

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 sixth, seventh, and eighth 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 (with the exception of WORLD and SENIOR CLASS) are composed of members not over twenty-two (22) years of age as of the date of the Winterguard International World Class Championships.

C. 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. Associate members will pay a yearly fee to be set by the Executive Board.

C. A cancellation fee of \$100.00 will be assessed to any competing unit who does not withdraw 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 contest host of the show which the competing unit did not attend or give proper notice. In addition, units may not add to any contest any later that 14 days (2weeks) of the scheduled contest.

III. Conflict of Interest

A. Interested Person—Any director, executive board member, or member of a committee, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

B. Financial Interest -- A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family.

- a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Association has a transaction or arrangement

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- b. A compensation arrangement with the Association or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, or
 - c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Association is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.
- C. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.
- D. Procedures
- a. Duty to disclose
 - i. In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the directors and members of committees with governing board delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.
 - b. Determining whether conflict of interest exists
 - i. After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists
 - c. Procedures for addressing conflict of interest
 - i. An interested person may make a presentation at the board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest
 - ii. The president shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement
 - iii. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the Organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest
 - iv. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Organization's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.
 - d. Violations of conflict of interest policy

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- i. If the executive board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
 - ii. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.
 - e. Records of proceedings-- The minutes of the board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:
 - i. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
 - ii. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.
 - f. Compensation
 - i. A voting member of the board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Association for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
 - ii. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Association for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
 - iii. No voting member of the board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Association, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

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

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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 of Colorguard and duties are as follows: The Vice-President of Colorguard 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 Vice President of Percussion and duties are as follows: The Vice President of Percussion 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.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. 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. The parliamentarian shall be responsible for making sure that all rules and regulations are followed by the membership.

G. 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.

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 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

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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 (Colorguard and Percussion) 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, Vice President of Percussion, Treasurer, and Historian be elected in odd numbered years. The Vice-President of Colorguard, Secretary, and Parliamentarian shall be elected in even numbered years.

C. The non-elected position of Contest Director, Chief Judges, Education Directors, 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.

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- D. Report from the Treasurer.
- 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 have never competed in the winter activity. Equipment and movement will focus on the training and achievement of the most SIMPLE BEGINNING SKILLS. Directors and members will 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. **SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL AAA CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. 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.

4. **SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL AA CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. 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.

5. **SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL A CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. 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

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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.

6. 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.

7. 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 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

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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.

8. 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.

9. 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

10. 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.

11. 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

12. INDEPENDENT SENIOR CLASS – All members do not attend the same school or feeder school and there is no age limit placed on performers. Performance criteria for this class are identical to the Scholastic Regional A Classification.

13. 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.

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14. INDEPENDENT OPEN CLASS - Every member does not attend the same school. This class is for a highly competitive unit which is too advanced to find competition in A Class, 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.

15. 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 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.

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.

- 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 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

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"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.

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* 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 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.

5. 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.

6. 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. 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.

7. 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. 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.

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8. **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. 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.

9. **INDEPENDENT MARCHING CLASSES** – 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 criteria for the class they declare A, OPEN or WORLD.

10. **CADET MARCHING OR CONCERT CLASS** – All members attend the same middle school. For MARCHING CLASS, the criteria for Scholastic Marching AAA class will be used. For CONCERT CLASS the criteria for Scholastic Concert A class will be used.

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.

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

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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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2012 TECA Percussion Promotion Scores:

* = Score By Dates	Week 3 (1/28)		Week 4* (2/4)		Week 5 (2/11)		Week 6 (2/18)		Week 7 (2/25)		Week 8 (3/3)		Week 9* (3/10)	
	Total	Review	Total	Review	Total	Review	Total	Review	Total	Review	Total	Review	Total	Review
AAA scores	71.00	144	73.00	148	75.00	152	77.00	156	79.00	160	81.00	164	83.00	168
AA Scores / Concert Cadet	76.00	154	78.00	158	80.00	162	82.00	166	84.00	170	86.00	174	88.00	178
A Scores	81.00	164	83.00	168	85.00	172	87.00	176	89.00	180	91.00	184	93.00	188
Open Scores	81.00	164	83.00	168	85.00	172	87.00	176	89.00	180	91.00	184	93.00	188
"Promotion Process"	A Marching Unit will only be promoted IF: 1) Unit Matches or Exceeds the total score for the weekend (Before Penalties). 2) Two out of the three working judges (Performance Analysis and Visual) assign a review score. 3) The "Review Committee" approves the promotion.													
	A Concert Unit will only be promoted IF: 1) Unit Matches or Exceeds the total score for the weekend (Before Penalties). 2) The "Review Committee" approves the promotion.													

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2012 TECA Guard Promotion Scores

	Nov REG AAA AAA	REG AA AA	REG A A
Week 1, Jan 14	62 (12.4)	67 (13.4)	72 (14.4)
Week 2, Jan 21	64 (12.8)	69 (13.8)	74 (14.8)
Week 3, Jan 28	66 (13.2)	71 (14.2)	76 (15.2)
Week 4, Feb 4	68 (13.6)	73 (14.6)	78 (15.6)
Week 6, Feb 18	72 (14.4)	77 (15.4)	82 (16.4)
Week 7, Feb 25	74 (14.8)	79 (15.8)	84 (16.8)
Week 8, Mar 3	76 (15.2)	81 (16.2)	86 (17.2)
Week 9, Mar 10	78 (15.6)	83 (16.6)	88 (17.6)

Earning Promotion- Using the raw total score- at least three judges' scores, including at least one IA caption, must be at or above the caption breakdown number.

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

1. The unit receives a gross score equal to or higher than the established promotion scores for that weekend.
 - a. 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.
 - b. A marching unit will only be promoted IF:
 - i. Unit Matches or Exceeds the total score for the weekend (before penalties).
 - ii. Two out of the three working judges (Performance Analysis and Visual) assign a review score.
 - c. A concert unit will only be promoted IF:
 - i. Unit Matches or Exceeds the total score for the weekend (before penalties).
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 rationale 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 within 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. 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.

H. Any unit that is promoted within the current season will perform last in their new classification at their next scheduled show with the exception of championships.

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.

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

ARTICLE VII – CONTESTS

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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. 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.

C. 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.)

D. Securing awards. Refer to Article IX – Awards

E. 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.

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.

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1. A host may cancel the contest not less than ten (14) 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 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

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.

ARTICLE X – TECA CHAMPIONSHIPS

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 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.

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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 or individual 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, website and in the fall minutes.

Performance by dates for 2012

First score requirement is February 4, 2012.

Second score requirement is March 10, 2012.

3. 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. Performance order will be determined by the average of the two highest scores 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.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

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.

August 20, 2011
Date Adopted

Richard Lopez
President

Nathan Flynt
Vice-President, Colorguard

John DeLeon
Vice President, Percussion