

MCCGA 2012 PROPOSALS

BY-LAWS

1. *Revise the Membership Deadline (By-Laws)* AMENDED AND PASSED

Submitted by MCCGA Executive Board

Proposal: Revise Article III. A. to read: Membership fees shall be assessed each member unit to be paid by check, school purchase order **or PAY PAL** by **December 15th 31ST** of each season. These monies will be used for the day-to-day operation of the circuit (E.g. postage, long distance circuit-related phone calls by officers, judges' training, judges' honorariums, festival operations, website, and trophies/medals for circuit championship contest). **DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM IS DECEMBER 15TH.**

1. Failure to pay current fees or provide a Purchase Order by **December 15th 31ST** may result in a unit being ineligible to participate in MCCGA festivals during the current season
2. Any outstanding fees from previous seasons may result in loss of voting privileges. No refunds will be issued to units beyond the first weekend of the MCCGA season

Rationale: Having the membership deadline on 12/31 gives the circuit 3 weeks to prepare for the first festival of the season. Changing the membership deadline to December 15th will allow more time to distribute rule books, set schedules for the first few festivals and ultimately be better prepared for the season. The Entry form will be available by October 15th (previously October 31st) and the deadline for early entry would be changed to November 15th (previously December 1st)

2. *Color Guard and Percussion Advisory Board (By-Laws)* PASSED

Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Proposal: Revise Article VI, B.4.d to read:

Color Guard and Percussion Advisory Boards-The color guard and percussion advisory board will be comprised of four (4) color guard and three (3) percussion "at large" representatives.

Rationale: The current extended board is comprised of a representative of each competing class within MCCGA equaling 14 representatives. The change in structure will still allow for representation from both guard and percussion, while making discussions more effective and decisions timelier. The specific needs of an individual class are rarely at issue, so a representative from each class is not necessary.

3. *Steering Committees (By-Laws)* PASSED

Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Proposal: Revise Article VII title to read Steering Committees and revise Article VII.A.A to read

The Color Guard Steering Committee will be made up of seven (7) representatives elected at large by the Color Guard and Percussion Advisory Board between December 1 and December 15 each year. The Percussion Steering committee will be made up of 5 representatives elected by the Color Guard and Percussion Advisory Board between December 1 and December 15 each year. The chair of both committees 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 Steering Committees 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. 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. 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.

Rationale: For the 2012 season, MCCGA does not have an affiliate judges association in which to elect representation from. A percussion steering committee has never been clearly defined and documented necessitating the change in this by-law reference.

COLOR GUARD & PERCUSSION RULEBOOKS

4. *Membership Fees (Guard & Percussion Rule Book)* PASSED

Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Proposal: Revise Section I.A. of the Guard and Percussion Rule Books to change the Full Membership fee to \$550 (\$500 before November 15).

Revise Section I.B. of the Guard and Percussion Rule Books to change the Limited Membership fee to \$175 and increase the per show fee to \$150 for festivals and \$200 for prelims/finals festivals and Circuit Championships.

Revise Section I.D. of the Guard and Percussion Rule Books to change the non-member festival fee to \$200.

Rationale: The cost of managing a large circuit with multiple festivals combined with the continuing increase in judges' fees and travel expenses necessitates the increase in membership fees.

5. *Additional fee to attend Championships (Guard & Percussion Rule Book)* PASSED

Submitted by Heather Huggins, *Truman Winter Guard*

Proposal: Add to Section B. of Article V. (Championships) in the Guard Rule Book and to Article VII (Championships) of the Percussion Rule Book an additional eligibility requirement of a \$50 Championship fee.

Championships is an expensive event to run. With the awards, judges, facilities, hotels, etc..., this event winds up costing the circuit a tremendous amount of money. Spectator entrance fees are already high enough (higher than similar events around the country), so we cannot expect to make up revenue that way. Clearly the Membership does not want to ask the host to put forward any money to host the event, so the only alternative is to raise additional funds by having the units pay extra to attend his premiere event.

6. Festival Hosts (Guard & Percussion Rule Book) AMENDED AND PASSED

Duane Williams, Francis Howell North Winter Guard

Proposal: Revise Appendix-Festival Host Application Procedures A of the Color Guard rule book and Article III A. of the percussion rulebook with the Addition of:

-Festival hosts must have at least one participating **competing** unit in MCCGA during the season in which they host.

Rationale: This addition defines the eligibility of an MCCGA Festival Host

7. Festival Host Fees (Guard & Percussion Rule Book) PASSED

Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Proposal: For the 2013 season, Festival host fees will increase to \$1,000.

