WINTER GUARD & PERCUSSION of Oklahoma

Guard Rules and Regulations Manual

Updated Summer 2026

www.wgpoklahoma.org

I. Membership

A. WGPO Membership Fees will be:

1. **Membership Options**
    a) WGPO shall offer two membership options, determined at registration:
        (1) **Partial Season Membership:** $600 (Preview Show through Segment 3).
        (2) **Full Season Membership:** $700 (entire competitive season including Qualifier and possible attendance at Championships)
2. Any school or independent organization that has not fielded a primary WGPO unit in the last 5 years or that has never fielded a primary winter unit can register for a full membership at a reduced price of $500 for their first year.
3. Beyond any school or independent organization's first unit, a cost of $400.00 for the second ensemble, and $300.00 for each additional unit will apply.

B. Deadlines

1. Membership Fees/Forms will be accepted at the opening of registration
2. Deadline for Registration will be posted at the time registration is opened.
    a) A late fee of $100 will be assessed to any entry form postmarked or submitted online after the posted registration deadline.
    b) Accepted payment forms include
        (1) Check
        (2) School Verified Purchase Order
        (3) App or apps approved by the Executive Board
    c) All fees due must be in paid in full 30 days prior to the first competitive contest of the WGPO season.
    d) All units must have their registration payment cleared before their first performance.

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C. Unit Caps Per Contest

1. The maximum number of units permitted for registration at any single regular-season contest shall be capped at 55 units.

**Added Summer 2026*

D. WGPO Membership benefits will include:

1. Unlimited WGPO contest participation
2. WGPO Championships Entry (provided all prerequisites are met)
3. Voting privileges at WGPO circuit meetings for the current season
4. Admission to WGPO educational and training clinics for the current season

5. All official WGPO circuit correspondence

E. Director Identification:
   1. Directors will request **no more than two (2) director badges** at the time of registration.
   2. Each badge request must include the **staff member's name** to whom the badge will be assigned.
   3. No additional staff badges will be provided by the circuit.
   4. Any additional staff members must utilize the "marching members +10" rule. No **extra badges issued a contest check-in.**

**** Added Fall 2025***

F. Visiting Units
   1. A visiting unit is defined as any unit that is not a member of the WGPO circuit
   2. Visiting Units 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 I.A.1) per show.
      a) They will be scored and ranked as any other unit, and receive appropriate awards.
   3. 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.
      a) The previously mentioned per show fee will be applied towards their membership dues.
      b) They will not be eligible for Championships unless all normal Circuit requirements are met.
   4. Non-member/visiting units may perform in exhibition at any WGPO sanctioned contest for a fee of $100.00.
      a) Payment is due to WGPO prior to the contest.
   5. Independent Member Units must provide a certificate of insurance from an insurance group or school district, listing WGPO as an additional insured.
      a) Deadline for all insurance documentation will be 30 days prior to the first competitive contest of the WGPO season.
      b) Units will not be allowed to compete until proof of insurance has been received.

G. Combined Group Policy
   1. WGPO will abide by all combined group protocols as instructed by Winter Guard International.

****Added Fall 2025***

H. WGPO Circuit Membership participation extends to groups in Oklahoma and all surrounding states.

I. Annual WGPO Membership and Single Contest Entry fees are NON-REFUNDABLE once submitted. The following exceptions apply:

1. Withdraw from the circuit no later than 30 days before the unit's first scheduled competition – 100% refund.
2. Withdraw from the circuit no later than 30 days before the unit's second scheduled competition – 50% refund.
3. Withdraw from a single contest no later than 30 days before the unit's scheduled competition – 100% refund.

II. Eligibility

A. Guard units should be composed of members not over the age of twenty-two (22) as of 12:01AM on May 1st.
   1. This age rule applies to all units except those entered in Independent World Class. Independent World Class may compete with members of any age.

B. All students residing within a school district may compete with a scholastic guard as long as the principal of the sponsoring school approves their participation.

