

**Color Guard Advisory Board Meeting
May 17-18, 2019
Las Vegas, Nevada
PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION**



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Proposal #1

Change the entrance at UD Arena to the identical setup used by Percussion by creating a private space along the back of the competition area for groups to better prepare for their performance.

Submitted by Ron Nankervis, CEO

Rationale: With the advent of larger, more intricate props used in color guard programs, the tunnel at UD (a challenge in the best of circumstances) is getting more chaotic and unsafe as groups enter and exit in the same confined space.

This new setup would allow color guards to enter through the tunnel and enter a holding space approximately 11 feet wide by 105 feet long (1,155 square feet) along the back of the performance floor. This would allow a color guard to gather themselves before entering the competition area rather than being in the chaotic tunnel cross traffic, precisely when preparation performers and prop personnel is most crucial. Percussion, who have much more equipment & instruments than color guard, has been using this method very successfully for many years.

With the renovation of UD Arena completing its final phase next year, there are still questions to be answered on whether this is a feasible solution for color guard. However, it seems prudent to investigate whether this advisory board is interested in this option. The benefits of using this entrance and exit process to the performance space seem to indicate this could potentially alleviate the multiple situations this year in the UD tunnel.

If passed, this proposal would mean relocating the back speakers along the back wall as well as the loss of six feet in the competition area from a depth of 78 feet to 72 feet. Detailed diagrams, photos, and videos will be available at the meeting for review.

Financial Impact: Virtually none, as this setup is already in use.

Proposal #2

The request is to amend the policy (5.81) that will allow SW classification to be split into three rounds for preliminaries at WGI Championships. It is understood that if the SW classification reaches at least 30 competing units, the current policy of having three rounds (regarding seeding/rounds) would apply. This proposal it to seek attention to this matter by stating that if SW has at least 18 units competing in prelims at World Championships, there will be three rounds.

Submitted by Joey Kidd, Arcadia World

Rationale: Collecting information from the last four years (2016-2019) shows that SW has had two rounds; split evenly. My request is to help benefit the competition by placing accurate neighborhoods within their competitive realm, providing an additional (minimal) break for the adjudicators and helping culminate a more efficient round ranking process.

With all of the collected seeded information, the current policy/system has all of the odd number seeds performing/competing in the second round while all of the even number sees performing/competing in the first round. Like all of the other divisions in WGI, this amendment will allow SW seeded positions to be broken up into thirds.

This proposal is to keep/maintain the seeing process as is. The only request is to amend 30 units to 18+ SW units to qualify for three rounds in WGI SW Championships Prelims.

Financial Impact: N/A

Proposal #3

Keep the rounds at World Championships balanced when placing tied guards in the same round. This can be accomplished by simply skipping a round after placing two guards in the same round because of a tie.

Example:

1 2 3 4
5 6 7 8
5 9 10 11
12 13 14 15

Submitted by Randy Nelson, Fleming Island HS

Rationale: Keeping the rounds balanced levels the playing field. This proposal may be confusing in print and will be explained in more detail in person.

Financial Impact: none

Proposal #4

Divide the scholastic A class into three sites for WGI World Championships Prelims. The 150 teams would be seeded into rounds with Round 1 appearing at site A, Round 2 appearing at site B, Round 3 appearing at site C, Round 4 at site A, Round 5 at site B, Round 6 at site C etc. The top 20 scoring groups from each site would advance to Semifinals.

Submitted by Marcus Lewis, La Salle HS

Rationale: The scholastic A class is so large that effectively evaluating 75 groups with minimal breaks for the judges is incredibly difficult. Adding another site would reduce the judges work load by several hours and allow for longer breaks for the judges.

Financial Impact: Additional judges will be needed and additional cost for a third preliminary site.

Proposal #5

End the randomization of rounds for semifinals contests. Use the following formula for seeding the rounds beyond prelims.

Round 1

6th highest 5th place
5th highest 5th place
6th highest 4th place
5th highest 4th place
6th highest 3rd place
5th highest 3rd place
6th highest 2nd place
5th highest 2nd place
6th highest round winner
5th highest round winner

Round 2

4th highest 5th place
3rd highest 5th place
4th highest 4th place
3rd highest 4th place
4th highest 3rd place
3rd highest 3rd place
4th highest 2nd place
3rd highest 2nd place
4th highest round winner
3rd highest round winner

Round 3

2nd highest 5th place

Highest scoring 5th place

2nd highest 4th place

Highest scoring 4th place

2nd highest 3rd place

Highest scoring 3rd place

2nd highest 2nd place

Highest scoring 2nd place

2nd highest scoring round winner

Highest scoring round winner

Submitted by Marcus Lewis, La Salle HS

Rationale: Changing the seeding for semifinals would be more in line for how groups perform in finals. We go in reverse order of finish. We should allow groups placing higher in their preliminary rounds the benefit of performing later in the rounds. Currently groups can place in the top three of their preliminary round, yet be first to perform in their semifinal round.

