

# Spring Meeting June 2, 2019 Proposals for Consideration for the 2020 Season



## Proposal #1

### **Eliminate MAIN Executive Board term limits**

*Submitted by Bobbey Biddle of Plymouth Whitemarsh HS*

**Rationale:** Ultimately the circuit membership has to nominate and vote on an individual to become a member of the Executive Board, so term limits should not be a concern. Anyone wishing to remain dedicated in continued service to the Executive Board should be able to do so as long as they are nominated and receive the position through a fair vote.

**Financial Impact:** none

## **Classification:**

### Proposal #2

### **Combine the Regional AA and Regional A classes.**

*Submitted by Justin McAdams of Phoenixville HS*

**Rationale:** The definition right now of these two classes is as follows:

Regional AA class color guards utilize introductory/beginning level qualities in design and performance. Color guards in this class exhibit training and design techniques that develop to a moderate level according to the WGI Regional A class criteria. Success in this class may indicate readiness for Scholastic Regional A. Evaluation will be on WGI Regional A Class Sheets.

Regional A class color guards utilize introductory/beginning level qualities in design and performance. Color guards in this class exhibit training and design techniques that are frequently successful according to the WGI Regional A class criteria. Evaluation will be on WGI Regional A Class Sheets.

The wording difference is "moderate" success on the Regional sheets vs "frequent" success on the Regional sheets, which equates to Box 3 vs Box 4.

In discussions with other groups and adjudicators throughout the season, there is confusion on what the actual "tolerance" is for these sheets. Anytime there are two classes being evaluated, back to back, on the same sheet, this is bound to happen. The scoring at finals being virtually identical in the two classes lends credence to this.

I understand that the impetus for creating multiple local class structures is to give teams that growing a chance at success. Every other class has clear expectations (Local A to National A is written PERFECTLY). Combining these back into one will obviously create a larger Regional class, but should also let some groups move down and up if they feel that the criteria for those classes best fit their group.

**Financial Impact:** Minimal - trophy/plaque award adjustments.

### Proposal #3

**Any unit in the Scholastic Regional AA and Scholastic AA class participating in a WGI Regional competition event, receiving a MAIN equivalent "promotion" score; correlating with the MAIN reclassification scale will be automatically promoted into the next class. Additionally, this can work with the demotion number as well for the Scholastic A and Regional A class units. Of course reclassifications downward are voluntary. We can discuss at the meeting if this should be a separate proposal.**

*Submitted by Bobbey Biddle of Plymouth Whitemarsh HS*

**Rationale:** Though the WGI calendar does not always "line-up" with our own we can certainly rely on those scores to reflect that of the proper assessment of both the performance and score sheets by WGI certified judges.

**Financial Impact:** none

### Proposal #4

**Units that are bumped or voluntarily move up in class in another circuit automatically needs to move up in MAIN regardless of time of season.**

*Submitted by Joe Nikischer of True Colors*

**Rationale:** In fairness to the other units in the class units that are moved obviously feel or another circuit feels that they are strong enough to compete in a higher class.

**Financial Impact:** 0

### Proposal #5

**If a unit scores one point or less than the Promotion Number for that week, it triggers an automatic Review to be completed by the Task Force and the Chief Judge from that show. (To be clear - reaching the Promotion Number or above would still trigger an automatic promotion with no review necessary.)**

*Submitted by Lauren Moffatt Burns of Council Rock South HS*

**Rationale:** Our system currently relies SOLELY on the total score. There were some instances this year where teams were within tenths or hundredths of the promotion number, but one adjudicator's scoring was on the low side which kept them under the threshold of promotion.

Additionally, it is difficult in all the classes where Reclassification occurs for the Movement and Equipment judge to give what would be a promotion number for that week due to the factoring that occurs in Tabulation. There was at least one instance where the raw score in MV/EQ represented a promotion number, but the factored score put the unit slightly below, which resulted in the unit staying in the lower class for the rest of the season.

Including the Chief Judge is key as he/she can discuss with the panel immediately following the show to get feedback, and coordinate with the Task Force.

