

Texas Educational Colorguard Association

PERCUSSION AND WINDS CLASSIFICATION

- I. **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.
 - i. **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 WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL "World Class" criteria.
 - ii. **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 WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL "Open Class" criteria.
 - iii. **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 WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL "A Class" criteria.
 - iv. **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 WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL 'A' class criteria. Scores should relate and be compared to the 'A' class lines for the purpose of reviews and promotions.

- v. **SCHOLASTIC MARCHING CADET CLASS** – Units in which all members are in the 8th grade or younger. These units will be judged using the SCHOLASTIC MARCHING AA CLASS criteria.
 - vi. **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.
 - vii. **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.
 - viii. **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.
 - ix. **SCHOLASTIC CONCERT CADET CLASS** – Units in which all members are in the 8th grade or younger. Units competing in this class will be judges using the SCHOLASTIC CONCERT A CLASS criteria.
 - x. **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 WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL "A Class" criteria.
- II. **Winds Units** will be units comprised of at least 10 performers and may include an optional student conductor. Winds units will perform using instruments typically utilized and recognized as part of a band or orchestra, including electronic instruments.

- a. **SCHOLASTIC A CLASS** – All performers attend the same school or feeder school. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL “A Class” criteria.

- b. **INDEPENDENT A CLASS** – Every member does not attend the same school. Members may not be over 22 years of age as of the date of the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL national competition. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL “A Class” criteria.