

Texas Educational Colorguard Association By-Laws

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

- I. The membership will consist of Scholastic and Independent colorguard units and Individuals to include all adjudicators.
 - A. Scholastic membership is defined as: Students or members enrolled in the same school.
 1. The feeder school may perform with or without its parent high school.
 2. This applies to seventh, eighth, and ninth grade only.
 - B. Independent membership is defined as: Any unit whose students or members are not from the same school. This is the only distinction from the scholastic division Independent units compete amongst themselves.
 1. Independent units are composed of members not over twenty-two (22) years of age so of the date of the Winterguard International World Class Championships.
 2. Independent individuals will join the association in order to compete in solo and ensemble competition.
 - C. Associate members are non-competing individuals who wish to be affiliated with the Texas Educational Colorguard Association.
 - D. Adjudicators are also those members who are a part of the Judges Association, which is part of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association.
- II. Membership fees will be collected by the Texas Educational Colorguard Association.
 - A. Scholastic and Independent units will pay a yearly fee per competitive organization. The yearly fee will be set by the Executive Board of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association each year.
 - B. A surety bond will be paid with the membership fee. This applies to all competing units, except solo and ensemble members
 1. This bond is refundable or can carry over each season.
 2. If a unit DNA's without two weeks notice (by postmark date) by written or verbal notification to a contest sponsor, then the unit loses the surety bond and must post another with the Texas Educational Colorguard Association's Treasurer before it enters another contest.
 - C. Associate members will pay a yearly fee to be set by the Executive Board.
 - D. A cancellation fee of \$100.00 will be assessed to any competing unit who does not withdrawal from any contest within the 14 days (2 weeks) prior to their participation on the contest date. continued performance opportunities of any kind will not be allowed to continue until the assessed fee is paid in full to the TECA Treasurer. In addition, units may not add to any contest any later that 14 days (2weeks) of the scheduled contest.

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ARTICLE II – OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

I. The following officers shall be duly elected by the members of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association:

A. Office of President and duties are as follows: The President shall be a member of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association. He or she will preside over all meetings, oversee all decisions pertaining to the Circuit, write the newsletters and send them to the secretary for distribution, and monitor the assigned duties of the other officers

B. Office of Vice-President and duties are as follows: The Vice-President shall be a member of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association. He or she will preside if the President is unable and will assist the President with the administration of the circuit. The Vice-President will work as the Publicity and Marketing Director for the circuit. The Vice-President will also be responsible for handling all aspects of the TECA scholarships and will also arrange for all aspects of awards to be presented at the circuit championships. The Vice-President will oversee securing a panel of qualified and impartial judges for the circuit championships.

C. Office of Treasurer and duties are as follows: The Treasurer shall be a member of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association. He or she shall have charge of and control of and be responsible for all funds of the circuit. The Treasurer will keep an accurate record of all financial transactions including receipts and expenditures and will provide a written financial statement at all general and executive board meetings and at other times as requested by the president.

D. Office of Secretary and duties are as follows: The Secretary shall be a member of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association. He or She shall keep minutes of all meetings, see that all notices are given, distribute the newsletter completed by the President, and be custodian of the Circuit records. He shall keep a register of the member and their addresses. He/she will collect all Circuit dues and applications and will report to the President and Contest Director on membership.

E. Office of Parliamentarian and duties are as follows: The Parliamentarian shall be a member of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association. He or she shall advise the presiding officer of all matters of parliamentary procedure. The Parliamentarian shall keep a current Constitution and By-Laws and shall review these with the executive board at each change in board administration.

F. Office of Historian and duties are as follows: The Historian shall be a member of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association. He or she shall keep a written and photographic record of each season. The Historian will be responsible for coordinating the program for the circuit championships along with the championships host.

G. Office of Percussion Administrator and duties are as follows: The Percussion Administrator shall be a member of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association. He or she shall handle and oversee all details pertaining to the percussion portion of the TECA. He/she will oversee unit review, judging panels, and serve as a liaison for the percussion membership.

II. The following officers shall be appointed by the President with approval of the executive board.

A. Office of Contest Director and duties are as follows: the Contest Director will handle all details and phases of running contests sanctioned by the Circuit. The Contest Director will be responsible to the Circuit Membership through the President and shall be governed by the Rules and Regulations of the Circuit, and as a staff officer, will receive orders from them in the form of

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changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. The Contest Director will be responsible for the TECA owned items and insure they are present and in working order at all contest. The Contest Director will be responsible for coordinating all support including but not limited to sound technician, tabulator, etc. for contest and shall be financially compensated in an amount established annually by the executive board.