C. WGPO strongly encourages each scholastic unit to comply with the eligibility requirements set by their school.

D. No guard member may perform in more than one (1) guard unit.

E. No guard unit may perform with less than five (5) or more than fifty (50) members on the floor of competition at any time, including commanding officer(s).
   1. This does not apply to the Middle School Class, as there is no member limit in the middle school class.

F. The use of recorded music and/or live musical instruments is optional.
   1. Proficiency of playing shall not be judged.
   2. Musicians' ages and eligibility must be consistent with WGPO rules.

G. Independent units may not utilize membership from a high school that has an established competitive guard program that was a WGPO member the previous year without the expressed written consent of a Parent/Legal Guardian.
   1. A copy of the written and signed release must be kept on file by the unit with which the member performs and WGPO.
   2. All release forms will be due 30 days prior to the first competitive contest of the WGPO season.

H. For any questions regarding eligibility not addressed in this section, please refer to the WGI adjudication manual.[1]

III. Unit Classification

A. The WGPO classification strategy has one main goal: "Provide a consistent and fair grouping of units achieving at a similar level while encouraging their development"

B. When units are deciding a classification they must consider the following:

[1] Page 104 of the WGI Winter Guard Contest Rules 2024

1. 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.
    a) Any unit asking to reclassify at the Preview Show will NOT utilize their one appeal for the season.
    b) 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.
2. 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.
3. That unit MUST appear at the preview show for classification.
    a) 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.

C. **GUARD CLASSIFICATIONS:**

1. **Middle School Class:** This class is restricted to units with members attending junior high or middle school from the same school district.
    a) It is recognized that the **Middle School Class** is designed for training younger members and providing exposure to the Winter Guard activity.
    b) Units will not be eligible for promotion from within this classification.

    c) Units will not be eligible for promotion from within this classification.

        (1) This class will be judged using the **Regional A Sheet**, and **ratings** will be assigned based on the judges' individual totals in **CompetitionSuite** as follows:

Score Range	Rating	Description
13-15	Superior	A top-level performance with few technical errors; exemplary execution and expression.
10-12	Excellent	A strong performance showing skill and artistry with minor areas for improvement.

Score Range	Rating	Description
9 and Below	Good	A developing performance that demonstrates growth and potential for improvement.

(2) Final ratings will be determined by calculating the **average of the subcaption ratings** from all adjudicators, in the style of **OSSAA** evaluation procedures.
Ratings will continue to be announced during awards ceremonies.

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2. **Novice Class Unit**
    a) Members must attend schools in the same school district.
    b) Unit members must be either in their first or second year of participation OR
    c) 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.
    d) This classification aims to take units from the beginning fundamental steps towards participation in Scholastic Regional Classes.
    e) They will be judged using the WGI Regional A Class sheet[2] from WGI and will receive scores so that they are made aware of their future placement or ranking in Scholastic Regional B/Scholastic Regional A when they are reclassified or for the next season.
    f) Scores will not be announced at awards. Novice groups will receive a rating (I = Superior, II = Excellent, III = Good) corresponding to their score.
3. **Scholastic Regional B Class (SRB)**
    a) Unit members must attend schools from the same school district.
    b) The purpose of this classification is to take units through the intermediate steps towards the participation in Scholastic Classes.
    c) This class will be judged on a WGI Regional A Class sheet.
4. **Scholastic Regional A Class (SRA)**
    a) Unit members must attend schools from the same school district.

[2] WGI Color Guard Score Sheets

b) The purpose of this classification is to take units through the final steps towards participation in the "Scholastic B" class.
c) This class will be judged on a WGI Regional A Class sheet.

