



# 2008 Rule Change Proposals MCCGA General Meeting August 26, 2007

## BY-LAWS

### 1. Payment of outstanding balance prior to following season (**By-Laws**)

Submitted by: Maxine Sullivan, MCCGA Treasurer

Amended to include this language in Section 2.C.4. in both Guard and Percussion Rulebooks

**Proposal:** Add wording to festival postmark. Article 1, Section C. to read:

4. If a unit should send in an entry form for the upcoming season, but still has an outstanding balance with MCCGA, postmark will be determined by payment received postmark.

**Rationale:** This is to show fairness to the units who have all debts paid.

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### 2. Allow for representatives to be elected by email (**Bylaws**)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Reword Article IV.D. to read as follows:

Elections for Executive Board and Extended Board positions shall be held at a regular meeting of the circuit each year. All other elected positions shall be elected by electronic vote (email or otherwise) within ~~one month~~ following the regular annual meeting.

Amended to two weeks instead of one month for elections

**Rationale:** Because of the limited time at annual meetings and the limited attendance, we should authorize the election of class representatives by email. This will allow for greater representation of the membership since not all members can be present at the general meeting. This will also reduce the amount of time required for the annual meeting since this can be done following the meeting.

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### 3. Add language allowing removal of Board member that is not fulfilling obligations (**Bylaws**)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Include the following language as Article IV.F:

If a member of the Full Board believes that another member of the Full Board is not fulfilling his/her obligations fully, that member may petition for the removal of such Full Board member. If a petition is received, within three days, the President shall forward to all members of the Full Board the petition and allow for discussion and presentation of facts and defenses for one week. At the conclusion of that week, a vote will be made by all members of the Full Board. If two-thirds or more members vote in favor of allowing the petition, the individual will be removed from the position immediately and the position will remain vacant until the next general meeting and elections. The President may ask another Full Board member to fill the role vacated until such time as elections may be held.

**Rationale:** Over the years, there have been many instances where individuals have not fulfilled their obligations to the Membership in their elected role. Presently, if this is the case, there is no recourse and no way to put someone in that position that will fulfill the obligations of the position. Examples of these situations might include complete lack of responsiveness in discussion or voting on issues during the season, neglecting to fulfill an important responsibility relative to the office being held, and other indicators of neglect of the office. This proposal would allow for those individuals who are not fulfilling the responsibilities the Membership expects them to fulfill to be removed immediately and replaced on an interim basis with an individual that may do so.

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Amended to include: "to such individual the petition. Two weeks following such petition, if another petition is received regarding the same individual, within three days, the President shall forward"



4. Merge the Percussion Education Director and Guard Education Director into one Education Director (**Bylaws**)  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Remove the positions of Guard Education Director and Percussion Education Director and replace with a single Education Director on the Executive Board.

Revise Article V.H. (Education Director) to read as follows:

The **Education Director** shall:

- Coordinate all educational opportunities for MCCGA including student, instructor, and adjudicator opportunities
- continually reach out to the MCCGA Membership and its judges to find which opportunities are desired and work to meet that need
- work with WGI and other associations to bring opportunities to MCCGA, its Membership, and judges
- be a continuous resource for the Membership in answering questions regarding the rules and systems put in place by MCCGA
- in general, perform all duties incidental to the office of Education Director, and other such duties as may be assigned by the President

Revise Article IV.B. as follows:

- ◆ **Executive Board**, which shall consist of the:
  - President
  - Vice-President
  - Treasurer
  - Public Relations Officer
  - Education Director
  - Percussion Coordinator
  - Chief Judge (non-voting member)

Revise Article IV.B.1 as follows:

The positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Public Relations, and Education Director shall be elected on a staggered two-year rotating basis and are considered voting members.

- a. President, Public Relations, and Education Director will be voted on in even summers.

**Rationale:** There is not enough responsibility in these two positions separately (percussion and guard) to warrant two unique positions. Placing these responsibilities with one individual will also allow for multi-faceted training to occur and to (potentially) save costs by combining training opportunities between both percussion and color guard. The skill set that is required for both positions is pretty much the same, so it may make more sense to have one individual with that skill set handling the responsibilities. This position is important enough to warrant holding a position on the E-Board given the educational nature of MCCGA.



