

Summer 2024 Handbook Proposals

Proposal Number 1.

Original Rule: None

Proposed Change: If a board member is attending a contest as part of their duties of Office, we should reimburse them for mileage at the same current rate as contest staff.

Reasoning: We typically are having board members travel across the state using their own funds to pay for gas while attending and working. These board members should be classified as contest staff, and therefore eligible for mileage reimbursement.

Financial Impact: Mileage reimbursement.

Submitted By: Michael Clark

PASS/FAIL

54-1

Proposal Number 2.

Original Rule: XV. Cancellation Policy

B. Late withdrawals will be charged a penalty of \$100.00. This fee must be paid to the contest host before the unit will be allowed to compete again.

Proposed Change: B. Late withdrawals from the Preview Show will be charged a penalty of \$80. This fee must be paid by the withdrawn unit to the contest host before the unit will be allowed to compete again.

C. Late withdrawals from regular season contests will be charged a penalty of \$100. This fee must be paid by the withdrawn unit to the contest host before the unit will be allowed to compete again.

Reasoning: The proposed late withdrawal fee (\$80) is intended to be proportional to the reduced admission fee for the Preview Show (\$8).

Financial Impact: See above

Submitted By: Nicole Bayliss

PASS/FAIL

Unanimous

Proposal Number 3.

Original Rule: III. Membership

D. A visiting unit (defined as any unit that is not a member of the WGPO circuit) may compete in any show sanctioned by WGPO, except Championships, for a fee of \$150.00 per show. They will be scored and ranked as any other unit, and receive appropriate awards. If a new, first-year unit wants to become a part of the Circuit after trying one show, they will be allowed to join the circuit late, and have the \$150.00 per show applied towards their membership dues. They will not be eligible for Championships unless all normal Circuit requirements are met.

Proposed Change: D. A visiting unit (defined as any unit that is not a member of the WGPO circuit) may compete in any show sanctioned by WGPO, except Championships, for a fee equal to 25% of the full membership fee (as defined in item III. A.) per show. They will be scored and ranked as any other unit, and receive appropriate awards. If a new, first-year unit wants to become a part of the Circuit after trying one show, they will be allowed to join the circuit late, and have the 25% per show fee applied towards their membership dues. They will not be eligible for Championships unless all normal Circuit requirements are met.

Reasoning: Visiting units should be expected to pay a similar per-show cost as full member units who are being scored and ranked. **Financial Impact:**

Financial Impact: The 2024 membership fee, across the minimum contest attendance requirement of 3 segments and championship, was equal to \$175 per show. The proposed percentage, instead of a specific dollar amount, would allow the visiting unit cost to scale with each season's full membership rates.

Submitted By: Nicole Bayliss

PASS/FAIL

Unanimous

Proposal Number 4.

Original Rule: None

Proposed Change :End of the Year Awards:

Winter Guard and Percussion of Oklahoma will present the following awards at the circuit championships at the end of the season.

Director of the Year Award will be presented to the one guard director and one percussion director that has earned the respect and admiration of their fellow directors. Nominations for this award will open on March 1st. Any director, Executive Board member, or judge may nominate one director. You may not nominate yourself. Nominations will end at 11:59pm on the 3rd Saturday of March. The top five nominees will be presented to the general membership for a vote. Winners will be announced at their respective championships.

Ted Baker Sportsmanship Award will be presented to one guard unit and one percussion unit that has displayed outstanding sportsmanship throughout the season. Nominations for this award will open on March 1st. Any director, Executive Board member, or judge may nominate one director. You may not nominate yourself. Nominations will end at 11:59pm on the 3rd Saturday of March. The top five nominees will be presented to the general membership for a vote.

Winners will be announced at their respective championships.

Most Improved Unit will be presented to the guard/percussion unit that has shown the most growth throughout the competitive season. The Judges Coordinator/Chief Judge and Contest Director will present their nomination to the Executive Board for consideration. Winners will be announced at their respective championships.

Reasoning: This proposal is to just set in the rulebook our processes for the end of the year awards.

Financial Impact: None, these awards are already given at the end of each year.

Submitted By: Benjamin Spreiter

Friendly Amendment: 2nd Saturday instead of 3rd Saturday.

PASS/FAIL

48-2

Proposal Number 5.