B. Office of Chief Judge (CGCJ and PCJ) and duties are as follows: The CGCJ/PCJ will oversee logistical aspects of the judges association. This includes sending informational newsletters, assigning adjudicators for contests and making necessary travel arrangements for adjudicators. The CGCJ/PCJ will keep a copy of the current circuit by-laws and the current WGI Rulebook and make them available at all TECA contests. The CGCJ/PCJ will be responsible for insuring that all adjudicators are aware of TECA's professional expectations throughout the season and shall be charged with reporting any violations of rules or ethics to the executive board. CGCJ/PCJ shall be financially compensated in an amount established annually by the executive board.

C. Office of Education Director and duties are as follows: The Education Director shall assist the chief judges in the training of all TECA adjudicators so they may stay current with the philosophy of WGI and their management of numbers to accurately rank and rate competing units. He or she shall advise the executive board on all matters of WGI's philosophy and its effect on TECA and its competitive season as well as its adjudication training process. Additionally he or she shall mentor new units and their directors and provide training for these individuals as needed and approved by the executive board. The Education Director shall be financially compensated in an amount established by the executive board.

D. Office of Webmaster and duties are as follows: The Webmaster shall maintain all aspects of the TECA website including correspondence with the web hosting company and presenting the TECA treasurer with all necessary receipts and invoices for payment of said services. He or she with the assistance of the executive board shall maintain the site with the most current information regarding meeting dates/times, contest information and packets, schedules and scores. The Webmaster will maintain an email listing of all circuit members in order to provide notices of important updates to the website. The webmaster shall be financially compensated in an amount annually established by the executive board.

III. Nominations and Elections of Officers

A. Nominations of officers will be at the general spring meeting held in May. The officers shall be elected by affirmative majority vote of all regular members present and voting at the fall meeting held in August. Voting will be in person at the fall meeting. Voting will be by ballot, unless there is only one nominee for office, when election by acclamation shall be permitted. The nominee receiving the most votes shall be the one elected to that office. Each unit will be allowed one vote only.

B. The term of office of all elected officers shall be two (2) years, with the stipulation that the President, Treasurer, and Historian be elected in odd number years. The Vice-President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian shall be elected in even umber years.

C. The non-elected position of Contest Director, Chief Judges, Education Director, and Webmaster will be appointed by the President in the even number years.

D. If an office becomes vacant, the President will, with the affirmative majority approval of the Executive Board, appoint an active member to that office for the remainder of the unexpired elective term.

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ARTICLE III – ADMINISTRATION

I. The circuit administration shall be vested in the President who is responsible for carrying out the day to day business of the circuit in accordance with the wishes of the circuit membership.

A. Executive Board

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association.

a. The Executive Board shall formulate plans and establish the policies for the Texas Educational Colorguard Association. The general management, direction, and control of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association's affairs and funds are vested in the Executive Board.

b. Only the elected officers of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association are authorized to vote on actions before the Executive Board.

c. All appointed officers are non-voting members of the Executive Board. They serve in an advisory capacity only.

d. Resignation of an Executive Board member shall be submitted in writing to the President prior to the time of resignation. The succession of officers will be voted upon by the Executive Board.

B. Working Board

1. The working board shall act to carry out circuit business between membership meetings or to assist the President in his duties and serve the executive board in an advisory capacity. They shall not replace the elected executive board nor shall they overturn any decision made by the executive board.

a. Each competitive class shall have a representative on the working board.

i. Representatives shall take their place on the board by winning their class in the circuit championships held annually.

ii. In the event that a representative's seat becomes vacant, the runner-up fills the representative position. Absence from a meeting is grounds for replacement with the runner-up.

iii. Placement on the working board is effective immediately upon the conclusion of championships.

ARTICLE IV – ORDER OF BUSINESS

I. The following order of business shall be followed at all Executive Board and general membership meetings:

A. Call to order by the presiding officer.

B. Roll call of members.

C. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting by the Secretary.

D. Report from the Treasurer.

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- E. Report from any committees.
- F. President's report.
- G. Disposal of unfinished business.
- H. Disposal of any new business.
- I. Director's comments.
- J. Special announcements.
- K. Adjournment by the presiding officer.

ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

I. A regular general membership meeting of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association shall be held in May and in August of each year. The general membership will transact necessary business at this meeting. When circumstances make it impossible to hold the regular meeting, the Executive Board shall notify all members.

II. Special meetings of the general membership may be called any time upon the request of the President for the purpose of transacting the necessary business before it. To call a special meeting, a majority of the Executive Board members must concur and grant approval.

III. An affirmative majority vote of all active members present and voting will be necessary to transact any business, approve any actions, or decide any issues at any regular or special meeting.

IV. The Executive Board shall meet at a time and place determined by the President prior to the regularly scheduled meeting. The President may call a special meeting of the Executive Board when deemed necessary, provided at least two (2) days notice is given prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE VI-CLASSIFICATION

I. Colorguard units will be organizations ranging in size from five (5) through thirty (30) performing members. A unit will declare their class on the membership application. A unit may move up a class no later than 14 calendar days before the Circuit Championships. The unit director must put this in writing to the Texas Educational Colorguard Association President. A unit may not move down a class once they have performed within a specific classification.

A. 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.

1. **CADET CLASS** – Any unit in which every member is an 8th grader or younger. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "Regional A Class" criteria.

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2. **NOVICE CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. This class serves as an entry level class for new, beginning first year programs which are not ready for the demands of Independent or Scholastic AAA, AA, A, Open or World Class. A unit may compete a maximum of two years in this classification. A unit wishing to remain in the class after two years must have 90% new members and petition the executive board. Equipment and movement will focus on the training and achievement of the most SIMPLE BEGINNING SKILLS. Recognize which principles are essential at a beginning level and train for the excellent demonstration of these skills. The purpose of this class is to help the performers grow in the very elementary principles and efforts in handling equipment and movement. Many may use props, small swing flags or other pieces of equipment, which can be handled through full arm rotation. Always support proper training and development on whatever piece of equipment or movement choice the unit displays. In the Ensemble Analysis caption compositional qualities should include logic and presentation with good connections and flow from one single idea to the next. Obvious melodic line reflections will be the choice for most groups in reflecting musical structure. Focus on the correctness of the basics of composition. At pulse, in-step and consistent step offs and builds to new sets will be the priorities. In General Effect, design and performance skills will be at a beginning level. As beginners, single efforts and simple responsibilities will occur. The concept of layered skills will probably not exist. Shows will likely “set, move and spin”, presenting one skill at a time. Effect will be generated largely through precision and timing. Achievement of simple beginning skills is the main focus of this class. Units competing in the classification will be judged using the WGI “Regional A Class” criteria.

3. **INDEPENDENT REGIONAL A CLASS** – All members do not attend the same school or feeder school. Performance criteria for this class are identical to the Scholastic Regional A classification

4. **INDEPENDENT A CLASS** - Every member does not attend the same school. For a competitive independent unit which is not ready for the demands of Open or World Class. Guards in this class are at a level where their members may be young or less experienced in their equipment and movement skills. In this category, guards will be encouraged to demonstrate skills in movement and equipment handling. Designers should present imaginative shows with sound and logical designs setting achievable standards for their performers. Members may not be over 22 years of age as of the date of the WGI national competition. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI “A Class” criteria.

5. **INDEPENDENT OPEN CLASS** - Every member does not attend the same school. For a highly competitive unit which is too advanced to find competition in Class A, but is not ready for the demands of World Class. Guards in this area have a greater experience level. Guards will be challenged to broaden their design and performance skills. Designers and instructors will be challenged to expand their programming, creative and instructional techniques. Members may not be over 22 years of age as of the date of the WGI national competition. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI “Open Class” criteria.

6. **INDEPENDENT WORLD CLASS** - Every member does not attend the same school. There is no age limit to this classification. For the most highly developed independent programs. The designation World Class indicates the unit is

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competitive on the national level. This is an area where innovation and setting standards is the goal. This category is open to a guard with the membership talent, design and instructional staff and budget to place their performers at this challenging level to stimulate their growth and development through World class competition. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI “World Class” criteria.

7. SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL A CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For a competitive unit which is not ready for the demands of the A Class sheet. Equipment and movement will focus on the training and achievement of the basic skills. Tosses use a limited variety of release and catch points and typically take place from a stationary position. Weapons will usually toss no higher than a triple. Dimensionality is limited and phrases are often very short (16 to 24 counts) with much built in recovery time. Movement is mostly demonstrated by moving from place to place with a good range of gestural qualities being demonstrated. There is usage of simple turns and leaps and performers occasionally explore level changes around the body. Performers should demonstrate good examples of body awareness (posture, line, shape, weight) with very little change in dynamic qualities. Ensemble Analysis will display a beginning level of artistic effort that focuses on clear staging of the elements, logical progression of ideas (horizontal orchestration) and the basic use of the design elements. The triad is never completely used with elements most often being presented singularly and occasionally presented two at a time. In General Effect, the concept and intent should be clear, consistent and moderately developed. Ideas should move successfully from one to another and the intent of the concept is not totally dependent on the role of the performers. Performer role, character and emotional development is evident but at a basic level with minimal changes. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI “Regional A Class” criteria.

8. SCHOLASTIC AAA CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For a competitive unit which has exceeded the criteria of Regional A, but are not yet ready either through individual performance or design for the demands of AA, A, Open or World Class. Equipment and movement still will focus on the training and achievement of the basic skills but with more variety than the Regional A units. Tosses will begin to display more variety of release and catch points with weapons usually tossing no higher than a quad. There is more exploration of basic dimensionality of equipment and some layering of efforts is beginning to occur. Phrase length is still primarily short (16 to 24 counts) and recovery time is still apparent. In movement, the range of dynamic qualities is expanding. There is also expanded use of torso and level changes. There is more exploration of changes in weight, time and space and usage of expressive qualities is broadening. Ensemble Analysis shows a program with skills being demonstrated during the program. There is usage of two elements of the triad simultaneously with occasional use of all three. In General Effect, the concept shows a use of artistic effort and a variety of methods of creating effect are used. Characterization is more developed. Units in this classification will be judged using the WGI “A Class” criteria.

9. SCHOLASTIC AA CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For a competitive scholastic unit which is not ready for the demands of A, Open or World Class. Equipment and movement still will focus on the training and achievement of the basic skills but with more variety than the Regional A units. Tosses will begin to display more variety of release and catch points with weapons

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usually tossing no higher than a quad. There is more exploration of basic dimensionality of equipment and some layering of efforts is beginning to occur. Phrase length is still primarily short (16 to 24 counts) with occasional longer phrases (24 to 36 counts) and recovery time is still apparent. In movement, the range of dynamic qualities is expanding. There is also expanded use of torso and level changes. There is more exploration of changes in weight, time and space and usage of expressive qualities is broadening. Ensemble Analysis shows a more developed program with skills being demonstrated more frequently during the program. There is increasing usage of two elements of the triad simultaneously with occasional use of all three. In General Effect, the concept shows a greater use of artistic effort and a variety of methods of creating effect are used. Characterization is more developed and changes in the emotional character are beginning to be explored. The concept does place some demand on the performers to be fully realized. Units in this classification will be judged using the WGI "A Class" criteria.

10. **SCHOLASTIC A CLASS** - All Members attend the same school or feeder school. For a moderately competitive scholastic unit which is not ready for the demands of Open or World Class. Guards in this area are at a level where members and staff have a complete understanding of the basic principles of performance and design. Units here may also occasionally explore more intermediate concepts that encourage performers and designers to broaden their skills. There is moderate rehearsal opportunity and funding to develop this level of competitive program. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "A Class" criteria and will be encouraged to maximize the achievement of these criteria.

11. **SCHOLASTIC OPEN CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For a highly competitive unit which is too advanced to find any competition in the Scholastic A classes, but is not ready for the demands of Scholastic World Class. Guards in this area have a greater experience level. Both staff and performers have the talent to grow beyond the basics, exploring a higher level of design and performance techniques. There is sufficient rehearsal opportunity and funding to develop this level of competitive program to benefit the students and broaden their performance skills. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "Open Class" criteria

12. **SCHOLASTIC WORLD CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For the most highly developed high school programs. The designation World Class indicates the unit is competitive on the national level. This is the most advanced level of scholastic competition for guards with the student talent, design, staff, rehearsal time and budget capabilities to produce challenging and creative programs. Students here will be challenged to expand their technical and performance base to achieve their fullest potential within programs that utilize advanced concepts of design. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "World Class" criteria.

II. Percussion units will be organizations with no less than six (6) performing members. A unit will declare their class on the membership application. A unit may move up a class no later than 14 calendar days before the Circuit Championships. The unit director must put this in writing to the Texas Educational Colorguard Association President. A unit may not move down a class once they have performed within a specific classification.