5. Redefine Chief Judge's role to include oversight of percussion adjudication (**Bylaws**)  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Reword Article V.E. so it reads as follows:

The Chief Judge shall:

- A current or former judge for MCCGA and may be affiliated with an MCCGA unit
- facilitate implementation of appropriate adjudication for MCCGA Festivals
- see that all judges are assigned to the correct judging captions and are fulfilling their responsibilities
- facilitate the use of outside judges as well as any local judging association
- act as the liaison between MCCGA and other associations relating to judging issues
- in general, perform all duties incidental to the office of Chief Judge, and other such duties as may be assigned by the President

Remove the fifth bullet from Article V.F. that currently reads:


- see to all securing and scheduling of judges and that said judges are assigned to the correct judging categories and are fulfilling their responsibilities (i.e. on time).

Remove the sixth bullet from article V.G. that currently reads:

- be responsible for judges' sheets and tapes and other supplies necessary to run a Festival

**Rationale:** This clarifies that the Chief Judge is responsible for implementing all judging, regardless of whether it is percussion or color guard. Given the number of judges that may judge either or both guard and percussion, it makes sense to allow one individual to be responsible for all scheduling. Additionally, the skills that make an individual a good Chief Judge are fairly similar regardless of whether the judges are judging color guard or percussion. With the use of JAMA in handling percussion judging, this also makes the Chief Judge a single point of contact between the two organizations.

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 6. Move the Chief Judge position to the Extended Board  
Submitted by Ann Duncan, MCCGA President


**Proposal:** Move the Chief Judge to the Extended Board

Change Article IV B to

- ◆ **Executive Board**, which shall consist of the:
  - President
  - Vice-President
  - Treasurer
  - Public Relations Officer
  - Education Director
  - Percussion Coordinator
- ◆ **Extended Board**, which shall consist of the:
  - The Executive Board members
  - Regional Coordinators/Communication Chairs
  - Percussion Assistant Coordinator
  - Chief Judge (non-voting member)
  - Guard Education Director
  - Percussion Education Director

**Rationale:** The position of Chief Judge will typically be filled by someone affiliated with a judging association that is contracted by MCCGA. It is more ethically sound that this position not be on the Executive Board to avoid a conflict of interests.

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 7. Maintain the Education Director position to the Extended Board  
Submitted by Ann Duncan, MCCGA President

**Proposal:** Maintain the placement of the Education Director to the Extended Board

Article IV B to read

- ◆ **Executive Board**, which shall consist of the:
  - President
  - Vice-President
  - Treasurer
  - Public Relations Officer
  - Education Director
  - Percussion Coordinator
- ◆ **Extended Board**, which shall consist of the:
  - The Executive Board members
  - Regional Coordinators/Communication Chairs
  - Percussion Assistant Coordinator
  - Chief Judge (non-voting member)
  - Education Director

**Rationale:** The position of Education Director will typically be filled by someone affiliated with a judging association that is contracted by MCCGA. It is more ethically sound that this position not be on the Executive Board to avoid a conflict of interests.

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8. Add education and recruiting to role of RCC's **(By-Laws)**  
Submitted by Kim Kras, Odessa Middle School

**Proposal:** Reword Article V.K. so it reads as follows:

The Regional Coordinators/Communications Chairs shall:

- In conjunction with the Public Relations Officer, actively recruit potential MCCGA members in their respective regions
- In conjunction with the Education Director, proactively educate MCCGA members or potential members in their respective regions
- field questions from circuit members in their respective regions concerning, but not limited to: Festival guidelines, scheduling concerns, judging concerns, and circuit rules and regulations
- answer questions, solve problems, or make contact with the appropriate Board member in order to resolve matters brought to them from members in their respective regions
- All communication from circuit members should be addressed within three days
- in general, perform all duties incidental to the office of Regional Coordinator/Communications Chair, and other such duties as may be assigned by the Public Relations Director or President

**Rationale:** The RCC position has been one that is traditionally underutilized. By adding education and recruitment aspects to their roles, this position may become a more substantive and important position in MCCGA. There is, additionally, some need for education at this level and additional recruitment of members.



9. Announcement of summer meeting and remove required weekends **(By-Laws)**  
Submitted by Kim Kras, Odessa Middle School

**Proposal:** Change Article VI. to read as follows:

An annual meeting shall be held following the completion of the season prior to August 31. Announcement of a specific date for such meeting shall be made ~~no later than April 15.~~ Additional meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Executive Board.

Amended to read "at Championships."

**Rationale:** This allows for sufficient flexibility in meeting dates but also allows for schedules to be determined for the summer in due course.



