

Summer 23 Handbook Proposals

1. **Original Rule:**XVII.F.2. Novice Class Unit

- a. Members must attend high schools from the same school district.
- b. Unit members must be either in their first or second year of participation or the director/instructor is in their very first year teaching guard, not their first year at a new school teaching guard. They must be a brand new teacher/director.
- c. The purpose of this classification is to take units from beginning fundamental steps towards participation in Scholastic Regional Classes.
- d. They are judged using one score and will be promoted into SRB once they reach a certain score, set by the eboard and color guard review committee.
- e. All scoring changes and rubrics will be decided on by the eboard and color guard review committee.

Proposed Change:

- a. Members must attend high schools in the same school district.
- b. Unit members must be either in their first or second year of participation of the director/instructor is in their very first year teaching guard, not their first year at a new school teaching guard. They must be a beans-new teacher/director
- c. This classification aims to take units from the beginning fundamental steps towards participation in Scholastic Regional Classes.
- d. They will be judged using the Scholastic Regional A sheet from WGI and will receive both scores so that they are made aware of their future placement or ranking in SRB/SRA when they are reclassified or for the next season.
- e. The eboard and color guard review committee will decide all scoring changes and rubrics when appropriate or needed.

Reasoning: The Novice class does not need to be on its own criteria or rubric. Using the Regional A sheet will allow these groups to see exactly where they might land in the SRB/SRA classes once they are ready to be reclassified.

Financial Impact: There is no financial impact.

Submitted By: JEREMY STEVENS

PASS/FAIL

2. **Original Rule:** II. Officers and the Executive Board of Directors (A-M)

Proposed Change: N. The Historian will be responsible for documenting and maintaining the organization's history, as assisted by the Secretary. This position shall be a non-voting member of the Executive board and shall be appointed as needed by the active circuit President. The duties of the Historian include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. in collaboration with the WGPO Webmaster, ensure the website's archives are complete and up to date. This includes end of season awards, scholarship winners, and HOF inductees.
2. With the assistance of the E-Board and/or WGPO Hall of Fame members, locate historical photos and records to share on the WGPO website.

3. Work with the Marketing Director and Education Director to promote the understanding of the history of the organization among the current membership.

4. Under the guidance of the Secretary, ensure an accurate and complete record of meeting minutes is maintained, making sure to highlight important events for the historical record (e. g. the establishment of new scholarships, new classifications, etc.)

Reasoning: There is a need to document the history of our circuit.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: NICOLE BAYLISS

PASS/FAIL

3. **Original Rule:** III. Membership, E. Dues for patron members will be \$25.00 per year. Deadline for this membership is the same as a unit. Patron membership includes entry to all WGPO sanctioned events, including Circuit Championships

Proposed Change: Remove rule.

Reasoning: This has not been utilized, and there is no clear language about how to identify "patron members" from contest to contest.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: NICOLE BAYLISS

PASS/FAIL

4. **Original Rule:** XI.H.2. The price of admission for all regular season WGPO contests shall be \$5 per student (with valid student id or report card), \$10 per adult and children under the age of 5 will be admitted for free.

Proposed Change: The price of admission for all regular season WGPO contest shall be \$10 per person, with children under the age of 5 being admitted for free.

Reasoning: The proposed language mirrors the Championships language in item #3, in that there is a flat fee for the contest, without any discounts. This will help clear up any confusion at the ticket booth on the contest day.

Financial Impact: Possible increase from anyone who may have previously received discounted student ticket.

Submitted By: NICOLE BAYLISS

PASS/FAIL

5. **Original Rule:** XI.H.4. VIP tickets may be available at Championships at an increased price.

Proposed Change: Remove rule.

Reasoning: This is not used, and there is no process documented to be able to identify a VIP ticket holder, nor a clear way for the host to enforce priority seating for VIPs.

Financial impact: None.

