

Dear Circuit Administrator,

These documents are intended as follow-up to the WGI Judges Meetings in held this past September. A second function is to make local circuits and judge associations aware as the judging philosophy and judging standards are continually refined.

The conversations that lead to these refinements start as a product of the last competitive season and are continued through The Color Guard Advisory Board and more specifically the Color Guard Steering Committee. This committee is made up of Instructor Representatives and Judge Representatives. Once the Steering Committee comes to agreement on interpretation and degree of response, judge training is planned and executed at our fall judge training sessions for WGI Judges.

This year we would like to provide two documents. The first “2010 Steering Committee Items for Change and Clarification” gives notes from the Instructors on the Steering Committee. It includes discussion points and reductions of the conversations so that you may understand the spirit of the decisions. The second document, “2010 WGI Adjudication Manual Supplement” shows how these conversations manifest into policy.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at K.Lowe@wgi.org.

Karl Lowe
Chairperson
WGI Color Guard Steering Committee

ITEMS FOR CHANGE AND CLARIFICATION

Discussions Looking Forward to 2010

WGI Color Guard Steering Committee

PHILOSOPHY ISSUES

“Entertainment”

We are challenged with this question; Are we, as an activity, limiting creative choice through our system and judging philosophy?

The Committee believes that there is no need for a philosophical adjustment here. The sheets and philosophy are broad enough that “any style” or approach can succeed through achievement and exploration. Quality, depth, and the successful programming and delivery of repertoire of effects are sufficiently described in the GE Caption philosophy.

We discussed possible instances where there may be an ability of a unit to generate extreme types of effect but at the risk of range or excellence. We agreed that the successful effect (vertical moment) will still be credited but will continue to be weighed against any weaknesses. We are not willing to create a “forgiveness factor.” We determined that the sheets and point application should function properly and needs to be reinforced in these situations.

How contest fatigue may play into this...

We recognize that, in the earlier shows of the season, because of how judges have to see many “A” Units then move directly to Open Units and then a smaller number (usually) of World Units, that there may be a “trickle up” phenomenon. This is when a judge has not fully shifted standards of judging from one class to the next and there is a carry over of the A Class standards into the Open and World Classes. In the worst of cases this would be where recognition of depth and layers would be compromised in lieu of clarity and a more presentational approach. In early season it may manifest to perhaps an artificial success for units using a more common template.

Moving Forward...

- We have placed the statement on each sheet “Stylistic diversity is to be encouraged with all choices given equal potential for success.” This is to assure units that all approaches can fit into our competitive process.
- Be clear that there is no accommodation in any caption to allow one’s stylistic bias.
- Utilize the questions on the sheet (placemat) to determine outcome.
- As classes shift, make sure to shift the standard for Judging as well, being aware of the potential in larger Regionals for the “A Standard” to “trickle up.”

How does choreographic motivation influence the Analysis captions?

Ensemble should emphasize Equipment and Movement as design elements-

- The work done on this in last year's training has been reflected in commentary and needs to continue

In EA, Distinguish between and recognize-

- Equipment vocabulary vs. equipment composition
- Movement vocabulary vs. movement composition

Recognize process differences from a "large eye" and "small eye" perspective and tie those back to the sampling process in IA captions and observation process in EA-

Box discipline and the effect on early season to late season numbers.

The Committee agrees that percentages have improved over the past 2 years concerning box discipline. Up until the Week 6 Regionals the box discipline was maintained, much improved from the prior year. We want to continue the current path and anticipate that Box Discipline will be maintained throughout the Season.

The careless use of boxes, and shifting standards of box application as the season progresses can result in...

- Artificial or "inflated" success.
- Loss of the score being a true reflection of the day's performance.
- Misplaced seeding of units at Championships, as they are placed relative to their Regional numbers, no matter the Week.

As always, a consistent application of the criteria reference as your guide is expected throughout the entire season. It is expected that a number given from Week 1 be relative to a number given in Week 7. Units count on this consistency. All judges are expected to keep box discipline and not let their personal season/schedule influence their ability to be objective and apply the criteria as written

Adjustments of Sub-Caption Spread Indicators

This works in conjunction to a proposal that was passed by the Color Guard Advisory Board limiting the number of units within a round. It was felt that the old numeric ranges and the descriptions created artificially high spreads once combined into the total score. Remember that these guidelines are meant for sub captions.

