

AIA Regulations

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1.0 Competition Rules and Membership

1.1 Except as noted herein, contests will be supervised by AIA under the current rules of Winter Guard International (WGI) as listed in either the "Color Guard Contest Rules" or "Percussion Contest Rules" section of the most recent color guard or percussion manual and rule books published by WGI.

1.2 To be eligible for membership, units must submit an application annually by January 1st. Any member organization that submits its application after January 1st will be assessed a \$50 late fee. Any registration submitted after February 1st will not be accepted; however, the unit may register for AIA sanctioned contests as a non-member

1.3 Contests in January with percussion entries offer a single clinic judge for units in attendance. No scores will be given, attendance will still count towards Coming-Out and Championships attendance.

1.4 The EBOD will submit for BOD approval on an annual basis a music copyright and videotaping policy for each competitive season. The EBOD may alter the approved policy between BOD meetings only on an emergency basis such as a policy change by **Winter Guard International** or competent legal advice rendered to the EBOD.

2.0 AIA-Sanctioned Contests

2.0.1 AIA members that wish to host an AIA-sanctioned contest (including finals) must submit an application to the EBOD prior to the posted deadline.

2.1 The competition season will begin no earlier than the weekend following January 1 and extend no later than April 15.

2.1.1 The official deadline for timestamp of registration for AIA contests will be four Fridays before the contest date. Any unit amending or changing its registration after this time will accrue a penalty fee of \$100. This fee must be paid to AIA by the unit's next performance date. This money will go to the contest host. Units will not be able to compete until this penalty is paid. A schedule will be posted no later than three Fridays before the contest date.

2.2. AIA-sanctioned contests must offer both categories of competition (color guard and percussion) except for individual contest on specific dates as determined by the AIA EBOD.

2.2.1 The order of unit performance will be scholastic, then independent, within their respective classifications. All marching percussion units will compete in one performance block. All concert percussion units will compete in one performance block.

2.2.2 Exhibition Policy: Any non color guard / percussion exhibitions must to be approved by the EBOD one month prior to the AIA-sanctioned event.

2.2.3 Hosting units who wish to perform in exhibition will not be provided scores, commentary, or critique. This performance will not count toward requirements to attend championships.

2.3 The contest entry fee for a member unit(s) to an AIA sanctioned contest is \$60. The non-member unit

entry fee to an AIA sanctioned contest is \$125.

2.4 AIA will review the contest-host fee annually as part of the budget process.

2.5 Contest hosts must follow the current guidelines as outlined in the contest host manual.

2.6 Non-member units will be scheduled to perform first in their class; and will be "wait-listed" pending registration of AIA member units.

2.7 Member units are allowed to sell souvenir merchandise at AIA sanctioned contests. Food items may not be sold. Arrangements must be made in advance with the contest host. Non-AIA members may be charged a vendor fee at the contest host's discretion.

2.8 AIA shall limit the total number of units in a regular season contest to 60, based on earliest timestamp.

2.9 AIA will adopt the WGI spiel sheet concept. Only AIA sanctioned announcers and EBOD members will be permitted to make announcements during competitions.

3.0 Unit Classification

3.0.1 Independent color guard

Independent color guard classes will be in alignment with the WGI Independent color guard classes as defined in the current WGI handbook. All AIA units competing in WGI must compete on the same sheet in AIA as in WGI.

AIA will also offer the following additional Independent color guard class.

Senior class - one or more members over 22 years of age and judged on WGI open class sheets.

3.0.2 Scholastic color guard

World Class - highest possible caliber nationally. Units with programs that include a highly advanced level of equipment and body handling. This class is for units who compete at the WGI World Class level nationally.

Open Class - units whose program includes an intermediate level of equipment and body handling. This class is for units who compete at the WGI Open Class level nationally.

A-1 Class (National A) - adjudicated on Scholastic National A Sheets. Advanced caliber locally. Units whose program includes a high level of basic equipment and body handling. ***(This class is recommended for those units who compete at the WGI A Class level nationally or regionally.)***

A-2 Class - adjudicated on Scholastic National A Sheets. Units with programs that include an intermediate through high level of basic equipment and body handling. ***(This class is recommended for those units who compete at the WGI A Class level regionally but not nationally.)***

A-3 Class - adjudicated on Scholastic National A Sheets. Units whose program includes a low to intermediate level of basic equipment and body handling. ***(This class is recommended for those units that may compete at the WGI A Class level regionally.)***

Scholastic Regional A1 - adjudicated on the WGI Scholastic Regional A Sheets. This class is for the more experienced performer, designer and instructors of the two regional A classes in AIA. Units in this class are composed of beginning level performers and contests are developed to allow the performer to master basic skills. The goal of this class is uniform achievement from all performers, designers and instructors

Scholastic Regional A2 - adjudicated on the WGI Scholastic Regional A Sheets. This is the most beginning level of competition in the AIA circuit. Winter Guards entering this class of competition are the "youngest" or least experienced guards both in terms of individual training, design and instruction. These programs are in their first few years of winter guard participation in terms of both instructor and performer.

