

WGPO Handbook Proposals
Summer 2022
Amended 9/11/2022

1. Submitted By: Casey Noel

Current Rule: XI.C.3. Contest sponsors shall pay a sponsorship/administrative fee according to the number of guards that attend the contest. This fee will be invoiced the day of the contest at a rate of \$35 per unit competing. The contest sponsor of the solo/ensemble contest shall pay a flat fee of \$350. Contest sponsor fees (Including Championships sponsor fees) are due no later than 30 days after the date of their contest. A late fee of \$100 will be assessed for payment made after 30 days. Late payment may result in a contest host forfeited their right to host a WGPO sanctioned contest in the following season,

Proposed Change: Contest sponsors shall pay a sponsorship/administrative fee according to the number of guards that attend the contest **in person**. This fee will be invoiced the day of the contest at a rate of \$35 per unit competing. **Units competing virtually will not be included in this fee**. Contest sponsor fees (Including Championships sponsor fees) are due no later than 30 days after the date of their contest. A late fee of \$100 will be assessed for payment made after 30 days. Late payment may result in a contest host forfeited their right to host a WGPO sanctioned contest in the following season

Reasoning/Financial Impact: This needed to be updated to reflect the need for virtual submissions. Contest hosts should not be required to pay for units that will not bring any potential profit to the contest (through admission and concessions) since they are virtual submissions.

Approved/Declined- WITHDRAWN

2. Submitted By: Casey Noel

Current Rule: XI.E. Regular Season Contest Hosts must provide the following...

1. Provide a 60'x90' performance area along with a 10' "safety zone" border around the performance area, this should not include walkways for spectators. Preference will be given to sites that have an open performance area.

AND

12.Pick up the circuit regulation floor from the previous competition site on their side of the state (ex: East/West).

a. Contest hosts are responsible for communicating with other hosts in order to easily facilitate the transportation of the circuit floor.

b. The circuit regulation floor must be used at every WGPO sanctioned contest (exceptions may be made for the solo/ensemble contest at the discretion of the WGPO Contest Director)

c. The contest host is also responsible for folding the circuit regulation floor appropriately and storing for safe transportation by the next unit.

Proposed Change:XI.E. Regular Season Contest Hosts must provide the following...

1. Provide a 60'x90' performance area along with a 10' "safety zone" border around the performance area, this should not include walkways for spectators. Preference will be given to sites that have an open performance area.

2. Provide a BLACK performance floor covering an 60' X 90' (or larger) area. This must be approved by the Contest Director prior to the contest date.

a. The contests host may provide their own BLACK floor covering or they may choose to use the circuit regulation floor for a \$100 fee.

i. Any unit utilizing the circuit regulation tarp must...

a. Pick up the circuit regulation floor from the previous competition site on their side of the state (ex: East/West).

b. Communicate with other hosts in order to easily facilitate the transportation of the circuit floor.

c. Fold the circuit regulation floor appropriately and ensure it is safe for transportation by the next unit.

Reasoning/Financial Impact: Small potential loss if host sites can provide their own black floor coverings. It's unethical to tell hosts they MUST use the circuit tarps and then charge them to use it if they can meet the requirements.

Approved/Declined

3. Submitted By: Nicole Bayliss

Current Rule: *VI. A. 2.a, and VI. B.3.a*, "Requirements for a complete Scholarship application shall include an essay response to a prompt given by the WGPO Vice President..."

Proposed Change: "Requirements for a complete Scholarship application shall include a 200+ word essay response to a prompt given by the WGPO Vice President..."

Reasoning/Financial Impact: Add clarity regarding the minimum length of the essay response. No financial impact.

Approved/Declined

4. Submitted By: Nicole Bayliss

Current Rule: *VI., C.* Marching Arts Scholarship 1-7

Proposed Change: 8. Scholarship applications will be accepted beginning March 1 and will close the weekend prior to WGPO Circuit Championships.

Reasoning/Financial Impact: No application deadline was previously noted. No financial impact.

Approved/Declined

5. Submitted By: Nicole Bayliss

Current Rule: *VIII.* Disciplinary Action, D. Signs are not permitted in the gym during performances, unless sanctioned by WGPO.

Proposed Change: ADD: Signs and noisemakers (e. g., air horns, vuvuzelas, whistles) are not permitted in the gym during performances, unless sanctioned by WGPO.

Reasoning/Financial Impact: Noisemakers may be considered equally (if not more) distracting than signs. Noisemakers may also prevent the performers and/or audience members from hearing important announcements in the gym.