Submitted By: NICOLE BAYLISS

PASS/FAIL

6. **Original Rule:** XIV.D. A contest/show will be canceled if no more than twelve (12) units are participating...

Proposed Change: A guard contest/show will be canceled if no more than one quarter of WGPO guard member units are participating...

Reasoning: Given the growth of the circuit, a minimum of 12 units seems too low to justify the financial impact of judges' travel and fees. Using "one quarter" will also allow the minimum number of units to fluctuate with the overall circuit membership.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: At the board's discretion. Decisions will be made at least two weeks in advance.

Financial impact: More unit participation will help offset contest costs.

Submitted By: NICOLE BAYLISS

PASS/FAIL **TABLED**

7. **Original Rule:** II.E. ... The Treasurer shall also perform such other duties as usually pertained to the office or those assigned to them by the President of the Executive Board."

Proposed Change: The Treasurer shall also perform other such duties as usually pertained to the office, including all record retention and reporting requirements necessary to maintain WGPO's 501(c)(3) status with the IRS.

Reasoning: Language has been absent from the handbook since WGPO was granted 501(c)(3) status. The maintenance of the incorporation naturally falls under the Treasurer's duties, and should be highlighted.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: NICOLE BAYLISS

PASS/FAIL **TABLED (included in the handbook overhaul)**

8. **Original Rule:** I. Name of Organization

A. The name of this organization shall be Winter Guard and Percussion of Oklahoma (referred to as WGPO) and it shall be a Circuit Partner of Winter Guard International (referred to as WGI).

B. The mission of Winter Guard and Percussion of Oklahoma is to provide young performers with a chance to display their unique skills in regulated competitions with their peers; to provide continual education to color guard and percussion instructors; and to promote growth of the winter guard and winter percussion activities within the Oklahoma Region.

Proposed Change: A. Name: The legal name of the organizations shall be known as Winter Guard and Percussion of Oklahoma, and shall here in be referred to as "WPGO.". WGPO shall be a Circuit Partner of Winter Guard International (WGI).

B. Mission: The mission of Winter Guard and Percussion of Oklahoma is to provide young performers with a chance to display their unique skills in regulated competitions with their peers; to provide continual education to color guard, percussions and winds instructors; and to promote growth of the winter guard, indoor percussion, and indoor winds activities within Oklahoma.

C. Affiliations: WGPO shall be a Circuit Partner of Winter Guard International (WGI).

Reasoning: Adding winds.

Financial Impact:

Submitted By: KERI BATES

PASS/FAIL **TABLED (included in the handbook overhaul)**

9. **Original Rule:** Entire Handbook

Proposed Change: Selecting a date in July to meet (in-person) to restructure the entire handbook and bylaws. A committee of volunteer membership to represent all sections (WG classes, Percussions and Winds - if we have anyone) to meet.

Reasoning: Purpose - to move, rebuild, reorganize the entire handbook. The new handbook will be released to membership prior to the September meeting for memberships review, and then voted into use in September. Keri Bates, will provide the 501c3/Non-Profit framework to begin the process with.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: KERI BATES

PASS/FAIL

10. **Original Rule:** XVIII.C.1.b - All Regional units will compete as one respective class during the Segment1 contests.

XVIII.C.1.c - All Scholastic units will compete as one respective class during the Segment 1 contests

Proposed Change: XVIII.C.1. Each unit chooses their own classification at the start of each season. If the director does not know what classification their unit belongs in, they will place the unit in the generic "Regional" or "Scholastic" classification when registering. That unit MUST appear at the preview show for classification. If the unit cannot attend the Preview show, video of the unit's performance must be submitted to the circuit before the date of the Preview Show.

Reasoning: 1. This allows directors to place their units in the classification that they believe is the best for their students. It still allows new directors guidance if they are unsure.

2. This will restore the first 2 contests to scored contests.

Financial Impact: Awards/plaques for the first two contests.