5. **Independent Regional A Class (IRA)**
   a) Units in this classification must meet all WGI requirements regarding Regional A Class and Independent membership.
   b) This classification is for a competitive Regional A unit which is not ready for the demands of the Scholastic A Class sheet.
   c) Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI Regional A sheet.
6. **Scholastic B Class (SB)**
   a) This classification is the intermediate level of A Class competition. Members and instructors in this classification have shown their experience as seasoned performers or directors at the intermediate level and are ready for more advanced involvement in the activity.
   b) Unit members must attend the same school district.
   c) This class will be judged on the A Class sheet.[3]
7. **Scholastic A Class (SA)**
   a) This classification is the highest level of competition in A Class. Members and instructors in this class have shown their experience as seasoned performers or directors at the advanced level and are ready to be compared with all WGI Scholastic A guards.
   b) Unit members must attend the same school district.
   c) This class will be judged on the A Class sheet.
8. **Independent A Class (IA)**
   a) Units in this classification must meet all WGI requirements regarding A Class and Independent membership.
   b) Units in this class will be competing, and compared with the WGI Independent A guards.
   c) This class will be judged on the A Class sheet.
9. **Scholastic Open Class (SO)**
   a) Units in this class will be competing, and compared with the WGI Open Class guards.
   b) Unit members must attend the same school district.
   c) This class will be judged on the WGI Open Class sheet[4]
10. **Independent Open Class (IO)**
    a) Units in this classification must meet all WGI requirements regarding Open Class and Independent membership.

[3] WGI Color Guard Score Sheets
[4] WGI Color Guard Score Sheets

b) Units in this class will be competing, and compared with the WGI Independent Open guards.
c) This class will be judged on the WGI Open class sheet.[5]

11. **Scholastic World Class (SW)**
    a) Units in this classification must meet all WGI requirements regarding Scholastic World Class membership.
    b) Units in this class will be competing, and compared with the WGI Scholastic World Class guards.
    c) This class will be judged on the WGI Scholastic World class sheet.[6]
12. **Independent World Class (IW)**
    a) Units in this classification must meet all WGI requirements regarding Independent World Class membership.
    b) Units in this class will be competing, and compared with the WGI Independent World guards.
    c) This class will be judged on the WGI Independent World class sheet.[7]

IV. Rules Applying to Reclassification

A. In the competitive season (excluding championships), reclassification, appeals from reclassification, and requests for reassignment must be made NO LATER THAN 15 days prior to Circuit Championships.
B. Reclassification
    1. A unit placing first, second, or third in Regional B, Regional A, Scholastic B at WGPO Circuit Championships is promoted to the next class for the following season.
        a) Any unit that is promoted at the end of a competitive season MUST compete at that higher classification for at least the Preview Show during the following season.
    2. Any group on Reg B or Sch B will be reclassified based on a promotion score that will be published on the website by the Judges Coordinator. Units in Reg A or Sch A will be promoted to the next higher classification if their composite score and 3 of the 5 judges assign that unit a score that is equal 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.

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[5] WGI Color Guard Score Sheets
[6] WGI Color Guard Score Sheets
[7] WGI Color Guard Score Sheets

3. Notification of this promotion will be made by the Chief Judge and/or Contest Director at Critique or via email by 11:59 pm on Sunday following the contest.
4. Reclassification scores will be published on the circuit's website[8] prior to the first competitive contest of the season.
5. The Color Guard Review Committee will consist Review committee proposal needs to be appointed and not elected
    a) Make up
        (1) Voting Members of the Board
        (2) The President will only vote in the event of a tie
        (3) Judges coordinator
        (4) Trial Judges for comments only (judges coordinator discretion)
        (5) One judge for Movement, Equipment, GE and DA
        (6) One judge can review for more than one caption
        (7) One Director from Reg A, Scholastic A (appointed)

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C. Any unit that has been promoted or otherwise wishes to reclassify may choose to appeal via the following process.
    1. The director and unit may seek reassignment only once during the competitive season, and may not seek reassignment if the unit has met the criteria for reclassification as previously outlined.
    2. The director must make a formal request to the WGPO Secretary. [9]
    3. The appealing unit will provide video of their most recent performance.
    4. The video must be linked in the form or emailed to wgpokla@gmail.com no later than Wednesday 11:59 pm of the week following the contest at which the video was taken.
    5. The appealing unit's director may not have any other contact with the color guard review committee.
    6. This prohibition extends to any member, associate, or representative of the appealing unit.
    7. By the following Friday at 11:59 am, the review committee is to review the video, confer, and report their decision to the WGPO Secretary. The Contest Director or Secretary will report decisions to the appealing unit's director.
D. If necessary, timing requirement issues due to movement between classes will be addressed by the E-Board on an individual basis.