**Financial Impact:** Possible additional stipend for the Chief Judge (suggest \$25 per unit) to be borne by MAIN

### Proposal #6

**If a color guard has fewer than two appearances on or before mid-season due to weather or WGI appearance, this automatically will trigger a review due the week of mid-season.**

*Submitted by Lauren Moffatt Burns of Council Rock South HS*

**Rationale:** It is possible that a team could not ever have the chance to be reclassified if extenuating circumstances occur (eg team attends the Preview show, then their second show is cancelled due to weather).

Ideally, members of the Task Force and the Chief Judge from the unit's competing class at the midseason show would review a video submitted by the Director. It should be a "dress run" with costumes and props, taken from the highest possible vantage point so that as much of the performance area can be seen at a time.

**Financial Impact:** Possible payments to adjudicators for extra work in the review process (suggest \$25 per unit) to be borne by MAIN

### [Proposal #7](#)

**Regardless of association with another winter program, if a group places in the top three of its class, it will be promoted at the end of the season.**

*Submitted by Meghan Aitken of Morristown HS*

**Rationale:** Using the justification that these students will be "moved up" into the big guard is not suitable rationale for keeping the guard in a lower class, especially after demonstration of continued success. It is no different than a singular program that loses successful/experienced students through graduation or attrition.

**Financial Impact:** None

### [Proposal #8](#)

**To promote any guard in Scholastic AA who achieves a score of 82 or higher to Scholastic A - effective immediately.**

*Submitted by Trish O'Shea & Kevin Schlear of Northern Valley HS & West Orange HS*

**Rationale:** The Scholastic AA is becoming sort of a stopping point, with no room for promotion (as presently constructed.) With the top 3 SRA guards now entering into SAA, more guards are being added to a class that is quickly becoming very large.

**Financial Impact:**

### [Proposal #9](#)

**Can the Task Force establish criteria by which a team may request demotion prior to the start of the following season, if it deviates from that provided under the Novice automatic promotion language.**

*Submitted by Meghan Aitken of Morristown HS*

**Rationale:** With the loss of video evaluation and the addition of new classes this matter has remained unclear. If the demotion request criteria is the same as the under the Novice automatic promotion language, please add that language to the Classification section of the rulebook. The language reads: "If a unit wishes, they may petition the Task Force for an exception. Petitions must be documented in writing, submitted to, and reviewed by the Task Force and Executive Board prior to the start of the season. Exceptions include hardships such as: Director change Significant staffing change Severe budget cut Loss of 2/3 or more of its membership Other extenuating circumstance"

**Financial Impact:** none

## **Adjudication:**

### **Proposal #10**

**Adjust adjudicators' fees so that the base number is 25 instead of 20**

*Submitted by Lauren Moffatt Burns of Council Rock South HS*

**Rationale:** Since we have moved to a system whereby the judges are rewarded with higher pay when they complete additional training, the "maximum amount" is being paid out even at some medium-sized shows. This would help minimize some of the extra expense borne by the smaller shows.

**Financial Impact:** Show hosts who have fewer units attending their events could more easily bear the costs associated with running a show.

Financial impact for the circuit - potential exists only at Championships for small financial gain for MAIN

### **Proposal #11**

**Allow and provide a procedure (perhaps through Competition Suite) to allow groups to provide the judging community information regarding their show prior to competition.**

*Submitted by Michelle Adcock of Avon Grove HS*

**Rationale:** This is done in other marching activities and provides judges with background information that could allow for more effective "first reads" and productive critique conversations. Instead of guessing thematic intent, judges can focus on if the intended ideas/concepts are readable and effective.

**Financial Impact:** None

## **Policies and Procedures – Registration:**

### **Proposal #12**

**In 2020, each Member Unit will receive one free e-Adjudicate credit for someone on their staff to complete Level I.**

*Submitted by Lauren Moffatt Burns of Council Rock South HS*

**Rationale:** We need to invest in education for our staffs. It is highly encouraged that instructors take the e-Adjudicate courses, and will only help to elevate the activity in our area.