Submitted By: BEN SPREITER

PASS (28)/FAIL(21)

11. **Original Rule:** III.A.1 - \$700 for the primary color guard unit AND primary percussion unit

Proposed Change: \$600 for the primary color guard unit AND the primary percussion unit.

Reasoning: The current dues are too high. When we were smaller, we did need to pay higher dues to pay for judges and other items. However, with the growth of the circuit, this is no longer the case and we can lower the dues.

Financial Impact: Loss of income from lowered dues. (added close to \$8,000 loss)

Submitted By: BEN SPREITER

PASS(14)/FAIL (35)

12. **NEW RULE:** add to Judges Coordinators responsibilities -II.I.4 - Work to recruit and maintain a local pool of judges.

Proposed Change:This is an addition. I would like it to be #4 and move all others renumbered accordingly

Reasoning: In the Judges' Coordinator's responsibilities it states that they will bring in WGI judges when feasible and affordable. However, it does not state anything about maintaining a local judges pool. While the handbook does discuss our local judges association, WGPOJA, I feel that this needs to be stated in the Judges' Coordinator's responsibilities.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: BEN SPREITER

PASS/FAIL **TABLED (Restructure)**

13. **Original Rule:** VI. Scholarships

Proposed Change: VI. WGPO Scholarship Program

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, continuing education and participation in the Marching Arts. All scholarships are 1-time awards, and a new recipient will be selected each year. Recipients will be acknowledged at the massing of WGPO Circuit Championships.

Scholarship Award Review Process - The WGPO Vice President will review all applications and recommend the top five (5) candidates for final consideration to the Scholarship Committee consisting of the Executive Board (Vice President, Secretary,

Treasurer, Judges Coordinator, Director of Education, and Percussion Coordinator) minus the President, and five (5) volunteers from current unit directors/assistant directors or techs. In the case of a draw between two (2) candidates, the WGPO President will select the winner.

A. Sport of the Arts Scholarship - awarded to applicant(s) who wishes to participate in a WGPO unit within the state of Oklahoma but may not be able to participate due to financial constraints. Scholarship moneys will be sent directly to the WGPO unit. WGPO will award a minimum of \$250 one time scholarship to at minimum to one (1) Candidate.

A. Eligibility Requirements:

- Active member of a WGPO competing unit for the current season

B. Application: Application to be emailed to WGPO Vice President at vicepresident@wgpoklahoma.org by February 20th at 11:59 pm central time:

- Letter of Need from the guard director, band director or school representative addressing the candidates need for financial assistance to continue participation in their unit.

B. Higher Education Scholarship - awarded to an outstanding applicants(s) attending college, university, or vocational school in the summer or fall following the current season WGPO Championships. Scholarship moneys will be sent directly to the higher education institution of the scholarship awardees. WGPO will award at minimum \$1000 one time scholarships at minimum to two (2) candidates.

A. Eligibility Requirements:

- current high schools seniors
- Or currently attending college, university or vocational school
- Active member of a WGPO competing unit for the current season

B. Application to be emailed to WGPO Vice President at vicepresident@wgpoklahoma.org by March 20th at 11:59 pm central time:

• 500+ word essay response to “How has participation in WinterGuard/ Percussion/Winds effected my life?” Please include the following in your Essay:

- *Academic progress*: includes grade point average, class load, challenges that you've overcome in your academic endeavors.
- *Extracurricular activities*: Including all specific scholastic, recreational and civic activities. Please identify specific roles, accomplishments, and responsibilities for these activities. Include the number of seasons (color guard, percussion, winter guard, or winter percussion).
- *Future plans*: What are your plans and goals for post-high school education, both in academics and career focus. Where do you want to be in five years?

- 2 Letters of Recommendation from non-family members
- Current High-Res Photo

C. Marching Arts Scholarship - awarded to help pay corps member dues while the recipient participates in any of the Drum Corp International (DCI) member corps during the summer season following WGPO Championships. Scholarship moneys will be sent directly to the DCI unit of the scholarship awardees. WGPO will award at minimum \$500 one time scholarship at minimum to one (1) candidate.

