

Texas Educational Colorguard Association

2011 PROPOSALS RESULTS

1. By Alex Sanchez/Robert Rodriguez

Proposal - Percussion concert division instrumentation should not be limited to just concert equipment.

Rationale – Shows are limited and designers are constrained.

Financial impact – none

PASSED

2. By Alex Sanchez/Raymond Ramirez

Proposal – Percussion needs a separate review committee in place.

Rationale – Same as colorguard

Financial impact – none

PASSED

3. By Joseph Steeb/Rick Varela

Proposal – Addition of separate percussion education director appointed by circuit president.

Rationale – Needed for percussion reviews as well as percussion judge training. Same as colorguard.

Financial impact – added cost to be determined by executive board

PROCEDURAL – PASSED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

4. By Joseph Steeb/Rick Varela

Proposal – Creation of a TECA Rule Book for both percussion and colorguard.

Rationale – There are elements in the WGI rules that simply may not apply to the local circuit. This will give us the ability to pull elements from the WGI handbook that would affect us. Protects both TECA and its member units.

Financial impact – none

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PROCEDURAL – REFERRED TO COMMITTEE BY EXECUTIVE BOARD

5. By Joseph Steeb/Rick Varela

Proposal – Addition of Scholastic Marching AAA Class to percussion classifications.

Rationale – The current AA Criteria lists certain skills as “basic” and not “beginner.” There is currently no class for those ensembles who are beginners.

Financial Impact – awards at circuit championships

PASSED

6. By Joseph Steeb/Rick Varela

Proposal – Amend Article VI, III, G from the TECA By-laws.

Current wording: 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.

Proposed wording: G. Each year the top two (2) units in each class will be recommended to move up the next higher class of competition. If the unit does not enter the next higher class on their own, they will automatically be reviewed at their first competition the following season.

Rationale – Allows units more flexibility within the promotion process. Puts more emphasis on promotion of the current unit, not on what previous groups had achieved.

Financial impact – possible fee for equipment or persons to record unit at first competition

PASSED

7. By Joseph Steeb/Rick Varela

Proposal – At circuit championships, for units receiving medals, allow the staff of the winning unit to pass out medals to members as opposed to TECA board members.

Rationale – The act of giving and receiving a medal for achievement is a special moment between student and instructor. Allowing for directors and staff to pass out medals makes for a more memorable moment for the student.

Financial impact – none

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PROCEDURAL – PASSED BY EXECUTIVE BOARD

8. By Joseph Steeb/Rick Varela

Proposal – Amend Article X, 1, A of the TECA By-laws.

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

Proposed wording: A. The TECA championships will be held at a centrally located site, to be determined at the Spring Meeting and voted on by the executive board. If no facility is available, the next closest (to the central location) available facility will be determined by the board.

Rationale – Provides consistent location for circuit championships while keeping travel conditions equal every season.

Financial impact – costs for judges' travel expenses.

PASSED

9. By Joseph Steeb/Rick Varela

Proposal – Amend Article X, 1, D of the TECA By-laws.

Current wording: 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.

Proposed wording: D. Performance order will be determined by the average of the two highest scores (in the current competing class) that each unit earns throughout the season. If a second score has not been earned in the current classification, the unit will compete first in the class.

Rationale – Performance order should be based on the current unit's achievements not the achievements of the previous season. It also seems now like a punishment to units that move up to the next class.

Financial impact – none

PASSED

10. By Joseph Steeb/Rick Varela

Proposal – Amend Article VI, II, A, 1-5 Scholastic Marching Percussion criteria.

Current wording:

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- 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 school or 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 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.

Proposed wording:

1. Scholastic Marching AAA Class:

All members attend the same school or feeder school. *Students* in this class typically have no experience with the indoor activity. This classification is focused on the training of the performer, with very little emphasis on program design. While *students* may know "Basic Skills", the *ensemble* is just beginning to discover the joys of performing and realizes the sense of achievement as each skill is learned. Units in this classification will be judged using the WGI 'A' class criteria for review and promotion purposes.