**Financial Impact:** Estimate close to \$8000; depends on number of member units and maximum discount we can receive from e-Adjudicate

### **Proposal #13**

**Explore the possibility of setting up MAIN with an online payment option available for Registration.**

**If we move forward with this, make 12/1 a hard deadline to have payment in hand for "postmark" purposes in registering for shows. All complete Contest Registrations received by 11:59pm and prior will all share the same "postmark" date. All Contest Registrations received at 12:00am on 12/2 and after would receive their actual postmark date, REGARDLESS of when payment was mailed or submitted.**

**Information to be presented at Fall Meeting, including specific financial ramifications/suggestions (eg \$5 convenience charge to offset bank fees).**

*Submitted by Lauren Moffatt Burns of Council Rock South HS*

**Rationale:** Now that we have automated our Registration processes this makes a lot more sense.

The circuit has grown. On the administrative end, it is very difficult to keep track of the MANY units who mail their payment & application in just before the deadline as well as the units who are able to sign up starting 11/25 but who don't do so right away.

This puts the onus on the Director rather than on the members of the Executive Board, who currently spend a lot of time doing follow up and reminding people to register multiple times.

This also helps our "postmark override" process (which has to be done by an employee of Competition Suite). This will minimize the time spent ensuring accuracy and nearly eliminate the margin for human error.

If the district has put the "check in the mail" but MAIN has not yet received it, the director would always have the option of paying online and getting reimbursed once the check arrives.

**Financial Impact:** Bank fees taken out of membership dues

#### [Proposal #14](#)

**Establish a fair entry procedure for shows which fill up on or before 12/1. At present, ties within the postmark date would be settled by a random draw; we were very close to needing to do that in 2019.**

#### **Proposed:**

**In the event that a show has more units who have registered on or before 12/1 than it can host, MAIN's Contest Coordinator will enact the following procedure:**

**-Contact show host to see if additional units can be accepted into the show.**

**-Send a message to all affected units letting them know the situation; ask if anyone is willing to drop out voluntarily and explain the following hierarchy**

**Suggested hierarchy (with the understanding that units within the district/who are hosting who have registered on or before 12/1 will always have a performance spot):**

- 1. Qualifying preference - All units who need that show to qualify for Championships are accepted first**
- 2. Geographic preference - If there are multiple shows that day and attending the other show would create a transportation hardship, those units are accepted next (eg the show that is full is 20 minutes away, the show that is open is two hours away)**
- 3. Other hardship - Units who have submitted a separate hardship request (eg two units are sharing a bus and need to travel together, or their floor will not fit in the other gym)**
- 4. Random draw - Remaining entries are decided by random draw.**

*Submitted by Lauren Moffatt Burns of Council Rock South HS*

**Rationale:** As the circuit gets larger, this will happen more frequently. Since everyone who registers on or before 12/1 is considered equal, a fair procedure should be laid out for transparency purposes.

**Financial Impact:** None, except that the geographic preference could result in savings from individual units' transportation budgets

## **Policies and Procedures – General:**

#### [Proposal #15](#)

**Under the code of conduct, modify "The use of overt gestures or other actions to display displeasure with the results of a contest such as.....the writing of slanderous or threatening material with the intent to malign" to include or specify posting on social media the displeasure or complaints regarding the judges or opponents.**

*Submitted by Marlo M Spritzer of Classics Colorguard*

**Rationale:** In the name of displaying professionalism, staff members representing competing units should clearly understand how their personal social media posts may violate the code of conduct, even when their conduct at the show site may not.

**Financial Impact:** none

### [Proposal #16](#)

**Provide a free WGI 1on1 credit to each unit who gets Promoted during the season in any class (including A and Open promotions initiated by WGI).**

*Submitted by Lauren Moffatt Burns of Council Rock South HS*

**Rationale:** This provides more support for units who are navigating new territory and could enable them to be more successful in their new class. Also provides an educational opportunity for staff to further develop as better instructors and designers at a level higher than they may have previously been comfortable.