Approved/Declined

6. Submitted By: Nicole Bayliss

Current Rule: XII. Contest Procedures, H. All Regular Performance contests will conduct "Captains Only" retreat ceremonies. "Full" retreat ceremony will only occur at WGPO Circuit Championships.

Proposed Change: All regular performance contests after the conclusion of Segment 1 will conduct "Captains Only" retreat ceremonies. "Full" retreat ceremony will only occur at WGPO Circuit Championships.

Reasoning/Financial Impact: Incorporating the Regional and Scholastic classification review period into the current rule.

Approved/Declined

7. Submitted By: Nicole Bayliss

Current Rule: XII. Contest Procedures, K. Awards will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for all classes (except Middle School) at all contests.

Proposed Change: Awards will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for all classes (except Middle School and Novice) at all contests that take place after the conclusion of Segment 1.

Reasoning/Financial Impact: Incorporating the Regional and Scholastic classification review period into the current rule.

Approved/Declined

8. Submitted By: Nicole Bayliss

Current Rule: VI. WGPO Scholarships, A. General Scholarship, B. Diversity Higher Education Scholarship, etc.

Proposed Change: Consolidate the "General Scholarship" and "Diversity Scholarship" sections into one "Higher Education Scholarships" section, with the following wording:

VI. WGPO Scholarships

WGPO is pleased to offer a number of scholarship opportunities to its participants who could benefit from financial aid in the pursuit of higher education and/or their participation in the Marching Arts. All scholarships are 1-time awards, and a new recipient (or recipients) will be selected each year. Recipients will be acknowledged at the closing of WGPO Circuit Championships.

A. Higher Education Scholarships

1. Applicants must be in their senior year of high school, or currently attending a college, university, or vocational institution to be considered.

2. Applicants must be an active member of a WGPO competing unit that is attending the WGPO Circuit Championships.

3. Requirements for a complete Scholarship application shall include:

- a. An essay response to a prompt given by the WGPO Vice President,
- b. Two letters of recommendation from non-family members,
- c. A current photo, and

d. A completed informational application

4. The scholarship application must be completed in FULL and submitted no later than March 1st of the current year. Any scholarship application either not completed in full, or not submitted by March 1st will be deemed ineligible for consideration.

5. The WGPO Vice President will review all applications and recommend the top five (5) nominees for final consideration. In honor and celebration of the diverse membership of WGPO units, a minimum of one of the higher education scholarships will be awarded to a student who is of a race or ethnicity other than white/caucasian. A committee will select the scholarship recipient(s) from the five (5) nominees. This committee will consist of the Executive Board minus the President, and three (3) adjudicators. In the case of a draw between two (2) nominees, the WGPO President will select the winner.

5. The recipient(s) must attend a college, university, or vocational institution the fall semester after the scholarship is awarded.

6. The Scholarship will be paid directly to the student's account at their college, university, or vocational institution. Funds will be disbursed in the fall following either the student's graduation from high school, or the completion of their spring semester at their college, university, or vocational institution.

7. Upon the scholarship announcement at WGPO Circuit Championships, the recipient(s) will be given a document acknowledging their award, which will include instructions (authored and/or approved by the Treasurer) on how to claim their scholarship funds through WGPO.

B. Marching Arts Scholarship (formatting change only - previously C.)

C. Sport of the Arts Scholarship (formatting change only - previously D.)

Reasoning/Financial Impact: The requirements for the previous "General Scholarship" and "Diversity Scholarship" applications are the same, but they were treated as separate forms in the 2022 season. This caused some confusion among the applicants, who only applied for one award, despite being eligible for both. (No financial impact.)

Approved/Declined

9. Submitted By: Nicole Bayliss

Current Rule: XI, C, 3. Contest sponsors shall pay a sponsorship/administrative fee according to the number of guards that attend the contest. This fee will be invoiced the day of the contest at a rate of \$35 per unit competing. The contest sponsor of the solo/ensemble contest shall pay a flat fee of \$350. ...

Proposed Change: Remove fee language for S&E, if that contest is to remain virtual going forward.

Reasoning/Financial Impact: No physical host for S&E will mean a loss of the previously charged \$350 flat fee.

Approved/Declined

10. Submitted By: Nicole Bayliss

Current Rule: XI, E, 12a. i. "i. Units wishing to sell items at any contest they are not hosting must coordinate that with the contest host prior to the contest day."

Proposed Change: Delete language under item 12, as it is repeated in item 13 under "Contest Booths"

Reasoning/Financial Impact: Eliminate redundant language

** Friendly Amendment**

Approved/Declined

11. Submitted By: Casey Noel

Current Rule: XII. I. The order of appearance at championships for guard groups will be determined by the average of a unit's two highest scores of the first 8 contests. For percussion groups, the order of appearance at championships will be determined by the average of a unit's two highest scores of the season. Contests with a prelims/finals format shall count as 2 contests.