Scholastic Novice - The Color Guard Scholastic Novice class is an exhibition-only class designed for the most beginner of winter guard units. These units will perform for comments but will not receive a score or be placed in competition with other units. Color guards choosing to participate in this class would likely be comprised of most to all first year performers. They may or may not have an instructor. Designers and instructors would also likely be new to the winter guard activity. Units in this class would have a safe, non-competitive way to be evaluated and receive feedback and after their performance would be encouraged to watch the competitive portion of the competition as a group for additional learning and growth. This class is not offered at the AIA championships competition so these units would not be able to participate in championships.

Middle School Class - middle/junior high schools will be adjudicated on a non-numeric rating system.

3.0.3 Independent Percussion

Marching - combined elements of percussion musicians and visual performers in motion on the defined contest floor consisting of the following classes:

World Class - performers demonstrate a high degree of musical and physical development. They are very experienced and fully trained. Programs are unique and innovative and these components are important at this level. Some very sophisticated challenges will be placed on the performers.

Open Class - still contains a wide range of age and some skill difference. Performers within one ensemble can range from 12 to 22 years of age. There is greater consistency in the range of skills and physical development. Programs are unique. A few individuals will demonstrate a high level of skills. Some advanced challenges will exist.

A Class - ensembles use the same criteria as the Scholastic A Class with the exception of the age limit. Here is where the beginning student discovers the joy of performing and realizes the sense of achievement as each skill is learned.

3.0.4 Scholastic Percussion

Marching - combined elements of percussion musicians and visual performers in motion on the defined contest floor consisting of the following classes:

World Class - is consistently aged 14 through 17 because of the make-up of the high school arena. Often this class will consist of upper classmen. Unlike the Independent World Class, these performers are rarely over 18 years of age. The ensembles have strongly defined personalities and are highly creative and unique. They explore innovative program concepts. The depth of their training and skills is strong.

Open Class - is consistently aged 14 through 17. Unlike Scholastic A Class, these ensembles have discovered a much stronger personality and are not usually similar to one another. The depth of their training and skills are still comparable in many cases, primarily due to the similarity of their age and the similar number of hours put into their development. Their programs are often freshly unique and original.

A Class - is consistently aged 14 through 17. Like most high school students, the ensembles show a tendency to be similar to one another. Their choice of equipment, the formatting of their shows and the depth of their training and skills are comparable in many cases.

Regional A Class – is consistently aged 14 through 17. This class is designed for less experienced members, staff, and designers. The intent of the class is to teach primary performance skills, and the weight of the subcaptions in the overall score reflects this intent. Performance level is emphasized over production value and sophistication.

Concert - concentration on the concert percussive element only in a standstill performance.

World Class - The ensembles have strongly defined personalities and are highly creative and unique. They explore innovative program concepts. The depth of their training and skills is strong. Concentration on the concert percussive element only in a standstill performance.

Open Class - Unlike the A Class, these ensembles have discovered a much stronger personality and are not usually similar to one another. The depth of their training and skills are still comparable in many cases, primarily due to the similarity of their age and the similar number of hours put into their development. Their programs are often freshly unique and original. Concentration on the concert percussive element only in a standstill performance.

A Class- is consistently aged 14 through 17. Like most high school students, the ensembles show a tendency to be similar to one another. Their choice of equipment, the formatting of their shows and the depth of their training and skills are comparable in many cases. Concentration on the concert percussive element only in a standstill performance.

3.0.5 Percussion units cannot compete in a lower class in AIA than their WGI class.

3.1 Scholastic Classes - All students residing within a school district may compete with a scholastic color guard or percussion ensemble as long as the principal of the sponsoring school approves their participation. Students may not leave an active program at their home school to participate with another school's program within the same district. Each scholastic group must be approved by one school and compete under that sponsoring school name only.

3.2 All units will choose their classification. At AIA Championships, all color guard medalists in SRA2, SRA1, SA3, and SA2 will be promoted to the next higher category for the following season.

3.2.1 Those units who wish to petition the EBOD in order to stay in the same class must show legitimate reasoning for not moving up. The president will convene a meeting of the EBOD on the matter to occur no later than January 1 prior to the competitive season.

3.3.1 To move down in classification after a unit's first competition, you must petition the EBOD and show legitimate reason for moving down.

4.0 AIA Championships

4.1 All units must compete in **two** AIA-Sanctioned contests to qualify for AIA championships.

4.1.1 Colorguard units (except middle school classes) must compete in at least one AIA sanctioned CONTEST or WGI Regional Event hosted by an AIA member by "colorguard coming out date" which is the fourth competitive week of the season. They must have competed in two CONTESTs by the end of the promotion period. If a contest is cancelled that a unit was registered to participate in then this counts as one of their required contests.