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A. 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.

1. **SCHOLASTIC MARCHING WORLD CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. Ensembles demonstrate a high degree of physical development. All the performers contribute to the consistent high levels of performance being demonstrated. World Class ensembles are trendsetters in the indoor percussion activity. Programs are unique and innovative and these components are important at this level. Some very sophisticated challenges will be placed on the performers. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "World Class" criteria.

2. **SCHOLASTIC MARCHING OPEN CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. Ensembles have some experience in the indoor percussion arena. Open Class ensembles typically have many staff members, some of which may specialize in teaching specific segments of the ensemble. Open Class ensembles have several members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing and movement. 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. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "Open Class" criteria.

3. **SCHOLASTIC MARCHING A CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. Ensembles may have some members with indoor percussion experience but possibly not all. 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. These lines may have some means of rehearsal facilities and manage to rehearse on a fairly regular basis. Here is where the beginning to intermediate student starts to broaden their range of performance and skills. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "A Class" criteria.

4. **SCHOLASTIC MARCHING AA CLASS** - All members attend the same feeder school. Ensembles are the younger less developed participants. '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. Battery members may not have marched in the fall during marching band. 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. These units may have limited use of facilities to rehearse. This is where the beginner student discovers the joy of performing and realizes the sense of achievement as each skill is learned. Units in this classification will be

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judged using the WGI 'A' class criteria. Scores should relate and be compared to the 'A' class lines for the purpose of reviews and promotions.

5. **SCHOLASTIC CONCERT WORLD CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For those scholastic percussion sections who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature. Ensembles utilizing marching battery equipment will be included in the appropriate Scholastic Marching classification. Ensemble instrumentation will define entry into this classification. 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) One non-student conductor is allowed in the concert classes only. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only. Performers in World class are experienced and fully trained. Trend setting programs and performance levels are often displayed.

6. **SCHOLASTIC CONCERT OPEN CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For those scholastic percussion sections who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature. Ensembles utilizing marching battery equipment will be included in the appropriate Scholastic Marching classification. Ensemble instrumentation will define entry into this classification. 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) One non-student conductor is allowed in the concert classes only. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only. Open class ensembles have several members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing.

7. **SCHOLASTIC CONCERT A CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For those scholastic percussion sections who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature. Ensembles utilizing marching battery equipment will be included in the appropriate Scholastic Marching classification. Ensemble instrumentation will define entry into this classification. 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) One non-student conductor is allowed in the concert classes only. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only. A class members have a majority of members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing.

8. **INDEPENDENT MARCHING CLASS** – For percussion units who wish to combine the elements of percussion and marching but do not fall into the definition of a scholastic unit. The age limit is 14-21. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "A Class" criteria.

III. Circuit Promotion Process: The promotion process will promote units who have surpassed the criteria reference expected for their class at that point in the season.

A. The circuit will have two review committees: Color Guard and Percussion.

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1. The Color Guard review committee will consist of the following: TECA President, Education Director, Colorguard Chief Judge and a unit representative. The unit representative will be elected by the Circuit membership at the fall meeting, serve a one year term, and must be a color guard unit director in good standing with the circuit.

a. When the season begins, a unit can be requested for review if they are perceived to be in the wrong class. This review request can be made by the Chief Judge of the contest, a Working Board member, or the Education Director. A video recording of the unit will be made at a local contest and distributed to the committee within a very quick turnaround, usually within ten (10) days. The committee views the guard and considers the training and development level of the performers, the challenges they are achieving, and to a slightly lesser degree the quality and depth of the program. The students are the primary emphasis in considering any move. One of the things not considered is "who is on staff". The committee is charged with carrying in a good understanding of what the next class "norm" represents in order to have a barometer to measure whether or not the potential promotion will permit those students to achieve and be competitive. The decision is voted upon independently by each member and the Chief Judge then informs the guard of the decision. This process is usually completed within one week.