A. Eligibility Requirements:

B. Application to be emailed to WGPO Vice President at vicepresident@wgpoklahoma.org by March 20th at 11:59 pm central time:

• 500+ word essay response to “How has participation in WinterGuard/ Percussion/Winds effected my life? How will I carry these experiences into the rest of my life?” Please include the following in your essay:

- *Financials*: Total financial responsibly for your DCI season, including DCI fees, transportation costs, additional expenses.
- Copy of your DCI contract
- 2 Letters of Recommendation from non-family members
- Current High-Res Photo

D. Director Continuous Education Scholarship - awarded to help pay professional development fees while the recipient participates in any professional development or trainings. Please note: Recipients will be required to present to the full membership about their time and things they learned at the training. Scholarship moneys will be sent directly to the professional development organization of the scholarship awardees. WGPO will award at minimum \$500 one time scholarship at minimum to one (1) candidate.

A. Eligibility Requirements:

- current head director, assistant director, or tech of a WGPO competing unit for the current season.

B. Application to be emailed to WGPO Vice President at vicepresident@wgpoklahoma.org by March 20th at 11:59 pm central time:

- Name, email, and phone number
 - Professional Development event you would like to attend, total cost, location, dates, purpose of the training and why you want to attend.
- Current High-Res Photo (of you coaching would be amazing)

Reasoning: Reasoning: New scholarship opportunities aligns with WGPO's mission "...is to provide performers a chance to display their unique skills.." as well as "...to provide continual education to...instructor..."

Financial Impact: minimum of \$3250 for the season

Submitted By: KERI BATES

PASS/FAIL

14. **Original Rule:** IV.C.2. The summer meeting and workshop will be held during the (2nd) Saturday in June.

Proposed Change: Maybe moving it to the 3rd or 4th Saturday instead.

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: 3rd or 4th Weekend.

Reasoning: We always seem to be rushed trying to end the season, end of school activities, do the post season board meeting and get proposals in. This may also increase attendance

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: CASEY NOEL

PASS/FAIL

15. **Original Rule:** X.A.2 "Any Oklahoma based guard or percussion unit that has not participated in WGPO in the last 5 years (i.e. 2018-2022) or that have never fielded a winter unit can register for a full membership at a reduced price of \$500 for their first year."

Proposed Change: Define "new unit": Any guard or percussion group that has not fielded a primary WGPO unit in the last 5 years, or that have never fielded a primary winter unit can register for a full membership at a reduced price of \$500 for their first year.

Reasoning: There was some question as to the definition of "new" unit. This is just to clarify.

Financial Impact: NONE

Submitted By: CASEY NOEL

PASS/FAIL

16. **Original Rule:** XVIII.F.3 and 4. Regional B and Regional A Classifications.

Proposed Change: Three levels in the Regional division. National, A and B.

The National class would consist of units participating in WGI events as well as other high achieving units in the Regional division. Those units not participating

in WGI events would be sorted into the National Class by the neighborhood scoring utilized by the other classes in the first two competitions.

Reasoning: There is a need for groups that compete WGI to have the ability to compete in Regional A even though in our circuit they have earned scores that would place them in Scholastic.

Offering an SRA National to give units that should be promoting in our circuit (we had around 5 units last year earn scores to promote to SB but appealed to remain in SRA) ability to promote and still compete in Regional A at WGI events.