Original Rule: VI. B. . 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. I will also be ok with removing the VP from the voting process all together.

Proposed Change: Changing "minus the President" to "minus the Vice-President" and changing "the WGPO President will select the winner" to "the WGPO Vice-President will select the winner"

Reasoning: The Vice President is in charge of the process. They are in possession of all identifying factors. In the past years, the VP has sent out the applicant essays and recommendation letters without names or school names to create a "blind" voting process. The VP, with all the information, should not be a regular voter.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: Benjamin Spreiter

PASS/FAIL

50-1

Proposal Number 6.

Original Rule: None

Proposed Change: New E-Board Position: Compliance Officer

1. Compliance officer will work in conjunction with the Education Director and Chief Judge to ensure directors new to the circuit understand the rules and regulations of the circuit, including but not limited to required movement time, timing for music in each classification.
2. The compliance officer shall have a good working knowledge of the WGI and WGPO rules and be able to assist when questions arise related to both sets of rules.
3. Compliance officer shall be responsible for ensuring those units who finish in the top 3 at circuit championships in Scholastic Regional B, Scholastic Regional A and Scholastic B are

aware that they need to register in the higher class for the following season. They should advise those units of the procedure for reclassification should the need arise.

4. Assist T&P judge to ensure that WGI and WGPO rules are followed at all contests once penalties are given. For example: being a second set of eyes to ensure everything is caught and stays fair for all units.

5. Assist in handling grievances regarding units acting in violations of circuit's sportsmanship rules.

Reasoning: to ensure that every unit is treated the same and no one unit receives an advantage over any other with regard to rules.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: Angel Clark

PASS/FAIL

39-14

Proposal Number 7.

Original Rule: XVIII. Solo and Ensemble

Proposed Change: These need to be updated. We have four options. Membership will vote for one of the options below at the summer meeting. Once we have a format outlined rules and fees will be updated. We will be adding in language about judges feedback and overall outstanding performances (as determined by the judges) being invited to perform at Championships.

1. WGPO Virtual: to be held on the same date every year. Example: Students would submit videos by February 20th every year. Students would receive virtual scoring and judges comments.

2. WGPO Virtual: to be attached to a contest date with the fewest unit entries. (Judging could take place at any point over the weekend at the judges discretion.) Students would receive virtual scoring and judges comments. This date would be determined after registration closes and announced in mid January.

3. WGPO In Person: to be attached to a contest date with the fewest unit entries. (Most likely in the morning before the regular contest) This date would be determined after registration closes and announced in mid January.

4. WGPO In Person: Dedicated site. This would require a separate contest host and judges. This would also likely place the date as the weekend closing Spring Break as that is the only open weekend in our current schedule. This date would be determined after registration closes and announced in mid January.

Reasoning: We need to move forward with updated rules for whatever format we are going to use.

Financial Impact: Financial Impact 1. and 2. Judges pay and Competition Suite fees for video submissions and comments. 2. Extra judges pay for that competition. 3. Extra judges pay for additional contests and would require an additional host site.

Submitted By: Casey Noel

OPTION 3- Majority Vote

Option 1- 22, Option 2- 5, Option 3- 24, Option 4- 2

Proposal Number 8.

Original Rule: XII.C.c Contest Hosts 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. Contest host 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

Proposed Change: Change fee to \$40 per unit competing.

Reasoning: Raising the fee per unit will help cover raises in Competition Suite Fees as well as well as increased travel expenses. Raising this fee will also keep these fees from being eventually added to unit registration fees.

Financial Impact: See reasoning.

Submitted By: Casey Noel

PASS/FAIL

43-9

Proposal Number 9.

Original Rule: XIII.E.b.xiii Contest Booth The contest host will be allowed to sell souvenir items at contests.

Proposed Change: The contest host will be allowed to sell souvenir/fundraising items at contests. Any contest fundraiser utilizing announcements or taking place during interval times should be regulated by the contest host and shall not delay the start of a performance or awards. For example: if a contest offers air-grams/shout-outs they should limit the number announcements per unit so they can all be read during that units allotted interval time.

Reasoning: This year at championships we had several groups with more air-grams than could be read before/after their performances and were then read after students had entered the gym for massing. This delayed massing by 5-10 minutes. It was noted that it would be helpful to put a limit on these types of fundraisers so they don't delay the already long contest days.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: Casey Noel

PASS/FAIL

46-10

Proposal Number 10.