**Financial Impact:** Variable each year; approximately \$70 per unit (with circuit discount).

Total for 2019 would have been \$280.

Cost to be borne by MAIN

### [Proposal #17](#)

**If warming up in a shared pre-show warm up space, no music or amplified Dr. Beat can be used.**

*Submitted by Elyse Delgado of Matawan HS Enigma*

**Rationale:** This is distracting to the other unit that is sharing the space.

**Financial Impact:** None

### [Proposal #18](#)

**During sound check, unit cannot ask sound person to adjust levels or tempos other than volume through specific times.**

*Submitted by Elyse Delgado of Matawan HS Enigma*

**Rationale:** This should be pre-mixed into soundtrack and should not be sound person's responsibility.

**Financial Impact:** None

### [Proposal #19](#)

**I would like to have all directors be able to videotape their own guard's performance. We as instructors know that rehearsals vs competitions are two different things!**

**The students need to see how they perform in order to make corrections. Yes, I am aware of the licensing issues in today's world. Could we possibly come up with a hold MAIN harmless document signed from each director put together by a lawyer that would allow specific videos only viewed by each specific guard? Not having students observe their meaningful performances is detrimental to our activity!**

*Submitted by Tom & Pat Darnsteadt of Wayne Hills HS Millenia Winter Guard*

**Rationale:** Based on my motion above (sorry I put both proposal and rationale together)

**Financial Impact:** Lawyer fee????

### Proposal #20

**If critique cannot be offered to all units attending a contest, a sign-up will be offered for units to sign-up for critique on a first-come, first-serve basis.**

*Submitted by Meghan Aitken of Morristown HS*

**Rationale:** The current system of allowing hosts to determine if critique is prioritized for certain classifications, which creates a disparity between groups/class, and access to critique. This disproportionately affects guards at the developmental level who could potentially benefit the most from interaction and clarification with the judges towards the long-term development of the program and performer skill. As teams do not know what style of critique will be offered until shortly before the show, this process will ensure a more equitable access through the season.

**Financial Impact:** None

### Proposal #21

**Modify the google form to allow for the submission of the assessment of all judges on one form in lieu of the current 5 form format.**

*Submitted by Meghan Aitken of Morristown HS*

**Rationale:** Technically this is not a rule but I thought I would propose it. If one is a director of multiple programs, having to submit upwards of 10 forms each show is time consuming, especially in light of the amount of duplicate information. Every step towards encouraging feedback helps the circuit.

**Financial Impact:** none

## **Policies and Procedures – Championships:**

### Proposal #22

**Any unit using a WGI Regional "credit" toward qualifying for Championships must still attend at least two shows prior to/or at the Mid-Season mark**

*Submitted by Bobbey Biddle of Plymouth Whitemarsh HS*

**Rationale:** The spirit of this rule is two-fold... to support early season competitions and to have a proper amount of adjudicating opportunities for reclassification purposes (for those teams that it applies to).

**Financial Impact:** none

### Proposal #23

**Either the WGI Philadelphia Regional or the WGI South Brunswick Regional may be counted as one of the four required MAIN shows for championship eligibility, when hosted by a MAIN member unit.**

*Submitted by Marlo M Spritzer of Classics Colorguard*

**Rationale:** The WGI SoBro regional may be counted as one of the four MAIN shows to be eligible for championships, so it stands to reason that the Philadelphia regional could as well. Since SoBro fills up so quickly, some units may only be able to get into the Philadelphia regional, which is a challenge in the early season, yet there is no other credit or incentive for units to do so. Allowing units to use the Philadelphia regional as one of the four MAIN shows would create equity with units who do the same with SoBro, and it would help them to get two shows in and have time to develop their programs before the midseason deadline.