Rationale: Judges fees and travel expenses continue to increase. There are several proven ways in which a festival host can and in most cases, does make their host fee back on the day of the festival. The increase will help cover the increasing costs associated with judges fees and travel expenses.

8. Revise Judges Code of Ethics (Color Guard and Percussion Rule Book) PASSED

Submitted by: Billy Saccomanno, Chief Judge

Proposal: Revise affiliation rule to match that which exists in 2011 WGI Rule Book, and under Primary affiliation, revise discretion wording to read: "...to be at the discretion of the Chief Judge of MCCGA."

Rationale: Every attempt will be made for proper judging assignments and placing all units under fair adjudication. On rare instances, an affiliated judge may need to be assigned to another festival where his/her unit may not be performing. The Chief Judge needs to have this flexibility in assigning judges to act in the best interest of the MCCGA membership.

9. Festival requirements (Guard & Percussion Rule Book) FAILED

Submitted by Heather Huggins, Truman Winter Guard

Proposal: Add as a subsection to Section A. of the Appendix – Festival Application and Procedures, the following language:

Each Region of the Association will sponsor three (no more or less) Festivals during the season.

Rationale: MCCGA has recently hosted 4 festivals in each region (slowly growing from less than one per weekend to as many as 14 one season). Given the financial situation, the best way to create cost savings is to limit the number of festivals MCCGA sponsors while still keeping an equity amongst the regions. This reduction will also allow for a better competitive environment as more units attend the same festivals during the season. Festival hosts will see increased attendance for the same reason. Judges will be better utilized as shows become larger and they can see more units "head to head" before Championships. Finally, better facilities should be available as the smaller or more inadequate ones are removed from the calendar.

10. Championship Weekend Date (Guard & Percussion Rule Book) PASSED BEGINNING 2013

Submitted by Heather Huggins, Truman Winter Guard

Proposal: Add Section D. of Article V. (Championships) in the Guard Rule Book and to Article VII (Championships) of the Percussion Rule Book:

Championships for all units judged on WGI A, Open, or World Class sheets (criteria) will be held one week prior to the WGI Color Guard World Championships. If such weekend is Easter weekend, then these Championships will take place two weeks prior to the WGI Color Guard World Championships.

Rationale: For a number of units, the WGI World Championships is the culmination of the season and it is a disadvantage for those units to have an extra week break between WGI and MCCGA Championships. Additionally, the season is starting earlier and ending earlier than it usually does. Practically every other circuit has their Championships the weekend being proposed and it seems that our event of over 100 units should be scheduled irrespective of music festivals. Unfortunately, there will always be conflicts, but at least this way everyone knows every year when Championships will be held instead of waiting to see what the Board determines for a schedule in the summer.

Color Guard Rule Book

11. Revise Regional C Classification (Color Guard Rulebook) PASSED

Submitted by: Billy Saccomanno, Chief Judge

Proposal: Change the Name of Regional C to "Novice".

Rationale: This class is for the true, beginning novice programs. It will introduce the students and instructors to the color guard activity, and provide a comfortable place to begin the journey into the activity. This will not be a class to "hang out" in but to "experience" the color guard activity. Units should not be able to remain in this class for more than 2 consecutive years. More emphasis should be placed on training, achievement, and introductory staging and performance. This will steer emphasis away from design, composition and effect. Judging captions utilized will be (3) captions only - Equipment, Movement and Composition/Effect. Timing requirements will follow same parameters as WGI Regional A class New judging sheets will be designed. The new design of the sheets will also provide the units the opportunity to be rewarded with a higher number while "experiencing" this classification. Upon approval, new judging sheets for this class will be designed and presented for approval to the Color Guard Board, no later than September 20, 2011. New sheet and promotion scores will be posted on MCCGA website no later than October 1, 2011.

12. Establish a single Regional A Class (Color Guard Rulebook) PASSED

Submitted by: Billy Saccomanno, Chief Judge

Proposal: Establish one (1) Regional A class for Color guard.

Rationale: Currently, there are no differences between the judging sheets for the current Regional B or A classifications. Both classifications compete on the same criteria and numbers reference. The purpose of the Regional A class is to promote the successful achievement of INTRODUCTORY skills and design qualities. Due to the performance order of any festival, the judging community can sometimes hesitate to reward the Regional B units and/or sometimes sense that these units are less proficient just by nature of the name classification. This sometimes can be an inaccurate representation of this classification. By having all of these units in (1) classification, it will assist in a more accurate reward in terms of scoring and will place "like" units together. Due to the volume of units in this class, MCCGA championships will need to be divided in rounds. Recommend rounds contain minimum of 10 units, and not to exceed 15 units.

13. Eliminate the Promotion scores for the Scholastic A and Open and Independent A and Open Classes (Color Guard Rule Book) PASSED

Submitted by: Billy Saccomanno, Chief Judge

Rationale: Promotions for these classes have been and will continue to be addressed by WGI.

14. Revise Promotion Scale calculations (Color Guard Rule Book) AMENDED AND PASSED

Submitted by: Billy Saccomanno, Chief Judge

Proposal: Eliminate current formula for promotions which is based upon Vocabulary, Composition and Repertoire sub-captions only and adopt the following promotion scale, based on total Score before penalties.

2012 COLOR GUARD PROMOTION SCORES	1/21	1/28	2/4	2/11	2/18	2/25	3/3	3/10
Scholastic C	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66
Scholastic B	62	64	66	68	70	72	74	76
Regional A	67	69	71	73	75	77	79	81
Novice	TO BE DETERMINED							

Rational: Current promotion system being utilized encourages promotion based on only (1) sub-caption of any given caption criteria. This reflects only the possible potential of the unit, rewards the designer and does not take into account how well the unit is achieving. Utilizing a total score system of promotion takes into account both the designer and the performer. This is a more accurate reflection of the unit at a specific point in time in their development throughout the season. Most circuits utilize a total score promotion system. This will simplify the numbers/formula mystique and most importantly provide a clearer understanding to the units.

15. Qualifying score for Championships (Guard Rule Book) AMENDED AND FAILED

Submitted by Heather Huggins, Truman Winter Guard

Proposal: Add the language below as Section D of Article V. (Championships) in the Guard Rule Book:

To be eligible for Championships, each unit must have a Seeding Score (as determined herein) that meets or exceeds the scores indicated below:

World, Open, A, & Regional A	75
Scholastic B & Regional B <i>Regional A</i>	65
Scholastic C, Regional C, & MS/JH	55

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. Last season, this would have made ineligible: 1 MS/JH, 5 Regional B, 1 Scholastic B, 5 Regional A, and 3 Independent Regional A units.

16. Multiple Championship Sites (Guard Rule Book) FAILED

Submitted by Heather Huggins, Truman Winter Guard

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 MCGA Full Board will create a Championship schedule utilizing two sites on the same day

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: This rule was not put in place last year, although MCCGA did schedule Regional B units at a different site than the rest of the color guards. While this certainly helped alleviate the pressures of the one site contest and made the day much more palatable, having only a single class sent to another site was not the most conducive to the students feeling like they were at a color guard championship. A more holistic approach should be taken to ensure a particular class isn't "ostracized" in this process.

PERCUSSION RULEBOOK

17. Percussion promotion scores (Percussion Rule Book) PASSED

Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Proposal: Revise Article VI.I. of the Percussion Rule Book so that Scholastic B promotion scores are 10 points lower than Scholastic A promotion scores.

Rationale: It is nonsensical to have Scholastic B units being promoted with the same score as Scholastic A units. Because the criteria for both classes is the same, this would indicate the Scholastic B unit that is promoted is also ready to be promoted to Open class. If a Scholastic B unit is scoring within 10 points of being promoted to Open class, then that unit is clearly ready to be in Scholastic A class.

18. Percussion Championships (Percussion Rule Book) FAILED

Submitted by: MCCGA Executive Board

Proposal: Eliminate Article VII.A.2 that reads:

For percussion championships only, if there are more than 10 groups in a class there will be a preliminary round followed by a finals. The number moving into finals will be determined by the MCCGA Executive Board. Classes that have less than 10 groups will be a finals only contest. If rounds are used in the preliminary contest, the highest scoring three (3) units from each round will

2012 MCCGA Proposals

advance to the finals contest and any additional units advancing will be the next highest scoring units regardless of round

Rationale: The percussion classes over the last couple of seasons have "evened out" in that there is not a class with a large number of participating units. The necessity for a preliminary competition does not exist any longer. This will allow all units the same opportunities for championships performance without eliminating just 1 or 2 groups from participating in Championships Finals.

2009- PRA had 10 units in prelims, 2 were eliminated for finals PSA had 13 units in prelims, 5 were eliminated for finals (NO PSB class in 2009)

2010- PRA had 11 units in prelims, 3 were eliminated for finals

2011- PSA had 11 units in prelims, 4 were eliminated for finals.