WGI Virtual Season 2021

Judge Training

Steering Committee Rationale for a Virtual Season

To ensure that regardless of COVID that we could fulfill the promise of performance opportunities/contests.

It allows for more groups to compete knowing that everyone's individual circumstances will not adversely impact their ability to compete (i.e. budget, designers, props, travel, rehearsal facilities, and/or live time with the group).

Video quality, clarity, lighting, and distance from performers is different for every group. These variables make it difficult to compare groups to each other.

Restrictions by region/state will lead to design choices that could impact aspects of overall show design.

By moving away from rankings and going to ratings it allows us to acknowledge the achievements of all color guards regardless of the challenges.

This approach allows programs to concentrate on what is BEST for their program, without worrying about a number. It is a clear and educational path forward.

The ratings system is an education-based system that still allows for competition.

Of course this is a temporary model meant to provide opportunity for those who want to participate within less-than-equitable circumstances.

STEERING COMMITTEE & VIRTUAL COMMITTEE

Why have a National season?

To preserve the collective community! In HS, "An activity skipped is an activity forgotten"

We (SC & Virtual Committee) wanted first to make sure there were performance opportunities for the full range of circumstance across the Nation. Something to work towards, especially for those with little or no local opportunities.

Why a *Progressive* season?

To give incentive for groups to work, over time, towards an evolving range of goals. Help Instructors motivate and propel though their live/virtual semester.

Be Positive in Your Approach

Since no one knows the situation, goals and challenges each team has been working under, you will need to lean towards the positive.

Expect a broader range of performances in every aspect. Your standard and expectation is slightly shifted under this virtual environment.

The WGI philosophy is still the underlying baseline, you will simply be using a different (virtual) lens. You are comparing each team to a standard, not to one another.

You will use your experience, skill and background to apply the virtual expectations during your evaluations.



We will be using FloMarching as the platform to deliver the videos to you. Specific information will be sent to you from the office prior to your event.

When will you receive the videos?

- By 10 am EST, Thursday, prior to your event.
- Judges will have access to the videos in the form of individual group links on a spreadsheet that will be sent from the office. These links will be the only way that judges will be able to access the performances.

When must your work be completed?

• By 10pm PST, Friday, prior to your event.



Logistics

Judges will access the CompetitionSuite Judge App to input commentary and ratings just as they would for a regular season, in-person event.

WGI will ask you to complete a mic check to ensure you are set up properly before you begin judging. Instructions on how to do this will be included with the video spreadsheet email.

If you run into issues with the mic check, video links, or CompetitionSuite during the judging window, details for who to contact will be provided with the video spreadsheet email. WGI Staff and/or Tabulators will be on call throughout the judging window to assist you.

Logistics

You can watch performances more than once if you want, just be aware of your time restrictions and the impact of multiple viewings. Viewing a team a second time to assure they are in the right neighborhood is certainly a tool you have in this virtual season.

Prior to submitting your work, please contact Curtis to review your ranges. This safety net will assure consistency between judges at the same event (just as we would in a live contest).

Semi-Finals and Finals panels will have a brief call / zoom with Curtis prior to that event. Information will be shared with you regarding ranges it took to make the event, and potential shifts in the expectation moving forward.

The order of performance is completely random, not seeded in any way. You may have as many as 60 performances. Recall may be an issue to maintain neighborhoods. Take notes, watch teams again if necessary.



NIRTUAL SEASON W

A quick review of the judging system

-Virtual Group



PROGRAM



SKILLS





Ratings will be added to create a total...

1+1+2+2+2+1 = 9

9 is the <u>Rating Value</u>





Any combination of ratings that total:

6-9 = Superior Rating

10-15 = Excellent Rating

16-21 = Good Rating

22-27 = Fair Rating

28-30 = Limited Rating



What tools do you have to express your judgement?

1 1 SUPERIOR

- **1 1 2** Middle weighted to Higher
- **1 2 2** Middle weighted to Lower
- **2 2 2 EXCELLENT**
- **2 3** Middle weighted to Higher
- **2 3 3** Middle weighted to Lower
- **3 3 3** GOOD
- **3 3 4** Middle weighted to Higher
- **3 4 4** Middle weighted to Lower
- **4 4 4** FAIR

4

- 4 4 5 Middle weighted to Higher
 - **5 5** Middle weighted to Lower
- 5 5 5 LIMITED

Are there numeric equivalents?

1	1	1
1	1	2
1	2	2
2	2	2
2	2	3
2	3	3
3	3	3
3	3	4
3	4	4
4	4	4
4	4	5
4	5	5
5	5	5

IF You need this for your top neighborhoods,

...consider historic thresholds for progression. **SUPERIOR**

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR



Commentary Shift

Commentary will sound different in a virtual setting.

Upstairs is now a blended effect and design caption.

Downstairs is now a blended equipment and movement caption.

Funnel your inner teacher and counselor, avoid being the critic.

There is NOT an expectation that you cover both subcaptions as if we were in a live, full panel, system. But, try to be balanced in your commentary. We are not going to expect a consistent approach to this blended system between judges. Here are some choices, use what is most comfortable for you:

- Zoom in and out
- Comment on both simultaneously
- Shift between subcaptions after reading through phrases
- Use your impression, analysis and some details for each.
- Be as positive as you can.

Thinking Ahead... Expect the unintended influence of video quality and perspective.

We continue to work from the assumption that everything we see is as intended.