10. Eliminate Task Force and rename/restructure Review Committee **(By-Laws)**  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Remove Section VII.A. in its entirety.

Change Section VII.B. to read as follows:

B. Color Guard Steering Committee

The Color Guard Steering Committee will be made up of seven (7) representatives. Four (4) director/instructor representatives and two (2) judges will be elected at large by the Color Guard Advisory Board between December 1 and December 15 each year. The chair of the Committee will be the Chief Judge, who shall have the same right to vote in all matters as other members of the Committee. Members of the Committee may not vote or comment on a matter before the Committee if the member has an affiliation (as defined by the Rules or By-Laws of MCCGA) with a unit or class effected by the matter. In such case, the first non-affiliated individual from the following list will be appointed by the Chair to replace that individual: President; Vice President; Treasurer; Secretary; [Education Director pending this position being on the E-Board] Class representatives—IW, SW, IO, SO, IA, SA, SB, SC, IRA, RA, RB, RC, MS/JH.

The primary role of the Color Guard Steering Committee will be to hear all appeals or requests regarding class changes and review all promotions made during the season as defined in the By-Laws and Rules of MCCGA. The Chair will bring to the Committee all business in a timely manner. If a vote is required of the Committee relating to such classification issues, such vote will be taken and the ruling will be final (there is no appeal of the ruling to another MCCGA board or committee). The Committee may also be requested by another board or committee to give input or advice and such input or advice will be communicated by the Chair.

Additionally, the Committee shall hear all concerns from the MCCGA Membership relating to adjudication problems. These concerns may be brought to any Committee member who shall, in a timely manner, bring them

to the attention of the Chair. The Chair shall lead any discussion of the Committee and make any recommendations approved by the Committee to the MCCGA Executive Board. These recommendations regarding adjudication issues are not binding on the MCCGA Executive Board, but should be given deference in policy decisions. At each annual MCCGA meeting, the Chair shall present to the MCCGA Membership a report approved by the Committee summarizing the discussion and recommendations (if any) of the Committee. This report may be supplemented by Committee members at the meeting with notice given to the MCCGA Secretary.

Any recommendations made by the Committee may be immediately proposed at any regularly scheduled MCCGA general membership meeting, regardless of notice or timing provisions contained herein. Any issue relating to adjudication that is not brought before this Committee may not be brought before the Members at a general meeting. If an issue has been raised with the Committee and the individual that raised the issue does not feel it has been handled appropriately, then the issue may be raised following the Chair's report at the general membership meeting.

**Rationale:** The Task Force was never fully implemented last season. It is apparent that there is not such a need for this committee at this time. However, the Review Committee handled a great deal of promotion issues in a timely and effective manner with tremendous discussion and leadership. This Committee is quite valuable and its role should be expanded so that issues can be fully recognized and handled.



11. Limit Rule Changes to every two years (**Bylaws**)  
Submitted by Ann Duncan, MCCGA President

**Proposal:** Limit rule changes to every other year, beginning with the summer of 2007  
Change Article IX. To read

- A. Beginning in the summer of 2007, changes to the MCCGA By-Laws, MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook, and MCCGA Percussion Rulebook will occur every other year (2009, 2011, etc.)
- B. At the MCCGA general summer meeting, during a rules change year, proposals that have been submitted in writing (email or otherwise), with rationale, to the President at least two weeks prior to the meeting, with no new proposals being submitted after two weeks, will be discussed in caucus sessions (color guard or percussion or full membership) then voted on. The proposals may only be amended with the agreement of the sponsor of the proposal.
- C. During a Rule Change Year - All By-laws and Rule Changes must be submitted and voted upon prior to December 1 of each competitive season. Any rule changes passed after that date would not become effective until the next Festival season.

**Rationale:** Offering the membership some consistency in rules and By-Laws will allow for better understanding by all. This format is currently utilized by WGI and seems to work well for them. Many members have commented that they get confused with rules that are changed year to year with no consistency. The proposed timetable (every other year, starting with this summer) would put us in line with WGI's current rule change process.

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12. Reword amendment process to reflect single meetings **(By-Laws)**  
Submitted by Kim Kras, Odessa Middle School

**Proposal:** Change Article IX.A. to read as follows:

At MCCGA's summer meeting each year, proposals that have been submitted in writing (email or otherwise), with rationale, to the President at least two weeks prior to the meeting, with no new proposals being submitted after two weeks, will be discussed and voted upon. The proposals may only be amended with the agreement of the sponsor of the proposal.