V. Disciplinary Action

[8] www.wgpoklahoma.org.
[9] Reclassification/Appeal Form

A. All Participating units in WGPO must abide by the WGPO Code of Conduct:
    1. One of the hallmarks of our activity is to promote good sportsmanship.
    2. WGPO believes that our participating members learn good sportsmanship from their fellow members of the activity including directors, staff, judges, family, and friends.
    3. The positive, professional and competitive environment that WGPO strives to create cannot exist without good sportsmanship by all WGPO participants.
    4. We must lead by example. It is the responsibility of the adults in this activity to teach and stress good sportsmanship to students.
    5. Good sportsmanship should occur in warm-up, during performance, and retreat.
    6. It should also occur in critique, in the stands, on social media, and in all communication between staff and judges.
    7. We (instructors and judges) must all remember to adhere to the Code of Conduct set by Winter Guard International.[10]
B. Individual participants, staff, or volunteers who are found to be in violation of this Code of Conduct will be subject to further investigation as conducted by WGPO Executive Board.
    1. Based on the circumstances considered, the decision to apply disciplinary action or dismissal can be at the sole discretion of the Executive Board.
    2. In extreme circumstances, termination of a group's participation in WGPO may be considered if after a thorough investigation finds their management has recklessly or continually put participants, staff, or volunteers in unsafe situations or ignored flagrant violations of this Code of Conduct.
    3. The type of action taken depends on the facts and circumstances surrounding each situation.
    4. Please note that the corrective action may vary, or steps skipped, depending on the circumstance. It's important to note that the type of action applied, as well as any prior notice of action, is at WGPO's sole discretion.
    5. The policies of this Code of Conduct should provide all participants, staff, and volunteers with an understanding of what is considered appropriate or inappropriate behavior.
    6. While all possible circumstances are impossible to delineate, those participating with WGPO should not take any chances with the spirit and intent of these guidelines.
C. Some examples of unsportsmanlike conduct include:

[10] WGI Code of Conduct

1. Offensive language exclaimed by performers at a contest.
2. Unprofessional behavior during massing
3. Booing performers, judges, or fans during score announcements.
4. Inflammatory or derogatory posts on social media
5. Making derogatory comments or yelling at a judge at any time.
6. Vandalism of any kind on school property

D. Units will be held financially liable for any destruction of school property (accidental or purposeful) committed by any person(s) associated with that unit. (Staff, student, or parent).

VI. WGPO Scholarships

A. When financially feasible, 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.

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 (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Judges Coordinator, Director of Education, and Percussion Coordinator) minus the Vice 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.

C. **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 monies will be sent directly to the WGPO unit. WGPO will award a minimum of $250 one time scholarship to at a minimum one (1) Candidate.

1. Eligibility Requirements: Student must be an active member of a WGPO competing unit for the current season
2. Application: Application to be emailed to WGPO Vice President at vicepresident@wgpoklahoma.org by January 31st at 11:59 pm central time.
3. 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.

D. **Higher Education Scholarship** - awarded to at least TWO outstanding applicant(s) attending college, university, or vocational school in the summer or fall following the current season's WGPO Championships. Scholarship monies

will be sent directly to the higher education institution of the scholarship awardees. WGPO will award, at minimum, $1000 per one-time scholarship.