Financial Impact: None.

Proposal #6

Seeding for Scholastic A semi-finals at championships should be seeded based on the top scores from each prelims venue. Once all rounds are completed, the groups should be ranked based on their placement score from that venue alone. So each unit will be ranked from 1 through 32 to determine the seeding of top and bottom half of each round, when merging the units from both venues together for semi-finals scheduling.

Submitted by Bobby Jones, Pope

Rationale: Both venues have two completely different panels of judges. There has been a trend of one venue giving out higher numbers over all than the other. So to compare the scores from the two venues is not a true read of where the units should be placed for semi-finals scheduling. For example, the guard that is ranked first at one venue may be ranked sixth at the other venue due to the range of scores from that panel of judges.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #7

WGI Scholastic A Finals will be expanded to a minimum of 30 color guards.

Submitted by Christopher Pohlman, Fairfield High School

Rationale: The current method of determining finalists favors Open and World Class color guards at regional and championship events. World Championship Scholastic A Finals has the lowest percentage participation of any of the classes with approximately 12.5% of championship groups making it to the final show. By expanding to 30 groups, approximately half of Scholastic A Semi-Finalists will have an opportunity to make Finals making the current system more equitable. In contrast, 62.5% of Scholastic World participating groups have the opportunity to perform in Finals.

Financial Impact:

Proposal #8

At WGI World Championships provide a covered area such as a tent or a long extended covered awning to protect props from rain, snow, or inclement weather. A second tent like the one used for equipment warm up this past year would be ideal. It's proximity to the prop entry area at UD would also be important to reduce any exposure the props may have to bad weather.

Submitted by Rocky Binder, Lexis

Rationale: Units invest thousands of dollars on props for our productions. If some props get wet they are adversely affected and sometimes could be potentially ruined or dangerous to perform with if exposed to water or other bad weather. Often times the props must be preset with show equipment or other special set ups that may be required for the performance before the performers proceed to warm ups.

Financial Impact: The cost of the tent and set up.

ADJUDICATION

Proposal #9

For A class only, change the scoring model from:

EQ 20%

MV 20%

DA 20%

GE 20%

GE 20%

To the following:

EQ 25%

MV 25%

DA 25%

GE 25% (Using 2 GE judges, GE 1-12.5% GE 2-12.5%)

Submitted by Marcus Lewis, Black Diamond Independent

Rationale: This intended focus of A class is training. Placing all captions with equal weight can balance out some of the subjectivity in the upstairs captions. The current system allows for groups(in theory) to design specifically for the upstairs captions where 60% of the score is derived. With the ever increasing skill sets being demonstrated in the A class more emphasis should be placed on the more objective captions of movement and equipment.

Financial Impact: Minimal

Proposal #10

Eliminate the 70/130 factoring for SA & IA in the Downstairs captions.

Submitted by Dale Powers, Curtis Costanza, Karl Lowe

Rationale: When the 70/130 Emphasis on Excellence went into place, the A-Classes were dealing with class-wide incompatibility issues between the written book and the ability of the performers. Overwriting was the norm in the SA & IA classes.

70/130 was put into place to help instructors balance the book and abilities more strategically. Over the years, we have seen a repair in the class with more strategically balanced writing. We have noticed that compatibility issues

are rarely seen at Championships and infrequently at the Regional level—typically only towards the bottom of those prelims.

The natural evolution of the class, the 70/130 Emphasis on Excellence, and judge scoring prioritization emphasizing greater use of profiling, have all contributed to success in this aspect of the A-Class. We find ourselves at a time to ask if we have outgrown the usefulness of this tool or to reaffirm that the tool being in place ensures Instructors keep this important awareness. It is time for the newer CGAB members to recommit or not.

At the recent championship prelims contests only 5 units had a placement changed due to the factoring. In all cases it changed a placement 1 spot and the factoring did not cause any unit to miss a semi finals or finals. If incompatibility were still prevalent, we would assume the number of these cases would be greater.

The judges in the IA captions currently judge 10 points in each sub-caption. CompetitionSuite factors the 70/130 Emphasis on Excellence.

There is no re-training of the judges needed to remove the factoring...or to change the factoring. This impacts the the A Class and NOT the Regional A classes. They will continue to have the 70/130 factoring done since that is truly our beginner class and where we want the training and excellence to be the focus.

We are open to shifting percentages in the Regional A Classes if the CGAB feels that is needed.

Financial Impact: None

CLASSIFICATION

Proposal #11

Promote any A class guard scoring 90 or higher in Semifinals to Open Class.

Submitted by Marcus Lewis, La Salle

Rationale: This year at Championships 22 Scholastic A colorguards achieved a Box 5 composite score of 90. These guards are clearly ready to achieve at the next level.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #12

Any A Class Color Guard that scores a 90.00 or above at ANY WGI Event, including Prelim and Semi Finals Events, will be promoted to Open Class the following year.