2. The Percussion review committee will consist of the following: TECA President, Education Director, Percussion Chief Judge, Percussion Administrator and a unit representative. The unit representative will be elected by the Circuit membership at the fall meeting, serve a one year term, and must be a percussion unit director in good standing with the circuit.

a. When the season begins, a unit can be requested for review if they are perceived to be in the wrong class. This review request can be made by the Percussion Administrator, Chief Judge of the contest, a Working Board member, or the Education Director. A video recording of the unit will be made at a local contest and distributed to the committee within a very quick turnaround, usually within ten (10) days. The committee views the guard and considers the training and development level of the performers, the challenges they are achieving, and to a slightly lesser degree the quality and depth of the program. The students are the primary emphasis in considering any move. One of the things not considered is "who is on staff". The committee is charged with carrying in a good understanding of what the next class "norm" represents in order to have a barometer to measure whether or not the potential promotion will permit those students to achieve and be competitive. The decision is voted upon independently by each member and the Percussion Administrator then informs the guard of the decision. This process is usually completed within one week.

B. Circuit Promotion scores are set by the review committees. The scores will be published no later than the first contest of the season and will be added to the by-laws under this section.

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2010 Colorguard Promotion Scores

Class	Week 1 1/16/10	Week 2 1/23/10	Week 3 1/30/10	Week 4 2/6/10	Week 5 2/13/10	Week 6 2/20/10	Week 7 2/27/10	Week 8 3/6/10	Week 9 3/13/10
Novice	62 (12.4)	64 (12.8)	66 (13.2)	68 (13.6)	No contest	72 (14.4)	74 (14.8)	76 (15.2)	78 (15.6)
Regional A	67 (13.4)	69 (13.8)	71 (14.2)	73 (14.6)	No contest	77 (15.4)	79 (15.8)	81 (16.2)	83 (16.6)
AAA	62 (12.4)	64 (12.8)	66 (13.2)	68 (13.6)	No contest	72 (14.4)	74 (14.8)	76 (15.2)	78 (15.6)
AA	67 (13.4)	69 (13.8)	71 (14.2)	73 (14.6)	No contest	77 (15.4)	79 (15.8)	81 (16.2)	83 (16.6)
A	72 (14.4)	74 (14.8)	76 (15.2)	78 (15.6)	No contest	82 (16.4)	84 (16.8)	86 (17.2)	88 (17.6)

*The number in parenthesis represents the promotion score needed from 3 of the 5 judges in addition to the gross promotion score being received.

C. Units will be promoted to the next appropriate classification if:

1. The unit receives a gross score equal to or higher than the promotion score for that weekend. For color guard, the unit must receive a promotion score from three of the five judges including at least one IA judge in addition to receiving a gross promotion score.
2. The Review committee can determine a unit is exceeding the expectations of the unit's current classification

D. A unit which feels a promotion was inappropriate must appeal the decision in writing within three calendar days of notification. Appeals must include supporting rational based on class definitions as outlined in the by-laws to justify reversing the promotion. The review committee will hear the appeal, vote, and return a decision with three days of the receipt of the appeal.

E. Promotions are viable through the weekend of the second (2nd) score requirement.

F. The Review committees and class representatives will convene at the conclusion of the TECA season to determine if any units are ready to join the next higher classification. The units will be notified in writing that they are under review for promotion and will receive the decision of the committee prior to the circuit's fall meeting. The committee's decision can be appealed according to section D.

G. The Class/Division Champion of the following guard and percussion classes will compete in the next higher classification the next season; Guard: Novice, Scholastic Regional A, Independent Regional A, Scholastic AAA and Scholastic AA. Percussion: Marching Scholastic AA. In addition, the remainder of all above classes may be reviewed at circuit championships for promotion the following season. The unit can be appeal this policy to the review committee according to section 2.6.1.5.

IV. As TECA follows all UIL and TEA eligibility rules, a roster listing all eligible performing members in a unit must be turned in by each competing unit at their first performance of the season. This roster must be signed by the Principal (Scholastic Units) or the guard director (Independent Units) and must be updated as unit membership or eligibility changes.

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V. All other situations will be decided upon by the Executive Board on a case by case basis.

ARTICLE VII – CONTESTS

I. For rules that the Texas Educational Colorguard Association follows for the contest it sponsors, please see the Winter Guard International Rule Book.

II. Contest Sponsors (Hosts) will have certain responsibilities for the organization of the contest they are hosting.

A. Any unit which has held Circuit membership for one full year may apply to host a show. Applications must be submitted to the Board at or prior to the Spring meeting. Show sites will be discussed by the general membership and voted on by the Executive Board and Class Representatives at the fall meeting. All show sponsor applicants must have a representative present at the fall meeting to be awarded a show.

B. Show sponsorship application fees are \$500.00 for any show not a circuit championship with \$250.00 due October 1st of the year preceding the season, and the remainder \$250.00 due on the day of the show. Application fees will be returned if for any reason an applicant is not awarded a show.

