

BY-LAWS

PASSED

1. *Board Member Voting (By-Laws)*

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Remove the first sentence of Article VIII. E. and replace with the following:

Each member of the Extended Board shall have a single vote at any General Meeting of the Membership, but may not vote as both an Extended Board member and as a unit delegate.

Rationale: There is no rule requiring an officer to be affiliated with a unit. This rule means these individuals would have no vote at a meeting if they were present and not representing a unit.

FAILED

2. *Meeting Date (By-Laws and Rule Books)*

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Change the date in Article VI. to be June 30. Change reference to “summer meeting” in Section III.B. of the Percussion and Guard Rule Books to “August 30.”

Rationale: Having the summer meeting in June would be easier to schedule when most directors are trying to get back into school and may have rehearsals in August. Additionally, communicating meeting information is often more difficult in the summer. Finally, planning for the upcoming season can be done more proactively with new Board members and calendars in place before the end of the summer. The second change is simply to allow for turning in festival host applications later in the summer.

PASSED

3. *Define Steering Committee Role (By-Laws)*

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Add the following language after the first sentence of the second paragraph of Article VII.A.:

In fulfilling this role, Committee members will not try to determine if a unit is ready for another class, but will review judges scoring for errors or contest dynamics that may have inflated a unit's score.

Rationale: The Steering Committee is not in a position to be able to “pass judgment” on whether a unit is ready for the next class. However, they can review the recaps and see if a judge's scores are too high for the entire class and maybe that judge's scores need to be called into question because of that “error.”

PASSED

COLOR GUARD & PERCUSSION RULEBOOKS

4. *Festival Calendar Process (Guard & Percussion Rule Book)*

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Add Section III.B. to the Guard and Percussion Rule Books to read as follows and renumber remaining Section to match:

By June 15, the MCCGA Full Board will publish a Festival Calendar that will indicate the dates and regions of Festivals for the following season. Such Calendar may be changed to accommodate facility/host availability by a vote of the Full Board.

Rationale: The recent method of publishing a calendar of events in each region has dramatically improved the ability of MCCGA to schedule earlier and avoid conflicts with WGI Regionals or other important events. This rule would codify this approach and require it be done by June 15 with the input of the Full Board.

FAILED

5. Judging Panels for Championships (Guard & Percussion Rule Book)

Submitted by Dennis Kerr, *MCCGA Chief Judge*

Percussion Championships will be double paneled with 2 judges each for the Visual, Effect and PA captions with one judge for T&P for all classes. (no change) Guard championships will be judged using a single panel of judges for Middle School, RC, RB, RA, and IRA class units, and a double panel of judges for all SC, SB, SA, IA, SO, IO, SW and IW classes.

Rationale

MCCGA is committed to the support of our WGI bound units, as well as the education and positive experience of our units that only compete locally. Because of the extended championships day our units going on to WGI are getting feedback from tired judges who might have already judged 70+ units.

Due to the length of the day for Guard championships, double paneling the entire day means that some judges get no break or a very short break during the day. It is felt that rather than splitting championships into two shows it would be beneficial to single panel the regional units. The purpose for double paneling the SC through IW classes would be to give more input to the units that potentially would be attending WGI championships.

The intent of this proposal is not to diminish the importance of the Regional units, but to allow judges to be sharper of mind towards the end of the day when our WGI championship bound units are performing.

Positives:

Financial Savings, Less tired judges.

The benefit to the WGI bound units performing at the end of the day should be sharper judging minds for better input at the end of the day.

Financially, it would cost less to use a single judging panel throughout the early portions of the show.

Negatives:

The regional units would not have the benefits of the double panel.

Because MCCGA is committed to growth through experience it would cause our Regional units to receive less input for championships, however, it is felt that the overall effect on scores and placements would be very minimal.