Proposed Change: Delete this section. The way we actually seed for championships is listed in the section just below this in XII.J. so we currently have conflicting information.

Reasoning/Financial Impact: The way we actually seed for championships is listed in the section just below this in XII.J. so we currently have conflicting information.

Approved/Declined

12. Submitted By: Jeremy Stevens

Current Rule: //. The Judges' Coordinator, in collaboration with the Percussion Coordinator, shall assign judges as needed for each contest. He/she shall also be on hand at each contest, or appoint a delegate in their absence, to clarify any contest rules or regulations. He/she will work in cooperation with the Color Guard Education Director and Percussion Coordinator on the education and training of prospective judges. This office is to be elected on all ODD calendar years.

The duties of the WGPO Judges Coordinator include, but are not limited, to the following:

1. Bring all judges' forms necessary for the day's events.
2. Be present in the stands to view as many of the guards as possible.
3. Assign and adjust the judging panels as necessary due to travel problems or illness.
4. Provide WGI judges on the local contest panels when feasible and affordable.
5. Work in conjunction with the Treasurer to ensure that judges' travel costs are kept at a minimum. The Judges' Coordinator may NOT make any travel purchases without the expressed consent of the treasurer.

Proposed Change: Add the following to number 2:

2. Be present in the stands and performance area to view as many of the guards as possible, or assign a chief judge to be at the contest as the judges coordinator's proxy.

Reasoning/Financial Impact: No financial impact. This allows our judges coordinator to travel to other circuits.

Approved/Declined

13. Submitted By: Jeremy Stevens

Current Rule: XI. Contest Host Applications

E. Regular Season Contest Hosts must provide the following:

14. Provide all workers necessary:

- a. Gate
- b. Unit check-in
- c. Two Judge runners that will remain in the judges' area at all times of the contest day
- d. Time monitors for warm-up areas
- e. Ushers to keep spectators out of judging areas and keep people from moving around during performances.
- f. Extra workers to offer direction in order to keep things running smoothly
- g. The contest host must have a building engineer on duty during the event to control all structural, electrical, HVAC, and plumbing issues.
- h. A designated adult who is capable of picking up judges from their local hotel and returning them after the conclusion of the contest day. The Contest Host must coordinate with the Judges' Coordinator, Percussion Coordinator (if hosting a percussion contest), and the WGPO Contest Director in order to ensure a smooth experience for judges. This transportation is not the Judges Coordinator's responsibility.

Proposed Change: Addition of

- i. A minimum of 5 floor helpers to assist units (when needed) with their floor. They will not assist with its being moved out of the performance site, though. Only to assist in opening, setting, closing, and subsequent folding within the contest site performance area. This would require the host site to have trained these helpers on tarp do's and don'ts.

Reasoning/Financial Impact: No financial impact. There is a need for smaller groups to have some assistance with their tarps/floors at performance sites. This will assist in alleviating any stress regarding their tarp/floor.

Approved/Declined-WITHDRAWN

14. Submitted By: Jeremy Stevens

Current Rule: Under XI. Contest Host Applications

F. WGPO shall provide the following for all sanctioned contests:

1. Judges Coordinator, Percussion Coordinator, Certified Judges, Contest Director, Tabulation, and Competition Suite.

Proposed Change: Addition

Judges Coordinator/Chief Judge, (continue as before), and removing Tabulation. Tabulation is done through Competition Suite. This word is now redundant.

Reasoning/Financial Impact: No financial impact. Updating current procedures and verbiage.

Approved/Declined

****UPDATED****

15. Submitted By: Michael Clark

Current Rule: Current Membership Fees

1. \$650 for primary color guard AND primary percussion unit
2. \$350 for second unit
3. \$250 for each additional unit

Proposed Change: Proposed Membership Fees

1. \$750 for primary color guard AND primary percussion unit
2. \$450 for second unit of the same school district
3. \$350 for each additional unit of the same school district

Reasoning/Financial Impact: Raising the membership fees will help us offer competitive pay for judges and bring in judges we might not otherwise have access to.