C. Sponsors have all concession and program privileges. At regular Circuit shows, the show sponsor will receive 100% of all admission. At Circuit Championships, the show sponsor will be compensated \$500 and TECA will receive 100% of admission. If the show sponsor is a non-circuit member, the contract will be negotiated.

D. All pertinent information must be made available to the TECA Webmaster at least five (5) weeks prior to the contest date. Included information will be:

1. Letter to directors/units
2. Accurate maps/directions to the site
3. Diagram of the facilities being used at the site
4. Contest flow information
 - a. Parking
 - b. Check-In Procedures (morning and afternoon)
 - c. Pre-Performance Procedures (prop storage, etc.)
 - d. Performance Procedures (spiel sheets, entrance and exit flow, etc.)
 - e. Post performance procedures (including a “Colorguard Instructor’s Evaluation Form”)
 - f. Award ceremony procedures
 - g. Critique procedures
 - h. Host’s contact information (office, cell, home, etc.)

E. Securing awards. Refer to Article IX – Awards

F. A Schedule of the day’s events will be provided by TECA.

III. Performance order will be determined in lottery fashion drawn by the executive board for each contest.

A. The Contest Director and the Contest Host will jointly address concerns for scheduling problems with the exception of the Circuit championships.

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B. A categorized performance order of units will be provided by the circuit.

1. The schedule will be strictly adhered to.
2. In the event of an emergency, rescheduled performances will be made at the discretion of the Contest Director, but rescheduling will not be guaranteed.

C. The contest host will have the performance order, determined by Texas Educational Colorguard Association, prior to the contest date.

1. A host may cancel the contest not less than ten (10) calendar days prior to the show date if the host feels there are not enough competing units to meet operating costs. A sponsor should consult with the Contest Coordinator before making the final decision.

D. All full show unit “no shows” must be reported to the Texas Educational Colorguard Association Treasurer within five (5) days after the contest. (Written or verbal is allowed.)

IV. The Contest Director has the authority to assume the responsibility of Contest host at the discretion of the majority of the Executive Board Present.

V. The Texas Educational Colorguard Association Executive Board will determine the admission fees for all contests throughout the season as well as the State Contests.

VI. The Texas Educational Colorguard Association Executive Board will determine the number of staff, directors and “student crew” members admitted to each contest including the circuit championships

ARTICLE VIII—SOLO AND ENSEMBLE COMPETITION

I. TECA will offer 1 Solo and Ensemble Contest in each the Laredo, RGV and San Antonio area.

II. Solos will be defined as performances with one member

III. Ensembles will be defined as performance with two to seven members

IV. Solos and Ensembles will be divided into five different classifications for both Scholastic and Independent Divisions.

- A. Flag – Flag is the only acceptable equipment with moderate use of props allowed.
- B. Rifle – Rifle is the only acceptable equipment with moderate use of props allowed.
- C. Saber – Saber is the only acceptable equipment with moderate use of props allowed.
- D. Baton – Baton is the only acceptable equipment with moderate use of props allowed
 1. The divisions of baton include but are not limited to, Juvenile class, Cadet class and Scholastic class
 2. A. Baton is any standard twirling baton. No flame batons will be considered legal equipment.

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E. Mixed – Any combination of flag, rifle, saber and baton may be used by any member with moderate use of props allowed.

F. Dance – No equipment used with moderate use of props allowed.

V. There will be two divisions in the Solo and Ensemble category.

A. The Scholastic Division will consist of members from the same school.

1. Middle school students may participate in their own category if they do not perform with their respective high school.

2. Middle school students who perform with the high school unit have the option to compete with the high school solos and ensembles

B. The Independent Division will consist of members from different schools.

C. All Solos and Ensembles within a Division will compete together

VI. Contest fees for SOLO AND ENSEMBLE will be collected by TECA including the Championship Solo and Ensemble Fees.

A. Contest entry fees will be fixed and established by the Executive Board yearly.

1. All individual entries, including fees, must be received by the specified date.

2. Solo and Ensemble entry fees are due when the unit signs in at each contest they have entered.

3. All payments must be submitted to the Treasurer.

VII. Performance requirements for Solo and Ensemble

A. Solos and Ensemble performance times will be more than 1 ½ minutes and less than three (3) minutes.

1. Timing is strictly enforced with penalties for under or over time performances.

B. Music is optional

VIII. All Critique cassette tapes will be provided by each soloist or ensemble.

IX. Music (if used) must be recorded on a cassette tape or CD.

A. A performer will hand the music to the announcer upon entering the competition area to perform.

B. The tape (if used) must be rewound, cued, and ready to be played.

C. The side to be played must be clearly marked

D. The person who handed the announcer the music must also pick it up immediately after the performance is finished.

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X. Solo and Ensemble events are judged on an adapted version of the Winter Guard International Equipment Sheet with Fifty (50) points possible for Expression and Fifty (50) points possible for Excellence.