4.1.2 Percussion units must compete in an AIA-sanctioned contest or WGI regional even hosted by an AIA member unit no later than the last weekend in February, weather permitting, to be eligible for AIA championships. If a contest is cancelled that a unit was registered to participate in then this counts as one of their required contests.

4.2 Championships will be held in a format, time, and location with logistics to be determined on a yearly basis by the EBOD.

4.3 The AIA Championships committee should consist of a member of the AIA EBOD and eligible representatives of the AIA general membership. Membership should include members in good standing and represent all classes and regions of the circuit.

5.0 Reclassification and Promotion

Color Guard

5.0.1 At a color guard unit's first AIA performance of each season, if the judging panel determines that the color guard unit is to be moved into a higher class, it will be considered a reclassification. At subsequent performances, if a color guard unit is moved into a higher class, it will be considered a promotion.

5.1 A review process for promotion and reclassification will be utilized if a unit receives a raw score (without implementation of penalties) that requires its promotion AND three or more scoring captions are within promotion range. A panel critique including all the judges and EBOD members present will be conducted at that contest exclusive to that unit. Although the conversation will be centered on whether the given unit needs to be in a higher class, the ultimate power of decision lies solely with the EBOD and the Color Guard Judges Coordinator.

5.1.1 Color guard units may only be promoted from one classification to the next through the first 7 weekends of the AIA competition season.

5.2 Units that are promoted during the regular season will be recognized on the day of the promotion during the awards ceremony and each member will be awarded an individual medal.

5.3 Any unit in disagreement with its reclassification must petition the Executive Board within one week for reconsideration of the decision. The unit must provide a videotape of the performance in question. The Executive Board will conduct a conference call with the unit director, two Executive Board Members and two representatives of the judging association (one of which must have been a judge at the contest that caused reclassification).

Percussion

5.4 Percussion units may be moved into a higher class at any time during the season, including championships. This will be considered a reclassification.

5.5 Percussion Units recommended for reclassification will be notified during critique and the review process will begin. Units who do not attend critique will be contacted by the Percussion Coordinator. The review process will consist of a consultation between of the judging panel and the Percussion Judging Coordinator. The Percussion Judging Coordinator will notify the EBOD when the decision is made.

5.6 The Percussion Coordinator will contact the unit by phone with the final decision within one week of initial notification. This decision then effects the unit's classification for the unit's subsequent competitions after notification.

5.7 Any unit in disagreement with its reclassification must petition the Executive Board within one week for reconsideration of the decision. The unit must provide a videotape of the performance in question. The Executive Board will conduct a conference call with the unit director, two Executive Board Members and two representatives of the judging association (one of which must have been a judge at the contest that caused reclassification).

6.0 Code of Conduct and Responsibility

6.1 AIA discourages independent units from utilizing high school students who were previously enrolled in an active high school program and have not yet graduated. AIA also discourages independent units from utilizing performers who have outstanding monies owed to a previous unit.

6.2 Conduct of a member unit, its staff and personnel must be above reproach at all times. Violation of the same will result in review and investigation by the EBOD. Consequences for violation of this section may range from written reprimand to suspension from a given contest to suspension of the unit from AIA, without monetary reparations. In all cases, the unit's administration will be notified of the action. Repeat violators will be referred to the EBOD for action.

6.3 It is understood by management of the member units that they will take full responsibility for any damage and/or misconduct at contest sites by members, parents, and staff of said organization. They will be responsible for such damage, vandalism, or misconduct, regardless whether said organization is in competition or simply in attendance at the contest.

7.0 Rules of Order

7. These rules and regulations of AIA will be known as the Rules of Order as defined in Robert's Rules.

8.0 Emergency Inclement Weather Alert/ Terror Policy Alert

8.1.1 The decision to cancel a scheduled AIA competition will be made by the EBOD in conjunction with the contest host administration. Once this decision has been made every attempt will be made to communicate this information to the directors of the competing ensembles in a timely fashion.

8.1.2 All competing members of AIA must have a "day of contest" emergency cell phone contact number on file with AIA. It is the responsibility of the contest host to communicate the decision of the host school administration to the directors of the competing ensembles via the emergency cell phone number contact. In the event an AIA competition must be cancelled, every effort will be made to communicate this decision to the membership via the official AIA web site at www.atlanticindoor.org. In case of any emergency cancellation of an AIA event, it is essential that AIA and its entire membership share the responsibility of communication and cooperation needed to insure the safety and well being of our entire membership.

8.1.3 Those ensembles that are scheduled to participate in an AIA competition but are unable to fulfill their performance responsibility due to inclement weather or terror alert status are required to submit a letter of explanation from their building administrator or school superintendent explaining that their absence was the result of a school administrative decision. The letter must be written on school letterhead and submitted to AIA before the next scheduled competition. Units will not be allowed to participate further in AIA events until the letter is received by AIA.