**Rationale:** With only one meeting, there is no longer an opportunity for the caucus sessions as in the past.

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13. Limit the number of proposals per person during a rule change year  
Ann Duncan, MCCGA President

**Proposal:** Add to Article IX A the following statement:

Each representative of a unit may submit no more than 10 proposals during a rule change year.

**Rationale:** Limiting proposals would allow for only the most important proposals to be presented by individuals, especially if going to rule changes every two years.

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14. Allow for simple wording changes and grammatical corrections to be made  
Submitted by: Ann Duncan, MCCGA President

**Proposal:** Add to Article IX the following

D. Grammatical and semantic changes can be made with approval of the Executive Board without a formal proposal process.

**Rationale:** Changing grammar and simple wording to stay in line with WGI should not take a formal proposal of time out of a meeting to discuss. These proposals in the past have simply taken up time in a meeting and are usually straight forward. This would help expedite meetings in a rule change year.

## RULEBOOKS

### 15. Move Cancellation Policy statement (**Color Guard & Percussion Rulebook**)

Submitted by Ann Duncan, MCCGA President

Amended to read as "Copy."

**Proposal:** ~~Move~~ the Cancellation Policy statement from section IV L (Festival Procedures) to section I E (Membership)

**Rationale:** This section is better served in the Membership section and will hopefully be noticed more easily.

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### 16. Cancellation payments to MCCGA (**Color Guard & Percussion Rulebook**)

Submitted by Ann Duncan, MCCGA President

**Proposal:** Change section IV L (currently), section I E (previous proposal) –

2 Cancellations within four (4) weeks of a festival are subject to a \$100 penalty payable to MCCGA, who will then reimburse the festival sponsor

**Rationale:** By having units pay MCCGA – MCCGA can better follow up on who has not paid and those who should not be allowed to participate in further festivals. MCCGA would submit the full cancellation fee to the festival sponsor involved. It has been difficult to follow through on who has and hasn't paid cancellation fees when MCCGA is out of the loop.

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### 17. No scores announced for MS/JH units (**Color Guard Rulebook**)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Create new section IV.Q. that shall read as follows:

At all MCCGA events, scores will not be announced for any unit in the JH/MS class. Scores will appear on recaps and judges' sheets distributed the day of the festival, but will not appear on the MCCGA website or any other form of distribution. ← Amended to include: ", except other unit directors. At Championships, only rankings will be announced."

**Rationale:** This class is designed for our youngest students to learn to enjoy the color guard activity. Due to the small class size and the disparity in experience in this class, this rule is needed to help ensure a "safe" learning environment for our students. Directors will always have the ability to inform their students of how they are doing relative to the competition, however that should be left to the discretion of the unit director.

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### 18. Utilizing Quality Sound systems at Festival (**Color Guard Rulebook**)

Submitted by: Duane Williams, Howell North Guard Director

**Proposal:** Amend section IV (Festival Procedures) of the color guard rule book by adding

Q. Festival hosts are required to utilize a high quality sound system ~~other than that which utilizes the gymnasium speakers.~~ Amended to remove this language

**Rationale:** Gymnasium speaker systems generally do not produce a high quality, clear sound necessary for color guard audio soundtracks. These systems are typically old, originally designed as an announcement system, and often times do not allow for the volume necessary for a competition arena without "muffling" the sound. As the activity evolves and soundtracks continue to become increasingly intricate in nature, a high quality speaker system is necessary to ensure a clear distinct audio.

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19 Restrict independent from recruiting/accepting high school members from active MCCGA HS units  
Submitted by: Steve Hermach, Windsor HS

**Proposal:** V. Eligibility

G. MCCGA Independent units may not recruit or accept into its membership a student enrolled in a High School or feeder Middle/Junior High School that has an active MCCGA Scholastic unit.

**Rationale:** In the past it has been noted that certain independent unit directors have allowed high school students (from schools with active units) to join their *independent* unit prior to the signing of a release statement, thus causing undue pressure on those high school directors and basically forcing compliance.



20 Regional class maximum performance times (**Color Guard Rulebook**)  
Submitted by Kim Kras, Odessa Middle School

**Proposal:** In the MCCGA Color Guard Rulebook, under Section VI.E., change all performance times with a maximum of 4 minutes to a maximum of 4 ½ minutes.