Respectfully submitted:

Dennis Kerr –MCCGA Chief Judge

FAILED

6. Revise Festival Host Fee Structure (Guard & Percussion Rule Book)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Replace Sections III.C. and III.D. of the Guard and Percussion Rule Books with the following:

Festival sponsors pay MCCGA a sponsorship/administration fee based on the number of performances at a festival. The fees for a given number of performances are indicated below. A deposit (refundable if a show is not awarded to a host applicant) of \$1,200 is due with the application to host a festival. The MCCGA Board reserves the right to limit the maximum number of entries to any festival to the number the Board feels the facility can adequately handle.

<i>Up to 20 color guard performances:</i>	<i>\$1,200</i>
<i>21-30 color guard performances:</i>	<i>\$1,350</i>
<i>More than 30 color guard performances:</i>	<i>\$1,650</i>
<i>Up to 10 percussion performances:</i>	<i>\$450</i>
<i>More than 10 percussion performances:</i>	<i>\$700</i>

Rationale: See the attached information on festival expenses versus the current \$900 host fee. MCCGA is the 3rd most expensive circuit in the country to be a member of and the 4th cheapest for festival host fees. What this means is that the MCCGA Membership foots the bill for over 75% of the cost of a festival while the festival host makes profits (at times) in excess of \$10,000. At least five of our festivals this past season made profits in excess of \$10,000 and the costs to increase judges' pay and to move to digital technology have to come from somewhere. I would propose that festival hosts start paying a larger share of the cost of the festival from which they are profiting.

The model MCCGA uses is clearly not the norm. It is common for small circuits, as MCCGA once was. But large circuits use a model where festival hosts pay most or even all of the costs of the festival. Switching to that model will allow

MCCGA to keep its membership dues reasonable (less than \$500) while still allowing for us to remain competitive in technology, judges, and administration.

PASSED

7. Update Festival Host Application Procedures (Guard & Percussion Rule Book)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Remove Section III.E. from the Guard and Percussion Rule Books.
Merge Section III.F. from the Guard and Percussion Rule Books into Section IV.A.
Move Section IV.R. from the Guard and Percussion Rule Books into Section III.A.3.

Rationale: The language in Section III.E. is already on the host application and is redundant here. The format of the festival (III.F.) is better located in the Festival Procedures in Section IV. The requirement of a high quality sound system (IV.R.) is better placed in the host application procedures sections where we indicate what is required of a festival host.

PASSED

8. Update Festival Procedures (Guard & Percussion Rule Book)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: In Section IV.C.1. of the Guard Rule Book, change reference to “tapes” and replace with “mp3 player” references and information.
Remove Section IV.E. from the Guard and Percussion Rule Books.
Merge Section IV.F. from the Guard and Percussion Rule Books into Section IV.A.

Rationale: Cassette tapes are no longer used by units for performances, so we should drop reference to them and update with like information regarding mp3 players. Section IV.E. is more appropriate in festival host mailings than in the rule books (about availability of equipment storage or dressing rooms). Performing at the scheduled time (IV.F.) is essentially covered in Section IV.A. and should be captured therein.

PASSED WITH AMENDMENT

9. Set Admission Pricing (Guard & Percussion Rule Book)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Change the language of Section IV.K. of the Guard and Percussion Rule Books to read as follows:

*Festival Hosts will set admission prices at \$7/adult, \$5/student (5-18 years of age), \$5/senior (60+ years of age), and allow free admittance for children under 5 years of age. **This shall not apply to MCCGA Championships, MCCGA Percussion Supershow or the MCCGA WGI Regional.***

Rationale: I believe some festival hosts are unwilling to raise admission prices for fear of being “the expensive” festival. Parent boosters that help set the admission prices are often hyper-sensitive to pricing as they must also pay to get into other festivals. By requiring admission fees be the same at every show, festival hosts can “blame” MCCGA for the cost (instead of guard directors) and parents will be able to know going in what the cost of the festival will be. It is hoped that festivals will profit slightly more than previously with little to no impact on attendance. Many circuits around the country use this method and similar pricing.