Using the 2022 membership numbers of 86 guard and 8 percussions:

An increase in membership fees of \$50 per unit would bring in an estimated \$4,500

An increase in membership fees of \$75 per unit would bring in an estimated \$7,050

An increase in membership fees of \$100 per unit would bring in an estimated \$9,000

An increase in membership fees of \$115 per unit would bring in an estimated \$10,810

Friendly Amendment:

1. \$700 for primary color guard AND primary percussion unit
4. \$400 for second unit of the same school district
5. \$300 for each additional unit of the same school district
6. New Units: \$500

Approved/Declined (as AMMENDED)

****UPDATED****

16. Submitted By: Jeremy Stevens

Current Rule: *XX. WGPO Judges' Association*

E. Listed below are the recommended pay scales for the 2021 season:

1. 2021 Guard:

- a. Level I = 1st year \$150 for 30 units \$5 per unit over 30
- b. Level II = 2-3 years experience \$175 for 30 units \$6 per unit over 30
- c. Level III = 4+ years experience \$225 for 40 units \$7 per unit over 30 (includes former WGI judge)

- d. Current WGI or former WGI judge that receives current WGI rate of \$400 for 30 units, \$7 per unit over 30
- e. Judging for an official winter guard circuit, Bands of America, Drum Corps International, or any official judges' association \$300 for 30 units, \$7 per unit over 30

Proposed Change: E. Listed below are the recommended pay scales for the 2022 season:

1. 2022 Guard:

- a. Level I = 1st year \$350 or \$5 per unit whichever is greater
- b. Level II = 2-3 years' experience \$450 or \$6 per unit whichever is greater
- c. Level III = 4+ years' experience \$600 or \$7 per unit whichever is greater.
- d. Competitive adjusted rate for WGI or former WGI judge that receives current WGI rate of \$450 or \$8 per unit whichever is greater.
- e. Judging for an official winter guard circuit, Bands of America, Drum Corps International, or any official judges' association = \$550 for 30 units or \$8 per unit whichever is greater.

Reasoning/Financial Impact:WGI pay scale: WGI Caption Judges

One Day - \$400 or \$8 per performance (whichever is greater)

Two Day - \$750 or \$8 per performance(whichever is greater)**RATIONALE:**

This does add a substantial financial impact on our finances. For example, this season, the average total amount for judges fees on a given contest, without overages, was about \$2,500. As an example, the Adair contest, with these new added costs, would have been about \$400 more expensive. \$400 multiplied by 9 weeks is an average total of \$3600 added to our expenses season wide on average. Of course, this expense would be much greater on a championship event.

\$10,500+ for next season.

The reasoning is that we **MUST** stay competitive in our pay to book a varied group of judges from across the country. NTCA starts judges at \$400 per contest for 30 units and adds \$8/unit over 30. We don't have 400 units, but as we approach 100 units and surpass that number, and the number of nationally competitive units, the need for a wider pool of judges warrants us to increase our judges' pay.

Approved/Declined -WITHDRAWN

17. Submitted By:Jeremy Stevens

Current Rule: XX.H. Timing and Penalties judges will be paid \$150.00 for the first 30 units, then \$5.00 for each additional unit, not to exceed \$300, plus a round trip travel fee calculated using \$0.35 per mile rate if driving to the contest. Anyone judging this caption must be aware of both WGI Guard & Percussion rules and guidelines, and will be trained by the Judges Coordinator and Percussion Coordinator.

Proposed Change: H. Timing and Penalties judges will be paid \$300 or \$6 per unit whichever is greater for a one day contest and \$550 or \$6 per unit whichever is greater for a two day contest. A round trip travel fee calculated using \$0.35 per mile rate if driving to the contest.. Anyone judging this caption must be aware of both WGI Guard and Percussion rules and guidelines and will be trained by the Judges Coordinator and Percussion Coordinator.

Reasoning/Financial Impact: In order to make us current with WGI pay rates, this is a necessary change. It does, however, double the costs for T&P over the course of the season so there is a financial risk involved.

Approved/Declined -WITHDRAWN

18. Submitted By: Jeremy Stevens

Current Rule: The Word "Promotion" throughout the handbook

Proposed Change: Change that word to "reclassification" throughout the handbook

Reasoning/Financial Impact: Update of verbiage to fall in line with WGI standards and practices.

Approved/Declined

19. Submitted By: Michael Clark

Current Rule: XII.Q. The WGPO Contest Director shall be paid a sum of \$4000 divided equally into 4 (four) payments of \$1000 monthly beginning each year on January 1st and ending on April 1st. A round trip travel fee at \$0.35 per mile will be paid for driving to the contest. The circuit membership will elect the Contest Director as per the Handbook guidelines.

Proposed Change: I propose increasing it to \$4500 annually which is \$1125 per month for 4 months with the first payment being January 1 and the last payment being April 1.

Reasoning/Financial Impact: Increase the Contest Directors compensation to be more in line with neighboring state circuits and the amount of work performed. Financial impact: \$500.

Approved/Declined -WITHDRAWN