2. Scholastic Marching AA Class:

All members attend the same school or feeder school. *Students* in this class may have limited to no experience in the activity. This classification is about the training of the performer, and to a slightly lesser degree, the design of the program. *Students* understand "Basic Skills", and know the joys of performing as an *ensemble*. Units in this classification will be judged using the WGI 'A' class criteria for review and promotion purposes.

3. Scholastic Marching A Class:

All members attend the same school or feeder school. *Ensembles* in this class typically have experience in the indoor activity, while a few students may be new to the idiom. This classification puts an equal emphasis on the training of the student and design of the program. While the majority of the *students*

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apply "Basic Skills", individuals may know "Intermediate Skills". The *ensemble* understands and experiences the joys of performing and realizes the sense of achievement as each skill is learned. Units in this classification will be judged using the WGI 'A' class criteria for review and promotion purposes.

4. Scholastic Marching Open Class:

All members attend the same school or feeder school. *Ensembles* have some experience in the indoor activity. This classification recognizes the achievement of the *ensemble*, and puts a greater emphasis on show design than the 'A' class. Open class *ensembles* have several members who understand "Intermediate skills", with a few who may know "Advanced Skills". Here is where the intermediate student explores new challenges through performance and realizes a greater sense of achievement as each more complex skill is achieved. Units in this classification will be judged using the WGI 'Open' class criteria.

5. 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.

Rationale – Current classifications are vague and create no justification to the scoring system in which the unit competes. Removing all information about staff size works alongside the idea that a unit may not be promoted based on “Who’s on staff.”

Financial impact – none

PASSED

11. By Joseph Steeb/Rick Varela

Remove Article X, I, B, 3

Current wording: 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.

Rationale – It is impossible to judge across division and class when different judges are being used. As far as I can remember, no “Circuit Champion” has ever been announced or rewarded.

Financial impact – none

PASSED

12. By Nathan Flynt/Susan Moore

Proposal: Amend Article VI, I, A, 2 class definition for NOVICE class.

Current wording: 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 for a maximum of two years in this classification. A unit wishing to remain in the class after two years must

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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.

AMENDED Proposed wording: 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 for a maximum of two years in this classification **and must petition the executive board to remain in this classification beyond that time frame.** 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. Units 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 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.

Rationale: The novice class should only be for beginning units and directors new to the activity.

Financial impact: NONE

PASSED AS AMENDED

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13. By Nathan Flynt/Susan Moore

Amend Article VI, I, A to provide for dividing Regional A class into three separate divisions – Regional AAA, Regional AA, Regional A using the following criteria:

Regional AAA: This class is designed for the most novice performers of color guard. Units in this class are characterized by membership of no more than 25% of the total number of performers ever having any dance or guard experience. Show design and the generation of effect are very much less important than the development of primary technical skills and the introduction of expression. This class is reserved to allow these performers a positive emerging competitive experience in color guard, and to allow them to develop entry-level skills in a supportive environment. Only groups who are at the very nascent stages of training should declare this class.

Regional AA: This class is designed for units that may have new performers, but also includes more than 25% of the unit with limited dance or previous color guard training. This class is designed for individuals to be somewhat more competitive than the regional 'A' class, but still working on the refinement of entry-level skills. Design and thematic efforts play a more prominent role than in the regional 'A' class, but still are at elementary levels. Groups who have had some exposure but limited training should declare this class.

Regional A: This class is designed for units that may have new performers, but may also include a majority of returning performers who have had some previous exposure to dance and/or color guard. 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.

Rationale – this would allow for better equalization of the very large Novice and Regional A classes.

Financial impact – None . This would eliminate the need for dual champions in Novice and Regional A classes and the cost would be offset.

PASSED

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14. By Nathan Flynt/Susan Moore

Proposal – Eliminate dual champions in large classes

Rationale – This is not cost effective for the circuit and can be better handled by other methods, ie. splitting Regional A into separate classes or having a prelim/finals format for championships.

Financial impact – positive for the circuit, none for member units

PASSED

15. By Alex Sanchez/Raymond Ramirez

Proposal – Do away with winners of a class having to be promoted to the next class the following year.