XI. Anyone may participate in one solo AND one ensemble – scholastic or independent – depending on how their sponsoring unit is registered.

XII. The Solo and Ensemble Championships will be scheduled for the Friday one week prior to the Texas Educational Colorguard Association's Circuit Championships.

A. To perform at the TECA solo and ensemble circuit championships, all participants must have performed at one of the area contests and received a minimum score to be set yearly by the TECA executive board. The required score will be posted in this section of the by-laws no later than the first contest of each year.

B. The minimum score requirement to qualify for the circuit solo and ensemble championships for the 2010 Season will be 60.

ARTICLE IX – AWARDS

I. Awards for all TECA contests will be as follows.

A. All divisions will receive awards/trophies for the top three (3) placing.

1. All awards/trophies will be purchased at the contest sponsors' expense.

2. Awards will meet the following minimum specifications:

a. 3rd place- 9 inches in height

b. 2nd place-11 inches in height

c. 1st place- 13 inches in height

B. All solo and ensemble entries will receive a ribbon stating "First Division (Blue), Second Division (Red) or Third Division (White)".

1. All ribbons will be distributed by TECA at no expense to the contest host.

II. Awards for the TECA Circuit Championship will be as follows

A. All divisions will receive awards/trophies for the top three (3) placing.

B. All Divisional Champions will receive a Texas Educational Colorguard Association Divisional State Championship Banner.

C. World Class Units will receive Bronze, Silver and Gold medals and be recognized as Bronze Medalists, Silver Medalists and Gold Medalists.

III. Awards for the TECA Circuit Solo and Ensemble Championship will be as follows

A. Division I – Blue Ribbon

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B. Division II – Red Ribbon

C. Division III – White Ribbon

D. The top three (3) scoring solos and ensembles in all divisional categories will receive an “Olympic” style medal with the gold medal awarded to 1st place, silver medal to the 2nd highest score, etc

ARTICLE X – TECA CHAMPIONSHIP

I. The Texas Educational Colorguard Association will sponsor a final show at the end of the indoor season, this contest will be known as the Texas Educational Colorguard Association’s Circuit Championships.

A. The TECA championships will alternate from the San Antonio area, Rio Grande Valley area, and Laredo area (if applicable) each year.

B. Special rules that govern the Circuit Championships.

1. All Winter Guard International and Texas Educational Colorguard Association rules apply to this contest.

2. A unit must be a member of the Texas Educational Colorguard Association AND must have their first and second score assessed by the dates set by the executive board. Actual calendar dates will be set every year by the TECA Executive Board and will be published within the By-Law document, web site and in the fall minutes.

Performance by dates for 2010

First score requirement is January 30, 2010.

Second score requirement is February 27, 2010.

3. Although there will be scholastic and independent divisional champions in all classes and divisions, the Texas Educational Colorguard Association Circuit Champion will be chosen from the highest competing scholastic division.

4. At least two (2) units need to be in a division to be a Divisional Champion. If there is only one unit in a division, then a First Place trophy will be awarded only.

C. There may not be a video recording made by the Texas Educational Colorguard Association. If the circuit provides taping, no one will be allowed to record any portion of this contest.

D. Performance order will be determined by the average of the two highest scores that each unit earns throughout the season. The defending champion will have the option of performing last if they have stayed in their classification.

E. The Texas Educational Colorguard Association Executive Board will consider the best possible site for the Circuit Championships.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

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I. Any proposed amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted to the President in writing and signed by at least two active members. The President shall announce the proposed amendment at a regularly scheduled meeting of the membership and the amendment will be voted upon at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the general membership.

II. The By-Laws may be amended or altered by two-thirds affirmative vote of all active members present and voting.

ARTICLE XII – ADOPTION

These revised By-Laws shall become effective upon adoption by affirmative majority vote of all active members present and voting at the time of adoption.

Date Adopted

President

Vice-President