Judges cannot take creative liberty to project what might be, or to "fill in the blanks"

Prepare quick ways to express issues around video quality and how you are impacted.

Commentary continued

Your view will be restricted due to the camera placement. You are not to project what design/vocabulary would like from a front and center view. Presume the camera placement was intentional. You can only comment on what you observe from the angle provided.

Impression, analysis, comparison (to a standard), adjustment when needed - remember the foundation of this virtual season is the same as it is with live events.

Because the data points (subcaptions) still exist, there is an expectation there will be profiling of these data points. Although somewhat diminished, profiling is certainly possible and expected. Therefore, assure that you are speaking to both aspects of the sheets (what, how).

Avoid comments about what you CAN'T see - comment on what you CAN. For example, "I can't see the performers lower body that are downstage, therefore I can't give credit." Instead, "As the performers move downstage I can see the upper body orientation and their reliance on the equipment as they move off-center."

"The rifles are not in the camera's field of view during the height of the toss, so I can't evaluate the toss height, rotation, speed of the toss." Instead, "The release points looked very consistent with the rifles, however the catch positions varied slightly as the performers went into the ground during that challenging moment."

How does a progressive season inform expectations and priorities?

In a "one and done" setting, the sheet can be used in a purified way, with little to no contextual reflection and adjustment

The progression requires you to make sure the right groups progress!

This adds a comparative aspect, not in terms of archetypical Ranking... ... but in that you will need to determine your top neighborhoods in order to send them forward.

The difference between the groups you wish to progress and the groups you feel should not, must be reflected in the final rating values of those threshold neighborhoods

Check the size of your "first out" neighborhood... Be careful not to pack this!





Understanding the Season...



=6=7=8=**9**=10=11=12=13=14=**15**=16=17=18=19=20=**21**=22=23=24=25=26=**27**-28=29=30

3

2

How **<u>GROUPS</u>** move on to SEMI-FINALS

For Groups to progress:

We will use the individual rating values to fill towards the Percentage or Target Maximum (which ever comes first).

All Units achieving a "Superior" rating (combined rating value of 9 or less) will automatically progress to Semi-Finals. IF this meets or surpasses the target Maximum or Percentage, we stop here.

IF there are more slots left, then units achieving the next rating value (10) will move in to Semi-Finals. We continue adding by rating values (11,12,13...) until the percentage or target maximum, is reached.

All Units achieving the break point rating value will progress into Semi-Finals. In some cases, this will likely result in slightly more than the target Maximum.



Remember that there are 2 Semi-Finals contests

All groups receiving an Overall Superior Rating (9 or less) will automatically progress to Finals

Then the remaining spots are filled (after both regionals are complete) by the next Rating Value, until the target maximums are reached W20/O24/A30/RA&Junior30 THE PROGRESSION REQUIRES A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF COMPARISON...

WITH LIMITED TOOLS TO CREATE SPREADS & CONSIDERING THE COMPARATIVE ASPECT...

Q: To what extent do we factor contest dynamics? A: At the Cut-off neighborhoods

Q: Where are my lines when considering the importance of creating a difference in the rating value ("spread")?
A: When faced with the choice to inflate or devalue, work towards the benefit of the unit. It is better to raise the top than to diminish the body.



Know the "cut-off"...

As you consider who progresses, you will need to remember:

- Percentage of entries (for smaller shows)
- Target Maximum (for larger shows)

These are "tools, not rules"

You (the individual judge) can "send" fewer or more

The actual number to progress will likely be more than the percentage or target maximum!



A Reminder...

A Reminder...

Percentages & Target Maximums per Class:

World –

100% of the Event's Entries in the class -A rating value of 21 or less must be achieved to be considered for progression. (this is the threshold for a "Good" rating)

Open –

75% of the event's entries in the class, with a target maximum of 15 A rating value of 21 or less must be achieved to be considered for progression. (this is the threshold for a "Good" rating)

A –

50% of the event's entries in the class with a target maximum of 15

RA / Junior -

50% of the event's entries in the class with a target maximum of 15

Solo & Ensemble

- 1. Only prelims & finals
- 2. Target max of 10 advance per category per age division advance to finals
- 3. All Superior ratings advance
- 4. Same process applies until we get to the target max



Solo & Ensemble



WHAT ARE YOUR SAFETY NETS?

✓ Curtis will "Check Ranges"

REMINDER

This insures that both judges are working from similar standards and allows Curtis to catch anomalies, allowing the judge to confirm or reconsider

✓ Curtis is available all throughout the process.

- ✓ The elongated process allows for repeat viewings, letting us all "check our work"
- ✓ Flexibility, built into the system, will likely send more groups ahead, acting as a safety catch.

Announcements

- 1. After each regional we will announce who goes to the next contests.
- 2. We are using actual WGI announcers to do these announcements.
- 3. Units advancing are announced in random order.
- 4. No recaps, groups only get their own sheets and summary.



"Tools - Not Rules"

As we pivot and prepare for 2021, we want you to know that this is a season in which you will not be under a microscope. We are providing triage to an activity we love. A band aid if you will, so we can all survive and get back to live performances with as little trama as possible.

Everyone recognizes that we are building Rome in a day, we must rely on what we have done for decades and adjust to this once in a lifetime (hopefully) event.

If you have questions please email me, this presentation will be available on the judge portal should you need to reference it.

We are here to support you in this virtual endeavour, call me at anytime in the process. As I've said so many times before, you are the best!