Rationale – skill level changes from year to year and budget issues.

Financial impact – none

WITHDRAWN – SIMILAR PROPOSAL PASSED EARLIER

16. By Alex Sanchez/Raymond Ramirez

Proposal – Have two cadet divisions in colorguard

A. Any combination of 6, 7, 8th grade students allowed

B. No 8th graders allowed, only 6th & 7th.

Rationale – balances skill level

Financial impact – additional awards at circuit championships.

FAILED

17. By Alex Sanchez/Raymond Ramirez

Proposal – Units should not be judged by the same judge at championships for more than two consecutive years in the same caption.

Rationale – Need a different viewpoint.

Financial impact – none

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PROCEDURAL – PASSED BY EXECUTIVE BOARD

18. By Alex Sanchez/Raymond Ramirez

Proposal – announce only the top three placing units at each contest.

Rationale – saves time and eliminates embarrassment for last place units.

Financial impact – none

PROCEDURAL – PASSED BY EXECUTIVE BOARD

19. By Alex Sanchez/Raymond Ramirez

Proposal – do away with \$100 penalty fee for failure to notify contest host of withdrawal from a show within 14 days of the show.

AMENDED Proposal – The contest host will be compensated with the \$100 penalty fee for failure to notify of withdrawal from a show prior to 14 days before the show date. This fee must be paid to the TECA board before a unit will be allowed to compete again.

Rationale – Fees are paid for all contests by membership

Financial impact – none

PASSED AS AMENDED

20. By Alex Sanchez/Raymond Ramirez

Proposal – Eliminate “A unit will be considered scholastic if all students are from the same school district.”

Rationale – to be discussed

Financial impact – none

WITHDRAWN

21. By Alex Sanchez/Raymond Ramirez

Proposal – Do away with defending champion going on last the following year

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Rationale – Even start/everyone needs to earn their spot at championships. Highest average goes on last.

Financial impact – none

WITHDRAWN – SIMILAR PROPOSAL PASSED EARLIER

22. By Alex Sanchez/Robert Rodriguez

AMENDED Proposal – **Percussion** units should have the option of vertical or horizontal floor set up. Circuit will “suggest” timeline for each contest, but the unit decides. **Guard units will continue to use the set up required by the circuit for each individual show based on the venue’s entrances and exits.**

Rationale – Units could use the same option all season.

Financial impact – none

PASSED AS AMENDED AS A TRIAL MEASURE FOR THE 2012 COMPETEITIVE SEASON

23. By Alex Sanchez/Robert Rodriguez

Proposal – TECA should create a “Floor Damage” responsibility form to be signed by directors at each show. Units will be held responsible for damage to floor and compensate show sponsor.

Rationale – Greater protection for show sponsor.

Financial impact – none

PROCEDURAL – TABLED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

24. By John DeLeon/Scott Randall

Proposal - Amend Article VI, 1 to add:

The only exception to moving down or staying in the previous year’s championship classification will be if the previous year’s director leaves the unit and is replaced by a new director.”

Rationale – The new director may not have the educational training to continue the unit in the previous classification at championships. The past director may have been the only person to get the unit to this level. This would not include techs who may assist during the previous or current years.

Financial impact – none.

WITHDRAWN

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25. By John DeLeon/Scott Randall

Proposal – Strictly adhere to the requirements of “How To Host A Winterguard Contest.” In particular, to the following: Step three – preparing for your contest: check facilities (custodial and security staff.)

Volunteer job descriptions – guides should not be optional. Step Seven, day of contest, Judges paragraph 2, last four sentences, and day of contest checklist.

Rationale – Refusal to follow contest requirements should result in a show site not being allowed to host future contests. Judges and TECA personnel having to eat and drink from a concession stand is unacceptable business. There are normally one or more parents who make signature dishes. Security staff will aid TECA officers and contest hosts especially when asking spectators not to record performances. Signs and dressing rooms are extremely important along with an knowledgeable staff.

Financial impact – none

PROCEDURAL – TABLED BY EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION
