

# **WGPO Proposals for Consideration**

## **June 10, 2017**

### **Proposal 1:**

**Require a double panel of judges for State Championships for all classes of Color Guard units. The double panel will be determined by the judge's coordinator.**

Rationale: Create a more accurate representation of judges' analysis over the course of the season. This would also follow WGI's approach for accurately scoring units during Finals at WGI Power Regionals and World Championships.

Financial Impact: Paying additional panels of judges at State Championships.

*Proposed by Susan Wessel and Veronica Johnson*

### **Proposal 2:**

**Remove Section IX, #5: "This does not apply to the middle school class, there is no member limit on the middle school class.**

**Amendment: The Middle School class will follow the eligibility requirements of Regional A Class under WGI.**

Rationale: This would prevent any complications for any units wanting to compete outside our circuit. There is currently no class below Regional A under WGI. Any middle school units wanting to compete would have to adhere to the performer limit of 30 when competing in the Regional A class.

Financial Impact: None

*Proposed by Susan Wessel and Veronica Johnson*

### **Proposal 3:**

**Disqualification Procedure: In the event of a unit being disqualified or denied performance, at least two executive board members must be in agreement. The executive board president will be the tie-breaker if necessary in the instance of a split-decision. The contest director will be responsible for informing the unit in question as soon as the decision has been made.**

Rationale: There is currently no disqualification procedure. This would avoid any conflicts and miscommunications between all parties involved.

Financial Impact: None

*Proposed by Susan Wessel and Veronica Johnson*

#### **Proposal 4:**

##### **State Championship Seeding:**

##### **Performance order will be determined by the following procedures;**

- a. All units will be seeded for State Championships using their most recent contest score increased by 1.5 points each week of the contest calendar.
- b. Once units are sorted, with the highest score performing last, classes will be divided into groups of three for a random draw. All units must be included in the random draw. If necessary, classes may be divided into groups of three and two to ensure all units are included in the random draw. For example, a class with 7 units would be divided into groups of 3, 2, and 2. Color guards with identical scores will be randomly assigned to a sorting group.
- c. Any unit competing in a WGI regional during the third segment of the WGPO contest calendar can substitute their score for State Championship seeding.
- d. The contest director will be responsible for determining State Championship seeding. The State Championship schedule will be made available on the official WGPO website by midnight, the day following the last contest scheduled in the third segment.

Rationale: This procedure is more aligned to WGI's policy for performance order at World Championships.

Financial Impact: None.

*Proposed by Susan Wessel and Veronica Johnson*

#### **Proposal 5:**

**Current rule IV.2:** "The official membership shall consist of one representative from each member guard or percussion unit in good standing"

**Proposed Change:** "The official membership shall consist of one representative from each school district/sponsoring organization (two representatives if a district or sponsoring organization fields a guard and a percussion unit) in good standing"

**Reasoning:** The current rule gives significant voting power to those that field multiple units, making representation for schools that only field one unit disproportionately disadvantaged. For example, in this past season only 15 schools (out of 50) make up nearly 50% of the membership as it is defined right now (39 of the 80 units listed as members according to the website). This gives those with more groups a near majority when they represent less than 1/3 of the participating organizations.

Proposed by: Kristina Cobler, Adair high school and middle school guards

#### **Proposal 6:**

**Current rule IV.4:** "A quorum shall consist of eight (8) members of those units active and in good standing with Winter Guard and Percussion of Oklahoma"

**Proposed Change:** "A quorum shall consist of 25% of the members of those units active and in good standing with Winter Guard and Percussion of Oklahoma"

**Reasoning:** The current definition of quorum is just too small to represent how large our current membership is. This would also allow for the quorum size to change as our membership size changes.

Proposed by: Kristina Cobler, Adair high school and middle school guards

### **Proposal 7:**

**Current rule VI.13:** “Judges’ Critique” shall be offered at the local level for all WGPO sanctioned regular season contests with the following conditions:

- a. All unit directors wishing to participate in critique MUST sign up for a critique time on the day of competition.
- b. All unit directors wishing to participate in critique MUST listen to their judges’ tapes and fill out the “Instructors’ Critique Form” PRIOR to meeting with a judge for critique
- c. Critique shall begin 15 minutes after last competing group and will run in an orderly fashion as directed by T&P judge.
- d. Guard Critique shall be three (3) minutes per caption: Equipment, Movement, Ensemble Analysis, General Effect, and one (1) minute for travel between captions.

**Proposed Change:** Add section “e” to read as follows: “All unit directors wishing to participate in critique MUST attend WGPO directors’/judges’ training or complete the WGPO online training prior to the beginning of the season. Training must include Timing & Penalty specific training.”

**Reasoning:** Overall, there is a great need for education within our circuit. Too many units received warnings and penalties throughout the season because they are not taking the time to read and re-read the WGI rulebook. This would hopefully encourage directors to seek education through the circuit, enhance the critique experience for all involved, and lessen the number of warnings/penalties given in the future.

Proposed by: Kristina Cobler, Adair high school and middle school guards

### **Proposal 8:**

**Add to XII. Eligibility to Compete in Championships Section 2D: "Units in middle school classification will only be required to perform in two contests during any segment to be eligible for circuit championships."**

Rationale: As the state budget crisis trickles down to our individual programs, requiring our middle school units to perform one less contest can help programs save money through reduction of transportation costs, food costs, and staff wages. In addition, this will help reduce student burnout at the youngest level as they are introduced to the joy of performing in color guard, while limiting the number of long, exhausting contest days that students are required to participate in. Units that would like to perform in more contests will still be able to continue to do so, while lessening the burden on schools that do not want to.

Proposed By: Samuel Karafotis, Director of Bands, Atoka Public Schools

### **Proposal 9:**

#### **Remove requirement for promotion during season (#2. b. and c.)**

Justification: There is a great deal of undue stress added to teams to attempt to develop, teach, work, and clean new choreography and drill when a group is promoted. Especially from Regional class to Scholastic class! Allow groups to develop and improve within the classification for the season. This would also remove the requirement for the board to have to “meet” for appeals. This change will only affect a handful of teams. There were very few promotions during the 2017 season.

Proposed By: Robin Steidley, McAlester

### **Proposal 10:**

#### **Section X Unit Classification**

##### **A. Add Middle school guard B and Middle school guard A**

Justification: The number of entries in the middle school classification has grown greatly in the past year. Some larger schools in this class are able to have a team of just 8<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders; other smaller schools have performers from 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> with much less experience and/or skill set. This could help even the playing field for smaller schools.

##### **B. Add Scholastic Regional Class C (as it was 6 or 7 years ago)**

Justification: The number of entries in Scholastic Regional Class B has grown greatly! Scholastic Regional Class C is an excellent starting point for guards who have not participated in winter guard and/or are novice! This would even out the numbers of groups in all classes.

Proposed by: Robin Steidley, McAlester