PASSED

10. *Create Festival Application and Procedures Appendix (Guard & Percussion Rule Book)*

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Move all of the language in Sections III. and IV. of the Guard and Percussion Rule Books to a separate Appendix by renaming Section II. as “Festival Information and Entry Forms” and adding Section II.D. with the following language:

Information on application to host a festival and all festival procedures is contained in the attached “Appendix – Festival Application and Procedures.”

Rationale: These two Sections are quite large, apply to both Percussion and Color Guard, and are more accessible to those that need the information as an appendix. Few units will apply to host a festival (15 out of 125?), so that is mostly unnecessary information to the vast majority of units. The level of detail in the Festival Procedures Section seems to be more similar to “policies” than to “rules.” It is hoped that this will help to streamline the Rule Books and make them more user friendly and less intimidating.

FAILED

11. *No Exhibitions at Championships (Guard & Percussion Rule Book)*

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Change Section VII.B. in the Guard and Percussion Rule Books to read as follows (only substantive change is the inclusion of ‘(not in exhibition)’ in the last subsection):

- B. Each unit must satisfy the following requirements to be eligible to compete in MCCGA Championships:*
- 1. Each color guard unit must perform within the first four (4) weekends of the MCCGA season at an MCCGA Festival or a WGI Regional; If one of the first four (4) weekends does not offer a MCCGA Festival (a WGI Regional does count as an MCCGA Festival), then an extra weekend will be added to this timeline*
 - 2. The unit must be in good standing (i.e. all fees paid to MCCGA or other Members)*
 - 3. Each unit must also perform (not in exhibition) in at least two MCCGA festivals throughout the course of the season.*

Rationale: The main purpose of Championships is to determine a champion. Because an exhibition only unit cannot win a championship, it does not make sense for these units to perform in exhibition at Championships. Exhibitions at regular season shows offer a chance for units to become exposed to the activity, but Championships should not be an “exposure” opportunity.

FAILED

12. *Performance Times at Championships (Guard & Percussion Rule Books)*

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Change the last bullet of Section VII.C. of the Percussion and Guard Rule Books to read as follows:

Units will perform at Championships in their seeding order, with no exceptions being made for scheduling conflicts

Rationale: Given the size of our Circuit Championships, it is becoming increasingly difficult to schedule guards and drumlines around each other’s performance times. Once the seedings are done for Championships, the schedule will be set irrespective of any conflicts between unit performances.

PASSED

13. *Eliminate RCC “Protocols” (Guard & Percussion Rule Book)*

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Remove section IX. from the Guard and Percussion Rule Books.

Rationale: The RCC (Regional Communications Chairperson), as utilized, is not a very valuable role for MCCGA. While there was a good theory for its inclusion many years ago, this protocol has never really been followed and is not something that needs to be included in the Rule Books. If the RCC is to be used as envisioned, there is still no need for this sort of rule to be included in these documents.

WITHDRAWN
COLOR GUARD RULEBOOK

14. *ADDITION OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS FOR NON-ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION MIDDLE SCHOOLS (Guard Rule Book)*
SUBMITTED BY JOHN SULLIVAN, MCCGA VICE-PRESIDENT

PROPOSAL: ADD A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS FOR THOSE MIDDLE SCHOOLS THAT DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATIONS (I.E. MSHSAA).

RATIONALE: THIS CLASS WOULD ALLOW THOSE MIDDLE SCHOOL UNITS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM BEYOND THE EXHIBITION STATUS.

AMENDED AND FAILED

15. *Multiple Championship Sites (Guard Rule Book)*
Submitted by Chris Putnam, Education Director

Proposal: Add the following as Section VI.D. of the Color Guard Rule Book:

If, by January 15, more than 70 color guards have signed up for Championships, the MCCGA Full Board will create a Championship schedule utilizing two sites on the same day or two separate days for Championships. If two sites are not available, the Full Board will limit the entries for Championships to the first 70 units to sign up.