Original Rule: XII.E.B.ii Any unit utilizing the circuit regulation tarp must...

1. Pick up the circuit regulation floor from the previous competition site on their side of the state (ex: East/West).
2. Communicate with other hosts in order to easily facilitate the transportation of the circuit floor.
3. Fold the circuit regulation floor appropriately and ensure it is safe for transportation by the next unit.

Proposed Change: ADD XII.E.B.iii. The circuit regulation tarps can be utilized by other organizations for events outside of WGPO competition.

1. The requesting organization must submit a formal request to the contest director and treasurer at least 14 days prior to the date the tarp is needed.
2. If WGPO has a contest on the same weekend as the requested event, the WGPO contest will be given preference for the circuit tarp for that side of the state (unless the host has chosen to provide their own via the rules above.)
3. The requesting organization will receive a response no later than 7 days prior to the requested event date letting them know which tarp is available and contacts for pickup/drop off.
4. There will be a \$100 use fee assessed to the requesting organization for use of the circuit regulation tarp.
5. The requesting organization must arrange pick up and return of the circuit regulation floor they will be utilizing from the previous competition site. 5. The circuit regulation floor must be folded appropriately and ensured it is safe for transportation by the next unit.

Reasoning: This year we hosted a contest on the same day as the WGI Regional in Tulsa and the East-side circuit regulation tarp was used for the regional instead of our WGPO contest. The WGPO host site was not made aware of this conflict in time and did not have a black regulation flooring.

Financial Impact: Increased income from tarp use fee.

Submitted By: Casey Noel

PASS/FAIL

Unanimous

Proposal Number 11.

Original Rule: XX.B.b. A unit will be promoted to the next higher classification of competition if 3 of 5 judges assign that unit a score that is equal to or greater than the designated reclassification score for the week. The effect of the reclassification is notification by the Judges' Coordinator and/or Contest Director at Critique or via email by 11:59pm on Sunday following the contest.

Proposed Change: -Friendly Amendment: A unit will be promoted to the next higher classification of competition if their composite score and 3 of 5 judges assign that unit a score that is equal to or greater than the designated reclassification score for the week. The effect of the reclassification is notification by the Judges' Coordinator and/or Contest Director at Critique or via email by 11:59 pm on Sunday following the contest.

Reasoning: This will change the requirement for promotion at contests. We had several units this year promote via the 3 out 5 rule even though their composite score was below the promotion score for the week.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: Casey Noel

PASS/FAIL

38-4

Proposal Number 12.

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. National Regional A class color guards utilize beginning level qualities in design and performance. Color guards in this class would be competitive with the middle to top half of WGI's Regional A class. This class would be populated at the beginning of the season with all units that plan on attending a WGI Regional in the Regional A class. Scholastic Regional units may elect to participate in this class regardless of their WGI Participation.

2. Once a unit is classified into National A, they cannot be moved out of the class until after the conclusion of the current season.

3. National Regional A class would be exempt from the end of season promotion after championships unless they wish to move into the Scholastic Class at the start of the next season.

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 the ability to promote and still compete in Regional A at WGI events.

Financial Impact: Awards/banners

Submitted By: Casey Noel

PASS/FAIL

12-41

Proposal Number 13.

Original Rule: XII- ADDITION to Contest Host Application.

Proposed Change: Friendly Amendment- Contest Hosts must include a letter signed by the site principal, school administrator and athletic director (or the person in charge of scheduling

facilities) guaranteeing that specified facilities are available and that there will be no other conflicting events scheduled in the facility during the WGPO event.

In the event that the school/host can not uphold their commitment to WGPO, a cancellation fee of \$150 will be assessed to the school. (This does not include WGPO controlled cancellations due to weather or other circumstances.) The school/host is also subject to a suspension of hosting abilities the season following a cancellation. This will be assessed by the Executive Board on a case by case basis.

Reasoning: This document is already a part of the Championship Host Application process. There is a need for this to be the same process on the regular season contest host application so we can avoid hosts having to cancel because their facilities are no longer available.

Financial Impact: Potential collection of the \$150 cancellation fee.