JUDGES SHEET CHANGES

This year we have made the effort to treat the sheets as graphic illustrations of the judging process for Units. We've adjusted the look and verbiage slightly to help communicate your process to the Instructor. We are working to encourage the Instructors use of the sheet as a critique tool and a guide for conversations.

The differences you will see...

- We have added the statement to every sheet; "Stylistic diversity is to be encouraged with all choices given equal potential for success."
- Sub caption headings have been put back into comparative language.
- The numeric guide to the criteria reference has been placed in center of page, before sub-caption totals.
 - This is a better illustration of judging process for instructors
 - The "RA" and "A" IA sheets have a doubled guide to reflect the 70/130 split.
 - The "Boxes" are labeled to encourage reference by Instructors.
- We have relabeled the descriptive for the sub caption spread indicators.
 - Insignificant Differences
 - Slight Differences
 - Moderate Differences
 - Significant Differences
- The new sub caption spread indicators are applied.
 - The "RA" and "A" IA sheets have doubled indicators, adjusted to reflect 70/130 split

COMMENTARY

- Remember your role as Teacher, Counselor, and Critic. A Unit should hear your role relative to their Class, through your commentary.
- Effect Judges require a proactive participation, in place of a passive "waiting to be entertained" approach.

CRITIQUE

We've needed a way to determine a units goals in order to address their concerns relative to their own impressions and expectations. We want to encourage the judge to ask the instructor, "What are your units goals?" early in the conversation so you may offer better guidance that may have a positive affect earlier, as units have time to edit and plan. If the units' self-impressions are not clear- Ask! This will help guide the conversation to more relevance.

Along these same lines, we are expecting candor earlier in the season. Your early honesty will help the instructor focus the conversation and establish realistic goals and expectations. The proper application of this "candor" hinges on your openness and ability to accept all approaches as viable and the capacity to objectively value all options. The conversation hinges on your ability to listen and respond to the instructors' points. Language and word choice in delivering this early dose of "realities" are key to the delivery and acceptance of this information. In Effect, for instance, though your job is to be available to your instinctive emotional responses, your information must still be filtered through your role as Teacher, Counselor, and Critic. In all instances you are the "adult" in the relationship, with the Units moving from Neophyte, to Protégé, to Peer.

ACCOUNTABILITY

This year we will have a standardized Accountability Form. Our intent is that the judge will access this form on the website. On this form you will find places for input and reflection on philosophical issues that may reveal themselves during the season. This will allow for quicker discovery and response when judging philosophy is challenged by the creative exploration of the units.

This, as before, will be sent to your Judge Administrator by Tuesday evening following the Regional.

AFFILIATIONS

The Advisory Board voted to keep the present guidelines. Be sure to read the manual concerning affiliations. When declaring affiliations, 'know that there is no room for "interpretation" here. We want to assure the units that we are above question in our objectivity.

There is one change with regard to affiliations to inactive units. We have dropped the one year buffer rule in these cases.

MID SEASON CAPTION MEETINGS

After the Week 4 Regionals, each caption will meet via teleconference or video feed.

SUNDAY MEETING AT NATIONALS

Each Caption will hold its own separate meeting on the Sunday Morning after Finals for all attending.

END OF SEASON FINAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

We would like to create a standardized form for self-evaluation to be accompanied by an individual review process. This is to be developed during the year.

BIOGRAPHY INFORMATION FOR THE WEBSITE

All WGI Judges will provide a basic biography to be used on the website.

USE OF "FAN NETWORK"

Should Judges have access to Fan Network?

The Committee believes...

- That fear and distrust should not dictate the use of what might be a helpful tool.
- We would not mandate the usage but leave to the discretion of individual judges guided by Judge Administrators- some judges might be aided in positive ways by video review; others may not benefit as significantly.
- We are clear that the Fan Network is intended as entertainment and cannot replace the live performance for quality assessment.

JUDGE APPRENTICE PROGRAM AND ACADEMY

Applications to the Judge apprentice program will be available on the website. An article titled “What Does It Take... To Be a WGI Judge?” has been written as an informational tool and details the program. This article can be found a wgi.org under “Training and Development.” The Academy will not be presented at Nationals but we are working for its return in 2011. We are trying to limit the number of apprentices to 3 per each Analysis Caption and 5 in GE. This will allow for more one-on-one guidance from mentors within each Caption.