**Financial Impact:** none

### [Proposal #24](#)

**Under Championships Venue Selection, change deadline for submissions to "no later than two weeks prior to the Fall Meeting" rather than four weeks.**

**Currently reads as follows:**

**"Submission of venue specification document (same as WGI Color Guard Event Proposal Form) and written intent to host Championships must be submitted to the Executive Board no later than four weeks prior to the Fall Meeting."**

*Submitted by Lauren Moffatt Burns of Council Rock South HS*

**Rationale:** Four weeks is excessive; two weeks' notice should be sufficient.

**Financial Impact:** N/A

## **Review WGI Proposals which passed at the Advisory Board Meeting:**

For reference, we included the original rationale behind most passed proposals. World Championship Passed Proposals provided as a courtesy to those units from our circuit who attend.

## **RULES**

### [Proposal #17 \(Amended\) PASSES \(25-19-4\)](#)

**Amend Eligibility Rule 1.4 to state:**

**No Color Guard ensemble may compete with less than Five (5) members on the floor of competition at any time and no more than 40 members spinning equipment on the floor at one time.**

**The rule currently states: Color guards in the A and Open classes may not compete with less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) performers in the competition area at any time. Color guards in the World classes may not compete with less than five (5) nor more than forty (40) performers in the competition area at any time.**

**Rationale:** 1. This aligns more with WGI Winds and WGI Percussion rule books (which state only a minimum of 10 or 6 on the floor). 2. The current rule puts a boundary around A/Open classes differently than World Classes. 3. The amount of performers on the floor would be left up to the design teams/organizations to design shows in a manner that best suits them. There should be no safety concern to the audience as long as the unit is within the identified boundaries at each competition.

**Financial Impact:** There will be some financial impact due to potential increase in cost per performer (awards, etc.) I do believe there is value in researching how many units are currently performing with maximum number of participants today to understand what the potential for increase could be.

[Proposal #19 PASSES \(45-0-3\)](#)

**Allow all classes the ability to use pre-show/walk-on music.**

**Rationale:** Currently, this is only permitted for World Class groups. After watching all of A Class finals, I was struck by the amount of dead time during set-up that the performers were walking around in silence awaiting the start of their show. For many, the pre-show/walk-on music allows them to shake their nerves before their judged performance begins. As with World Class, it is not mandatory and does not impede, nor promote, competitive success.

**Financial Impact:** None

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

[Proposal #13 PASSES \(47-0-1\)](#)

**Include pictures & dimensions of entry & exit doorways for all WGI contests.**

**Rationale:** With all of the props that everyone is using these days. It would be helpful to include that info in our packets.

**Financial Impact:** None.

[Proposal #19 PASSES \(41-0-5\)](#)

**Pageantry Resumes for all WGI Color Guard Judges will be published on Directors page of WGI website for units to review. Bios will be released in conjunction with the release of judging assignments each year.**

**Rationale:** This information will help units get to know the backgrounds and experience of the judging community. This is not a new idea as most band, guard, corps events already provide judge bios to competing units and often to the public. The focus of each biography would be the judges pageantry/relevant experience/expertise.

**Financial Impact:** \$0

## **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS** (non-voting items; included here as a courtesy)

[Proposal #3 PASSES \(37-8-3\)](#)

**Keep the rounds at World Championships balanced when placing tied guards in the same round. This can be accomplished by simply skipping a round after placing two guards in the same round because of a tie.**

[Proposal #4 PASSES \(33-7-8\)](#)

**Divide the scholastic A class into three sites for WGI World Championships Prelims. The 150 teams would be seeded into rounds with Round 1 appearing at site A, Round 2 appearing at site B, Round 3 appearing at site C, Round 4 at site A, Round 5 at site B, Round 6 at site C etc. The top 20 scoring groups from each site would advance to Semifinals.**

[Proposal #8 PASSES \(46-1-1\)](#)

**At WGI World Championships provide a covered area such as a tent or a long extended covered awning to protect props from rain, snow, or inclement weather. A second tent like the one used for equipment warm up this past year would be ideal. It's proximity to the prop entry area at UD would also be important to reduce any exposure the props may have to bad weather.**

[Proposal #15 \(AMENDED\) - PASSES \(46-1-1\)](#)

**At WGI World Championships WGI will provide 4 parking passes for UD Arena parking or for any other venue that charges for parking.**