Rationale: We have seen a tremendous growth in the size of Championships to a point where 88 units performed last season over the course of a 14 hour competitive day. Show staff were on site for over 16 hours while judges were on site for more than 15 hours. This sort of situation is way beyond the limits of our performers, staff, and judges to adequately perform their duties. Clearly, there will continue to be growth and we are well beyond needing to deal with this volume of color guards. The quality of the day has to be factored in more heavily to how we schedule this premiere event.

AMENDED AND FAILED

16. *Promotion of Championship Medalists (Guard Rule Book)*
Submitted by Jo Smith, Director – Mascoutah High School Winter Guard

Proposal: All units receiving a ranking in the top three **Scholastic A units** at Championships will be required to move up into the next class. ~~This should include all classes including A units as well as all other classes.~~

This would amend the current MCCGA Rule VI. F. b, in the color guard rulebook, which states:

A guard placing in any of the top three positions of the same Class for three consecutive seasons is promoted to the next highest Class in the fourth season.

Rationale: The MCCGA circuit needs to grow and begin to develop a viable, competitive Open class division and possibly this will lead to the development of a World Class group as well.

FAILED

17. *Qualifying Score for Championship Participants (Guard Rule Book)*
Submitted by Heather Huggins, Director – Truman High School Color Guard

Proposal: All units will need to reach a qualification score in order to be eligible to perform at circuit championships. Each unit will need to score within 10 points of the class promotion score at some point during the season. This qualification score will be in addition to the existing qualifications in the rule book.

Rationale: Our circuit has consistently grown in unit numbers for years and it is becoming unrealistic to fit all units into a one day, one site format for championships. This proposal would help to cut down on the numbers and essentially make the entire season a "prelims" show as each group works to reach the qualification number.

PASSED

18. *Change “First Four Weeks” Requirement (Guard Rule Book)*

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Change the first bullet of Section VII.B. of the Guard Rule Book to read as follows:

Each color guard unit must perform at an MCCGA Festival or a WGI Regional by the weekend that unit's Region has its second Festival. This shall not be construed to mean the unit must perform at a Festival in that unit's Region.

Rationale: This change removes the “4 week” rule and replaces it with something more closely tied to when a unit may perform. The last two seasons, MCCGA has used a calendar that only has one festival in each region for the first three weeks of the season. This severely limits which festivals units may attend to qualify for Championships.

PERCUSSION RULEBOOK

PASSED

19. *AGE RULE CHANGE FOR PERCUSSION (Percussion Rule Book)*

SUBMITTED BY CHAD SCHAEGLER, MCCGA PERCUSSION COORDINATOR

Proposal: Change our rule on age restriction to mirror the WGI percussion rule for eligibility in terms of age for the Independent classification

Our current rule reads:

ELIGIBILITY

- F. Percussion units composed of members not over age twenty-two (22) as of 12:01 A.m. of the date of their respective competitive class finals performance at the MCCGA Championships shall be permitted to perform in Festivals governed by MCCGA, except in Independent World Class, where there is no age restriction. Each unit appearing at a MCCGA Festival shall be prepared to show proof of members' ages (e.g. copies of Birth Certificates).

WGI rule reads:

ELIGIBILITY

1.1 Percussion ensembles from the United States composed of members not over 22 years of age as of March 31st of any given year shall be permitted to compete in contests governed by WGI. Each ensemble appearing at a WGI contest shall be prepared to show proof of age. International percussion ensembles are not bound by any age limit and must compete in the independent classes.

Rationale

Two items to consider:

1. There is an error in our rule that states “except in Independent World Class, where there is no age restriction”. This is true for the Independent World Color guards but not true for percussion units.
2. Due to the nature of our floating championship dates and the way it reads compared to the WGI rule we could be eliminating potential members of an independent group who has would or would not be eligible to compete based on what day our championships fell. Example someone who's birthday is March 27th. One year that would be eligible if our championships fell on the 26th and the next year not if championships fell on the 28th.

If we align with WGI then we should be covered. If they are age eligible for WGI then they should be age eligible for our circuit as well.