Financial Impact: Awards

Submitted By: CASEY NOEL

PASS/FAIL **TABLED (Add promotion language)**

NEW RULE: *XXI WGPO Hall of Fame *This section could be added to the end of the Handbook or added after “Scholarships”

A. Purpose

- The mission of the Winter Guard and Percussion of Oklahoma Hall of Fame is to honor excellence and preserve our evolving history
- The WGPO Hall of Fame was formed to recognize the individuals in the winter color guard and winter percussion activity whose extraordinary efforts and accomplishments have enhanced the WGPO organization, broadened the appeal of these activities and whose lives and accomplishments serve to inspire, educate, and be role models for all those who participate in WGPO
- The WGPO Hall of Fame ceremony is hosted annually at the WGPO Circuit Championships to honor individuals that have achieved the highest level of success and admiration by the entire activity

B. Background

The WGPO Hall of Fame was established in 2023 by the WGPO Executive Board of Directors

C. Responsibility

The WGPO Hall of Fame Committee is responsible for the award, with the support of the WGPO Vice President. This Committee will consist of the WGPO Director of Education (odd numbered years), Percussion Coordinator (even numbered years), Secretary, and Judges’ Coordinator along with three active WGPO members chosen at the annual WGPO Fall membership meeting. When applicable, Hall of Fame Members may serve as advisors to the committee.

D. Criteria FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: no affiliation of percussion/guard requirement.

The WGPO Hall of Fame recognizes individuals in the winter guard (in ODD numbered years) or winter percussion (in EVEN numbered years) activities that have contributed most significantly to the standards and direction of WGPO. Selection to the WGPO Hall of Fame can be achieved as a designer, a director or other administrative position, an adjudicator, a WGPO employee, or as a volunteer. The following criteria will be used when evaluating potential Hall of Fame members:

1. DESIGNERS/INSTRUCTORS
Meritorious contributions

Influence on WGPO
Depth and length of service
Program Success
Role in WGPO educational programs and committees
Service to the WGPO Executive Board of Directors

2. ADMINISTRATIVE & GROUP DIRECTORS

Meritorious contributions
Influence on WGPO
Depth and length of service
Program Success
Role in WGPO educational programs and committees
Service to the WGPO Executive Board of Directors

3. ADJUDICATORS

Meritorious contributions
Influence on WGPO
Depth and length of service
Success in design or improvement of judging system
Role in WGPO educational programs and committees
Service to the WGPO Executive Board of Directors

4. WGPO VOLUNTEERS

Meritorious contributions
Influence on WGPO
Depth and length of service
Support to WGPO in all areas

5. WGPO EMPLOYEES

Meritorious contributions
Influence on WGPO
Depth and length of service
Support to WGPO in all areas
Success in program development

While listed in several areas of criteria, it should be noted that length of service should be combined with other areas of achievement for an individual to be considered for selection to the WGPO Hall of Fame. Individuals should be evaluated through time for their achievements. It is important to consider only the merits of the criteria

E. Selection Process

- Up to three (3) individuals will be added to the Hall of Fame in any year
- The names of persons who are nominated for election, but who are not elected to join the Hall of Fame, shall not be disclosed at any time to any person (including those who are nominated) other than to members of the WGPO Hall of Fame Committee and WGPO Executive Board Members. No member of the WGPO Hall of Fame Committee or any other person shall disclose to any person how any member of the Selection Committee voted on the election of any candidate (including the details of the balloting)
- Voters will be asked to rank the candidates in their order of preference. The three individuals with the lowest total scores will be elected to the WGPO Hall of Fame.

All members of the WGPO Hall of Fame and sitting members of the Executive Board of Directors have voting rights in all elections. If a person is a member of both, they may only vote once

- Only complete ballots will be considered
- After the WGPO Hall of Fame Committee has completed all balloting for election into the Hall of Fame, the President of the WGPO Executive Board of Directors or an alternate person designated by the Executive Board shall then release the names of those elected for general publication
- When a person is honored as a Hall of Fame Member, the name of such person shall be duly certified by the Secretary of WGPO Executive Board of Directors for official enrollment into WGPO Hall of Fame Membership and all necessary action shall be taken for induction of such person at the next Annual Induction Ceremony

F. Ceremony

- a. Recognition of each year's recipients will occur at WGPO Circuit Championships

PASS/FAIL