Submitted by Christopher Pohlman, Fairfield High School

Rationale: In order to make Scholastic A Finals, a group would have to score higher than a 90.5. At a 90.00, groups should be progressed to the next class because their skills and show design are stretching the boundaries of the intent of A Class. Skills are frequently exhibited by the majority of performers and groups at this level with a proficiency that could arguably stand with groups in Open and beyond. The current system does encourage groups to grow into the next class when they are showing advanced design and technical skills but allows them to exist within the A class. The score infers the necessity and the readiness for advancement to the next class and should be systemically mandated with this change.

Financial Impact:

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Proposal #13

Include pictures & dimensions of entry & exit doorways for all WGI contests.

Submitted by Rosie Queen, Carmel HS

Rationale: With all of the props that everyone is using these days. It would be helpful to include that info in our packets.

Financial Impact: None.

Proposal #14

No longer use CDs at competitions.

Submitted by Rosie Queen, Carmel

Rationale: After talking with the WGI sound guys this year, they think we should get rid of CD usage and just rely on uploaded files or individual MP3 players that directors use. CDs are outdated technology.

Financial Impact: No longer needing CD players at championships.

Proposal #15

At WGI World Championships for those groups that purchase Plus Passes WGI will provide an additional 5 parking passes (in addition to the 3 passes already provided) for UD Arena parking or for any other venue that charges for parking.

Submitted by Rocky Binder, Lexis

Rationale: Parking becomes expensive for those units that car pool to the event. The cost is passed on to the membership car pool or the unit who may choose to offset the cost by giving the cars money for parking. By the end of the season budgets are tight for both the performers and the units. By providing additional parking passes this relieves the performers of this last minute, often overlooked, expense. This has potential savings for the unit and it's performers of \$75.00 for those units that get 3 performances. By adding them to the Plus Pass Package this makes the additional cost for the Plus Passes more attractive.

Financial Impact: Depending on how many units purchase Plus Pass Packages and on what WGI can work out with UD parking I'm not sure what the financial impact may be, if any.

RULES

Proposal #16

Eliminate Age restrictions for all Independent Classes.

Submitted by Chad Clum, Phoenix Independent

Rationale: A goal of Independent units should be to progress through the classifications from A to Open to World Class. A large part of this process is the development of your performers. The retention of performers can be a direct correlation to a programs continued success. For programs to force out performers as they are working to grow seems contrary to the WGI's mission to foster that growth. Performers can clearly make the choice to move away from an A or Open class program and pursue a World Class experience on their own but the option to remain

with an organization should be available to them. WGI has the reclassification system in place to keep the competitive nature fair for programs within this new structure.

Financial Impact: If any effect it should be Positive as this can only see more growth of members in the programs.

Proposal #17

Amend Eligibility Rule 1.4 to state:

No Color Guard ensemble may compete with less than Five (5) members on the floor of competition at any time.

The rule currently states:

Color guards in the A and Open classes may not compete with less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) performers in the competition area at any time. Color guards in the World classes may not compete with less than five (5) nor more than forty (40) performers in the competition area at any time.

Submitted by Andria Forech, Paramount Open

Rationale:

1. This aligns more with WGI Winds and WGI Percussion rule books (which state only a minimum of 10 or 6 on the floor).
2. The current rule puts a boundary around A/Open classes differently than World Classes.
3. The amount of performers on the floor would be left up to the design teams/organizations to design shows in a manner that best suits them. There should be no safety concern to the audience as long as the unit is within the identified boundaries at each competition.

Financial Impact: There will be some financial impact due to potential increase in cost per performer (awards, etc.) I do believe there is value in researching how many units are currently performing with maximum number of participants today to understand what the potential for increase could be.

Proposal #18

Remove Eligibility Rule:

1.5 Color guards must compete in the same or higher classification at WGI events as they do in their local circuit if the local circuit uses WGI scoring system.

Submitted by Jonathan Lischak, Ada High School Winter Guard

Rationale: Many circuits are implementing classes that exist between the classes that WGI offers. This rule creates conflict and confusion for units competing in these classes and wishing to attend WGI events. The most common, at least in our geographic area, is the SRA - SAA - SA. This rule requires an SAA unit to compete in SA, despite the rationale of the SAA being to provide a competitive environment for units not quite ready for the SA class, yet this rule forces them into the SA class at national events. Units should have the flexibility to decide whether to go up or down at national events. If a unit is misclassified, WGI has the ability to promote them as needed, further rendering this rule unnecessary.

Financial Impact: None

Proposal #19

Allow all classes the ability to use pre-show/walk-on music.

Submitted by Matthew Rummel, CGT Dallas

Rationale: Currently, this is only permitted for World Class groups. After watching all of A Class finals, I was struck by the amount of dead time during set-up that the performers were walking around in silence awaiting the start of their show. For many, the pre-show/walk-on music allows them to shake their nerves before their judged performance begins. As with World Class, it is not mandatory and does not impede, nor promote, competitive success.

Financial Impact: None