FAILED

20. *Percussion Promotions (Percussion Rule Book)*

Submitted by Chad Schaedler, *MCCGA Percussion Coordinator*

Proposal: Allowing promotions to be able to happen at any MCCGA show prior to championships.

Our current rule reads:
UNIT CLASSIFICATIONS

A. Unit Promotion

Each year, the promotion scores below will be updated to reflect the upcoming season and any changes the membership feels necessary. The scores will be determined based on Box 5 scoring according to WGI's scoring sheets.

The promotion scores will be in effect at all MCCGA festivals and WGI Regionals beginning with the first week, through and including the sixth week of each season. If a unit has not participated in a festival by the sixth week, the first MCCGA festival the unit participates in after the sixth week is also subject to promotion.

Cut-off dates for Reclassification:

Units will be reclassified to a higher class NO LATER than 2 weeks before MCCGA Championships.

Rationale

I believe that if a group is ready for promotion then it should happen and should be accepted as an honor regardless of the timing the achievement is reached. If a group should perform week 1 of the competitive season and choose to wait until the final week of the season prior to championships to perform again that group should be subject to promotion. We have a great promotion system in place and we should trust the system and allow it to work at any given competition. This change would also align us with the philosophy of WGI that promotions can happen at any regional event leading up to championships.

PASSED

21. *Percussion Eligibility Rule (Percussion Rule Book)*
Submitted by Chad Schaedler, *MCCGA Percussion Coordinator*

Proposal: Eliminate the rule that a unit must perform within the first four weekends from the first held percussion festival.

Our current rule reads:
CHAMPIONSHIPS

B. Eligibility to compete in the MCCGA Championships

To be eligible to compete in MCCGA Championships:

Each unit must perform within the first four (4) weekends from the first held percussion festival of the MCCGA season, or a WGI Regional; If one of the first four (4) weekends does not offer a MCCGA Festival (a WGI Regional does count as an MCCGA Festival), then an extra weekend will be added to this timeline

Rationale

If a unit can be promoted at any given MCCGA show prior to championships then I don't see the need to force someone to compete before they are ready. We already have the rule in place requiring groups to attend a minimum of 2 shows in order to be eligible for championships. This would eliminate extra work put on the administration to ensure upon receiving each member's schedule that they are in compliance per their region.

PASSED

22. *Percussion Classifications (Percussion Rule Book)*
Submitted by Chad Schaedler, *MCCGA Percussion Coordinator*

Proposal: Restructure our classification system for the scholastic divisions to be: Scholastic Regional, Scholastic B, Scholastic A, Scholastic Open, and Scholastic World.

Our current classification system:
UNIT CLASSIFICATIONS

A. Classifications

Classification descriptions may be found in Appendix A to this Rulebook

Classification in the MCCGA will consist of the following class, each reflecting a stage in the learning process: discovering, exploring, knowing, and applying

Regional B, Regional A, Scholastic A, Scholastic Open, Scholastic World

Rationale

Currently there is no regional judging sheet or criteria. We are currently using the WGI Scholastic A sheet and asking that our judging community try to interoperate this sheet 3 different ways for 3 different classification systems. My proposal is

to create a Scholastic B division to replace last year's Regional A division. We would then instruct our judging community to use the Scholastic A sheet the same way for each class so scores would be comparable. Example a 85.5 in Scholastic B would equal an 85.5 in Scholastic A. This would also give the current groups in Scholastic B that are on the verge of being competitive members of the Scholastic A division an idea on where they would stand on a competitive level. Rename the Regional B to just Scholastic Regional and create a new sheet for this division that is a level down from the Scholastic A sheet in terms of criteria and wording the box system on the back side of the sheet. This would provide our judging community and instruction/designers a more clear understanding as to what is expected from those competitive units to achieve a score that reflects the box scoring system.

PASSED

23. *Timing Requirements for Percussion Regional Class (Percussion Rule Book)*
Submitted by Chad Schaedler, *MCCGA Percussion Coordinator*

Proposal: Change the minimum and maximum timing requirements for Regional class to match Scholastic A.