Submitted By: Casey Noel

PASS/FAIL

36-8

Proposal Number 14.

Original Rule: XIII.I - Circuit Championship Seeding: Performance order will be determined by the following procedures;

- a. All units will be seeded for Circuit Championships using their most recent contest score increased by 1.5 points each week of the regular 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 Circuit Championship seeding.
- d. The contest director will be responsible for determining Circuit Championship seeding. The Circuit Championship schedule will be made available on the official WGPO website by midnight, the day following the last contest scheduled in the third segment.

Proposed Change: Proposing a committee of directors and Eboard members be formed to discuss and recommend if:

- A) A new format for circuit championships is needed (true rounds, qualifying score, top 10 from each class qualify for finals, etc) or if the majority approves of the current system.
- B) If a new format is needed, which format is needed, which format does the majority want
- C) Proper wording the in the handbook Recommendations to be submitted a month prior to the fall meeting for discussion and recommendations from general membership with final vote at the fall meeting.

Reasoning: There has been some discussion about the seeding, format, and scheduling of circuit championships, specifically in the Regional classes.

Financial Impact: More awards and banners (potentially)

Submitted By: Benjamin Spreiter

PASS/FAIL

35-17

Proposal Number 15.

Original Rule: XIX.F.iv and v Fair and Poor Ratings for JH Class

Proposed Change: Delete them

Reasoning: We are not giving units a poor rating. It shouldn't be in the handbook.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: Benjamin Spreiter

PASS/FAIL

45-4

Proposals 16 and 17 are in the same spirit.

Proposal Number 16.

Original Rule: XIX. F.b.iv. 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.

Proposed Change: Scores will not be announced at awards. Novice groups will receive a rating (I = Superior, II = Excellent, III = Good, IV = Fair, V = Poor) corresponding to their score.

Reasoning: This was a request of a few members with Novice groups this year and from the end of season survey.

Financial Impact: None, certificates are already issued.

Submitted By: Casey Noel on behalf of the post season survey responses.

PASS/FAIL

Unanimous

Proposal Number 17.

Original Rule: New rule creating a rating system based on the scores for Novice Class

Proposed Change: I - Superior - promotion score to 5 points below promotion score II - Excellent - 5.01 - 15.00 below promotion score III - Good - 15.01 and on below promotion score

Reasoning: The Novice units, as paying members of the circuit, deserve more recognition for their hard work than a certificate that says thanks for coming. They also need that recognition that they have improved throughout the season. As a JH director in the past, it was a huge victory for us to advance from Good to Excellent. I feel that the Novice units deserve the same.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: Benjamin Spreiter

PASS/FAIL **WITHDRAWN**

Proposal Number 18.

Original Rule: XIX. C When units are deciding a classification they must consider the following WGPO policy:

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.

D. Classification in WGPO will consist of the following divisions, each reflecting a stage in the learning process: "Discovering, Exploring, Knowing and Applying".

E. returning unit requesting to be moved down in classification must compete in the same class as the previous season at the Preview Show, and then must send a letter to the Executive Board requesting to be moved down.

Proposed Change: C.1 and E are conflicting. I recommend all returning units start the season in the class they finished in the previous season. If their team dynamic changes and they feel they can no longer compete in that class they may ask for reclassification at the Preview Show. Any unit asking to reclassify at the Preview Show will **NOT** utilize their one appeal for the season.

Reasoning: C.1 and E are conflicting. This will help with tracking unit classification from year to year while still giving instructors the opportunity to reclassify as needed at the start of a new season.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: Casey Noel

PASS/FAIL

33-8

Proposal Number 19.

Original Rule: XVII. E. Percussion groups are required to attend two (2) contests throughout the season as they are offered in order to be eligible to attend championships. They are not required to attend a contest in each Segment as percussion contests are not made available each week as they are for guards.

Proposed Change: XVII. E. Percussion groups are not required to attend a certain number of contests in each segment or in total in order to be eligible to attend championships, as Percussion contest offerings are not as regular as Guard contests.

Reasoning: Updates the language and clarifies the rule the circuit has been abiding by for quite some time (since COVID?).

Financial Impact: None

Submitted By: Adam Wiencken

Friendly Amendment: Required to attend one contest in the current competitive season.

PASS/FAIL

Unanimous