**Rationale:** With such a narrow window of time for a Regional class program (3-4 minutes), it becomes difficult to explore the design elements of dance in isolation within the program. By increasing the maximum performance time to 4 ½ minutes, this will allow groups to spend more time on dance and movement without equipment. The A class rules limit maximum performance time to 5 ½ minutes and each class goes up by one minute in maximum performance time. This change would put the Regional A classes in alignment in this respect with all other classes. This also allows for a much greater exploration and training in this fundamental area of our activity.



21 Correct minimum performance times (**Color Guard Rulebook**)  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** In sections VI.E.8., VI.E.9., VI.E.12, & VI.E.13., change the minimum performance time to 4 minutes.

**Rationale:** All classes on national sheets have a minimum performance time requirement of 4 minutes. The current rule book has this minimum time increasing with each class.



22 Move class descriptions to an appendix behind the rulebook (**Color Guard Rulebook and Percussion Rulebook**)  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Move all class descriptions to an appendix at the end of the rulebook. Change the wording of VI.E. to read "Classification descriptions may be found in Appendix A to this rulebook."

**Rationale:** Almost 4 pages of our 16 page guard rulebook and 2½ pages of the 12 page percussion rulebook are devoted to class descriptions. The rulebooks would be easier to read and follow without these descriptions located in the middle of them.



23 Waive timing penalties during the first two weekend of the season  
Submitted by: Duane Williams, Howell North Guard Director

**Proposal:** Amend Section VI (Unit Classification) E. (Color Guard Classification) by adding

14. Penalties will be waived for lack of authorized performance and/or equipment time during the first two weekends of the competition season.

**Rationale:** Waiving penalties for lack of authorized performance and/or equipment time during the first two weekends of the competition season will serve many purposes:

1. Will encourage more units to compete during the first two weekends of competition without fear of receiving penalties for having an incomplete show.
2. Will allow units to perform a product that is as complete as possible without gaps in equipment work, staging etc.
3. Will allow judges to view a product that is as complete in nature as possible and eliminate the "what is the intent" questions that are often times raised when there are incomplete sections of the show.

4. It will allow the judges a better read, and therefore allow better comments on the content of the product that is presented giving units a better understanding of improvements needed.
  5. Will allow for better conversation during critique because the need for the unit director to explain incomplete sections and “intent” may be eliminated which will allow more time for discussion on what was presented on that particular day.
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24. Finalists at Championships (**Color Guard Rulebook**)  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Rephrase Section VI.F. as follows:

- F. The MCCGA Executive Board of Directors will utilize the following guidelines to determine the number of finalists in MCCGA Championships. Any finalist positions unused because of lack of competing guards in a class may be added to other class at the discretion of the Executive Board of Directors.
  1. The Middle School/Junior High and Regional C classes will not have a finals performance; however the champions of these classes will be given the option of performing in exhibition.
  2. The Regional B, Regional A, Independent Regional A, and Scholastic C classes will have finalists equal to 25% of the Prelims contest participants with a minimum of 3 finalists and a maximum of 7.
  3. The Scholastic B class will have finalists equal to 50% of the Prelims festival participants with a minimum of 3 finalists and a maximum of 7.
  4. All other classes will have finalists equal to 75% of the Prelims festival participants with a minimum of 3 finalists and a maximum of 7.
  5. An additional exception may be made to these numbers if the class size is such that only one unit from prelims will not make finals. In such a case, all units in the class will advance to Finals.
  6. The MCCGA Full Board will vote on the Championships format on a yearly basis, with the results being announced no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>.
  7. In the case of an odd number of Prelim participants, this number will be rounded up to the next higher whole number.
  8. If rounds are used in Prelims, the first place guard in each round will advance to finals and the remaining finalists will be the highest remaining scores regardless of round.

Move this section to Section IV (Festival Procedures).

**Rationale:** If we go back to using a prelims/finals format for Championships, we need to be prepared with an updated view of this format in our current environment. This proposal adds the reference to the MS/JH class and addresses the concept of rounds that was not contemplated when first written. The percentages and minimum and maximums have been adjusted as well to reflect our current situation. It also makes sense for this section to be under the heading of Festival Procedures instead of Unit Classifications.

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25. Medalist guard classification (**Guard Rule Book**)  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Following Section VI.H., insert a new section that reads as follows:

If a unit places in the top three (3) in its class or round at MCCGA Championships, the unit must perform the next season in the same or higher class.

