilities as directed by the CGAB.
- Will suggest that any questionable implement be reviewed

*Rifles are defined as devices with the outward appearance influenced by a rifle. Rifles must be at least twenty-four inches (24”) in length. Any questionable implements should be submitted for approval to the Director of Color Guard.*

To be included in the Equipment Caption ...

***For the 2018 Season,** The Color Guard Advisory Board has approved rifle alternatives as qualifying as “legal” equipment. This impacts the legal equipment time required by the Timing and Penalties Judge. Equipment Judges should expect to see more of these rifle alternatives throughout the season. Be reminded that just as any rifle, these implements should be considered as units establish their Vocabulary. As with any prop these implements may be used to supplement the units’ Vocabulary.*

- We will watch the numbers of rifle alternatives and reconsider adjusting the wording as needed for 2019

### **“4 Corners”**

We went through items presented by the CGAB.

- Made clear to CGAB that this was not a training year and that opportunity for follow through on new items would be limited.
- Most of the items are already items that are discussed in training.

- There is about a 3 year process from highlighting an issue to implementing and internalizing the change needed.
- Most of these items are on track
- Equipment and Movement contributions in the GE and DA Captions is currently our primary focus for the next years (initiated in 2017). This focus will address a large percentage of items presented by members of the CGAB. We will stay on that track and adjust/supplement our focus as needed going into the 2018 Judge Summit (December 2018)
- Items that have not already been a focus will appear in the 2018 Philosophy Paper and as items from the Caption Managers.

### **Judge Evaluation Form (Post Regional tool for Instructors)**

- Modify so it included a field for general comments that may or may not relate to a single judge's commentary or scoring.
- Create a system for reminders, perhaps for the first half of the season only.
  - Generated by Office?
  - Part of competition suite.
    - Comprehensive possibilities
    - Regional Specific lists
    - Reaches full staff instead of Directors and '+1'
    - Sent as an 'alert'
  - Use the chosen vehicle to remind Instructors of resources provided by WGI and the Steering Committee specifically

### **Rehearsal Observation Opportunities for Judges**

We have experimented with this in the past. Some Judges have expressed interest in these opportunities.

- Discussed Pre-Season initially
  - I shared issues that came from the previous trial
  - Inconvenience to units and variable depending on individual judges make this a potential liability to our current ethic guidelines, perhaps inviting unnecessary risk.
  - Championship Observations worked better
    - Getting units to participate in that time is difficult.
    - These observations happen on Friday (semi-Finals day), making the units commitment unpredictable
    - Range of units willing to participate don't always represent the variety desired.
    - Is considering this option for Instructors anyway..Will work to create a model for 2019.
      - May work to use Academy students that attend Championships to workshop this idea in 2018

### **Webinars**

Discussed the coming year's Webinars

- Looked at smaller blasts of info
  - Through WGI Social Media

- Through Competition Suite?
- Education video page
- Discussed continued development of worksheets as guides for young instructors
  - Using their own work as reference (past and present)

### **WGI 1on1**

Discussed how this tool may be made more effective and able to serve a greater number of needs.

- Any shifts must be managed in the agreement with *E-Adjudicate*

### **International Development**

Ron presented these events and opportunities

### **Post Regional Judge Accountability**

In 2017 we created post show full panel meetings in lieu of individual judge accountability forms.

- Curtis provided a reflection
- The shared conversations allowed for more insight for judges as they spoke more specifically of the challenges presented at specific Regionals.
- Information gleaned by Judge Administration Team was more meaningful in these meetings
- We agreed to continue this for another year to see how the tool may be developed

We also discussed a Post-Championships accountability, how that works now and how it might work better. Curtis and The Judge Administration Team will work to developing a method for this. Perhaps this is the accountability form model for self evaluation and for follow up by Caption Managers.

### **Creative Calendar**

With the remaining time, the Steering Committee Instructors free-associated ideas that considered the typical Color Guard production timeline. We did this to inform some of the educational items that we hope to produce this year.

**Thank you,**

**Karl Lowe – Chairman – WGI Color Guard Steering Committee**