1. Eligibility Requirements:
    a) current high school seniors or students currently attending college, university or vocational school
    b) active member of a WGPO competing unit for the current season
2. Application to be emailed to WGPO Vice President at vicepresident@wgpoklahoma.org by March 1st at 11:59 pm central time.
3. The applicant must submit an essay response (containing no less than 500 words) to "How has participation in Winter Guard/Percussion/Winds affected my life?" Please include the following in your essay.
    a) *Academic progress:* includes grade point average, class load, challenges that you've overcome in your academic endeavors.
    b) *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).
    c) *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?
4. The applicant must provide 2 Letters of Recommendation from non-family members.
5. The applicant must provide a current high-resolution photo.

E. **Marching Arts Scholarship** - awarded to help pay corps member dues while the recipient participates in any of the Drum Corps International (DCI) member corps during the summer season immediately following WGPO Championships. Scholarship monies will be sent directly to the DCI unit of the scholarship recipients. WGPO will award, at minimum, a $500 one time scholarship to at least one (1) candidate.

1. Eligibility Requirement
    a) Application to be emailed to WGPO Vice President at vicepresident@wgpoklahoma.org by March 1st at 11:59 pm central time.
    b) The applicant must submit an essay response (containing no less than 500 words) to "How has participation in WinterGuard/Percussion/Winds affected my life? How will I carry these experiences into the rest of my life?"

c) The applicant must submit a statement of the total financial responsibility for their DCI season, including corps fees, transportation costs, additional expenses.
d) The applicant must submit a copy of their corps contract
e) The applicant must submit 2 Letters of Recommendation from non-family members.
f) The applicant must submit a current high-resolution photo

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

1. Eligibility Requirements:
    a) Applicants must be a current head director, assistant director, or tech of a WGPO member unit in good standing for the current season.
    b) Applicants must send applications to the WGPO Vice President at vicepresident@wgpoklahoma.org by March 1st at 11:59 pm central time.
    c) Applicants must include their full name, email, and phone number
    d) Applicants must include the professional development event they would like to attend, total cost, location, dates, purpose of the training and why they want to attend.
    e) The applicant must submit a current high-resolution photo (an action shot of the applicant coaching their current unit would be amazing)

VII. Hall of Fame

A. Purpose

1. The mission of the Winter Guard and Percussion of Oklahoma Hall of Fame is to honor excellence and preserve our evolving history
2. 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

3. 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*
   1. The WGPO Hall of Fame was established in 2023 by the WGPO Executive Board of Directors

C. *Responsibility*
   1. 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*
   1. The WGPO Hall of Fame recognizes individuals in the winter guard or winter percussion 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:
      a) DESIGNERS/INSTRUCTORS
         (1) Meritorious contributions
         (2) Influence on WGPO
         (3) Depth and length of service
         (4) Program Success
         (5) Role in WGPO educational programs and committees
         (6) Service to the WGPO Executive Board of Directors
      b) ADMINISTRATIVE & GROUP DIRECTORS
         (1) Meritorious contribution
         (2) Influence on WGPO
         (3) Depth and length of service
         (4) Program Success
         (5) Role in WGPO educational programs and committees
         (6) Service to the WGPO Executive Board of Directors
      c) ADJUDICATORS
         (1) Meritorious contributions
         (2) Influence on WGPO
         (3) Depth and length of service
         (4) Success in design or improvement of judging system

(5) Role in WGPO educational programs and committees
(6) Service to the WGPO Executive Board of Directors

d) WGPO VOLUNTEERS
(1) Meritorious contributions
(2) Influence on WGPO
(3) Depth and length of service
(4) Support to WGPO in all areas

e) WGPO EMPLOYEES
(1) Meritorious contributions
(2) Influence on WGPO
(3) Depth and length of service
(4) Support to WGPO in all areas
(5) Success in program development

2. 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*

1. Up to three (3) individuals will be added to the Hall of Fame in any year
2. 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)
3. 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

F. *Voting*

1. 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
2. Only complete ballots will be considered
3. 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

4. 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 next applicable WGPO Championships Ceremony.

VIII. Awards and Honors

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

B. **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 2nd 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.

C. **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 2nd 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.

D. **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.