**Rationale:** A unit that achieves this level of success should not move down to a lower class the following season. If there is a strong enough reason to justify not starting in the class the next season, then an appeal can be filed with the Review Committee before the season.


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 26. Remove WGI timing warning language from rule book (**Guard Rule Book**)  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Remove Section VI.I.

**Rationale:** There is no need to worry about WGI timing rules being different than MCCGA timing rules. MCCGA uses WGI's timing rules.

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 27. Allow a score achieved in the first weekend of the season to promote units (**Color Guard Rulebook**)  
Submitted by Kim Kras, Odessa Middle School

**Proposal:** Reword the first sentence of the second paragraph of Section VI.J. so that it reads as follows:

The review scores will be in effect at all MCCGA festivals beginning with the first week, through and including the sixth week of each season.

**Rationale:** This was originally put in place to allow the judging community an opportunity to see the breadth of the classes before using their scores to promote units. However, with the new Review Committee in place, this can be accounted for in the process. A unit that is clearly in the wrong class may be promoted earlier and units that are questionable can be left in the class for another week at the discretion of the Review Committee.

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 28. Remove language limiting changes to the promotion system (**Color Guard Rulebook**)  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Remove the following language in Section VI.J.:

Promotion Scores will be looked at on a two-year basis beginning starting in 2006 – with exception being made if WGI changes their scoring system within that 2-year rotations.

**Rationale:** Given the dynamics of WGI's propensity for changing the basis of reviews and scoring and our own Circuit's struggles with classification, it seems too harsh to limit improvements to our promotion system to 2 year intervals. Just this year, WGI has removed the block score as a tool for judges and units and our Scholastic C class had numerous reviews that should be addressed.

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 29. Allow WGI Regional scores to promote units (**Guard Rule Book**)  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Reword the first sentence of the second paragraph of Section VI.J. so that it reads as follows:

The review scores will be in effect at all MCCGA festivals and WGI Regionals beginning with the second week, through and including the sixth week of each season.

**Rationale:** WGI Regionals were originally excluded from promoting units because our Regional A units could go to WGI Regionals to compete. Often, because there was no national standard for this classification, scores were much less relevant to our local MCCGA scoring. To keep units from being promoted unfairly and penalized for attending WGI events, we exempted WGI Regionals from the promotion process. This is no longer an issue. And, with the new Review Committee and process, there is a safeguard for A class units as well.

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30 Increase the majority needed to promote units multiple times (**Guard Rule Book**)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

Amended to: "2/3 vote"

**Proposal:** Reword the fourth paragraph of Section VI.J. so that it reads as follows:

Such vote must be returned to the Chair of the Review Committee no later than the following Tuesday by 6:00 PM Central Time, unless the Chair determines an extension of time is needed. If an extension is needed, the Chair shall request permission for that extension from the Executive Board. A simple majority is required to overturn a promotion if the unit is being reviewed for the first time that season. If a unit is being reviewed a second time, a ~~super majority~~ is required to overturn a promotion. If a unit is being reviewed for a third time or more, a unanimous vote is needed to overturn the promotion. In the case of a tie, the promotion stands and the unit is moved to the proper classification.

Amended to add: "in that class"

**Rationale:** The new review process and Review Committee was a tremendous success last season. However, there were a few "borderline" units that were reviewed numerous times and not promoted. Given that we want to give deference to the working judges' opinions and scoring of the day, requiring stronger convictions of the Review Committee to overturn promotions of units for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or more times will help strengthen the reliance on the judges the day of the show while still giving the membership an opportunity to overturn the promotion if needed.

31. Define double panel promotion requirements (**Color Guard Rulebook**)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Change the language in Section VI.J. that follows the Promotion Scores table to read as follows:

If the total of a unit's vocabulary, composition, and repertoire scores exceed the score indicated for any given weekend at an MCCGA festival AND 3 of the 5 working judges assign a promotion score for that unit, that unit is promoted for the remainder of that season. This score must be achieved in a finals performance (if a prelims/finals format is used) unless a unit does not perform in finals. In this case, the prelims score is used for promotion purposes. In the case of a double panel (10 working judges), ~~5~~ of the 10 judges must assign a promotion score for the unit to be promoted.

Amended to: "6"

**Rationale:** When the promotion scores were first implemented, we did not address the issue of using double panels (at Championships) for promotions. This is a rare case, but one that has happened this past season and will likely continue to happen moving forward.