Our current rule reads:

Current Regional Rule - *Timing*: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes; maximum performance time is 5 minutes. Total interval time is 8 minutes.

Current Scholastic A Rule - *Timing*: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes; maximum performance time is 6 minutes. Total interval time is 9 minutes.

Rationale

If a unit were to be promoted in the middle of the season from Scholastic Regional to Scholastic B or A, then there would be no change in how short or long the program is. Last season there was a lot of confusion on from directors as to what the time limits were as well as the Time and Penalty judge. This would clear up an confusion. I also believe that people who pay money to support our groups at a competition deserve at least 4 minutes of entertainment per unit. A 3 minute requirement seems a little short in terms of performance.

If this rule passes we would need to eliminate the following statement from our MCCGA Percussion Rule book found under section VIII – Adoption of WGI Rules and Regulations “Take note that our timing requirements differ slightly. Refer to Section V above for timing clarification.”

PASSED

24. *Addition of individual/ensemble performance contest at the MCCGA Percussion Super Show (Percussion Rule Book)*

Submitted by Chad Schaedler, *MCCGA Percussion Coordinator*

Proposal: Allow individual/ensemble performance contest to take place during the day of the MCCGA percussion Super Show.

Rationale

Currently we do not allow individual performance contest to take place at MCCGA events. I would like to test out having a contest this season during our percussion Super Show event which is percussion only prelims/finals event. I think that this would be a great thing to offer the kids and could potentially keep some of the schools around during the final event. If we announce the winners during or retreat then give each winner the opportunity to perform in front of the crowd more groups would stick around throughout the day.

This is not an original idea. This would be modeled after the individual contest that takes place during the Mzingo Music Drumline contest for any of you that have taken your group to compete. The only twist is we would open it up to section ensembles as well...cymbal lines and bass lines, drum set, that way is isn't only isolated to snare drummers, quad drummers, and keyboard players.

Financial Impact

Cost of bringing in a judge to adjudicate the contest would be offset with an entry fee per person/ensemble participating.

FAILED

25. Percussion Required at Festivals (Percussion Rule Book)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Add Section III.A.3. in the Percussion Rule Book to read as follows::

All MCCGA Festivals must include percussion. If a facility wishing to host a guard festival is not suitable for hosting a percussion festival, provisions must be made for a nearby facility (within 10 miles) that will host the percussion festival the same day.

Rationale: Because there is currently no rule for this, there is the potential for a “guard only” show to occur and limit the number of percussion festival opportunities. In the past, the Missouri State show has been without percussion, so Springfield only has 3 opportunities to have a percussion festival in their region. Truman used to be a guard only festival, limiting the number of festivals in KC. This rule would give equal opportunity to percussion units in all regions.

FAILED

26. No Percussion Festivals in January (Percussion Rule Book)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Add Section III.A.3. in the Percussion Rule Book to read as follows:

There will be no percussion festivals prior to February 1 of the competitive season.

Rationale: With the lack of percussion units in the first couple of weeks of the season, it would be more cost effective for MCCGA to not host percussion festivals in January. Last year, one percussion unit performed in January. In 2009, no percussion units were out in January. In 2008, three percussion units performed in January.

FAILED

27. Percussion Championships after Guard Championships (Percussion Rule Book)

Submitted by Chris Putnam, *Education Director*

Proposal: Create a new Section VII.A. in the Percussion Rule Book to read as follows (and renumber subsequent sections as appropriate):

MCCGA Percussion Championships will be held after the MCCGA Color Guard Championships, but not more than one or two weeks subsequent, as determined by the Percussion Advisory Board.

Rationale: With the size of our percussion community and the scheduling conflicts inherent in having so many guards and percussion units at Championships, it is time to look at moving Percussion Championships to a separate day. Also, with the number of units we have competing at WGI Nationals and with that performance being at least 2 weeks after the MCCGA Guard Championships, there is a significant delay between performances. The 2011 season, for example, will see a three week break between MCCGA Champs and WGI Nationals.