32. Change language to "Review" instead of "Promotion" and "Vocabulary" to "Choreography" (**Color Guard Rulebook**)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Change "Promotion" to "Review" in Section VI.J. and change "vocabulary" to "choreography" throughout the rulebook.

**Rationale:** The new system with the Review Committee makes this a misnomer. Units are not promoted by achieving these scores, but are, instead, reviewed by the committee. The score sheets and system now reference "Choreography" in the equipment and movement captions instead of "Vocabulary."


33. Allow an "extra" weekend when the MCCGA Regional falls in the first four weekends (**Guard Rule Book**)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Reword the first subsection of Section VII. so that it reads as follows:

Each color guard unit must perform within the first four (4) weekends of the MCCGA season at an MCCGA Festival or a WGI Regional, by February 16, 2008, for the 2008 season. If one of the first four (4) weekends does not offer an MCCGA Festival (a WGI Regional does not count as an MCCGA Festival), then an extra weekend will be added to this timeframe.

**Rationale:** Each season, there are members that can not compete in the MCCGA WGI Regional typically held in the first four weekends of the season. These units may not be able to compete because of classification (Regional class units can not compete in WGI events) or for other school related reasons (extra costs of the Regional entry). When this occurs, this change would allow an extra weekend to be put in place so that there are truly 4 weekends of opportunities for units to perform at an MCCGA event.


 34. Scores for championship seeding (**Guard & Percussion Rule Book**)  
Submitted by Joy Eslick, Rockwood Summit High School Color Guard Director

**Proposal:** Revise the first two bullet points of section VIII (Championships Seeding) of the color guard rule book to read as follows:

- Each unit's two highest scores achieved at MCCGA Festivals up to 2 weeks prior to Championships are used for seeding. These two scores are then "progressed" by adding points for each week remaining in the season - 2 points for each week in January and February and 1.5 points for each week in March.
- The order of appearance at MCCGA Circuit Championships will be determined by averaging the two highest scores after they are progressed. 70% of the highest score and 30% of the second highest score will determine the total average score of the unit.

**Rationale:** Our current seeding method seems to reward potential more than achievement. By choosing the two highest scores after they all have been progressed, it is possible for a score received very early in the season to become a seeding score due to progression even though this progressed score is higher than the unit ever actually achieved later in the season. Using the highest scores of the unit actually achieved and then "evening" them out by the progression points seems to be a more accurate reflection of the unit's level of success over the season. Decreasing the progression points to 1.5 points for each week in March is to reflect the current system used by WGI for their seeding for Championships.

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 35. Allow WGI Regional scores to count toward seeding for Championships (**Guard Rule Book**)  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Reword the first sentence of Section VIII. so that it reads as follows:

Each unit's two highest scores from MCCGA events or WGI Regionals will be determined by taking each unit's score during the season and adding two points to the score for each week remaining in the season.

**Rationale:** WGI Regionals were originally excluded from seeding scores because units would often go to WGI Regionals and receive lower scores (particularly if they made finals at a large Regional) than they were receiving at MCCGA events. To keep units from being penalized for attending WGI events, we exempted WGI Regionals from the seeding process. This is no longer an issue because we use only the two highest scores for seeding, not simply the last score of the season.

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 36. Rearrange sections to create a "Championships" section (**Color Guard Rulebook**)  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Move the following sections into a new section V. and renumber all remaining sections as needed:

- VI.F. (finalists at Championships)
- VII (Eligibility to compete in Championships)
- VIII (Championships seeding)

**Rationale:** There is currently a hodgepodge of rules relating to Championships spread throughout the rulebook. This would merge them all into one place for consistency and ease of use.

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 37. Allow "sickles" to count as authorized equipment (**Guard Rule Book**)  
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Guard Education Director

**Proposal:** Add a section to Section IX. that reads as follows:

- B. Regardless of WGI rules, MCCGA shall recognize "sickles" as authorized equipment and such equipment having the general shape of a curved rifle shall count toward a unit's authorized equipment time. Operational definition of this rule shall be made by the Chief Judge.

**Rationale:** WGI has gone back and forth on the use of this equipment. However, given the heightened awareness of some school districts regarding the use of rifles in winter guard activities, this seems to be a reasonable allowance. This will allow for students to spin equipment that is, for all intents and purposes, a rifle and have it count as authorized equipment time.

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