

COMPETITION PROPOSALS

1.

Submitted By: Jen Rex

Team Affiliation: Steinbrenner HS

Area of Focus: Competition

Proposal:

Problem: The current seeding process for Championships is difficult to predict and the 2 point per week growth model does not effectively balance out varying show dynamics such as differences in judging panels, number of units competing, week of the season, etc.

Proposed solution(s): Two possible solutions are outlined below.

Solution A: Use a formula averaging a unit's scores throughout the season as the seed score to account for growth.

Solution B: Require all units attending Circuit Championships to attend a "Focus Show" or "Championships Preliminaries" to determine seeding for championships. This show could be held at two different locations on the same weekend to meet the circuits needs from a size stand point.

Rationale:

Using either model would ensure more accurate seeding for championships and help offset differences in show dynamics. The FFCC uses a similar model for percussion units, and other circuits such as the SFWGA use a prelims/finals scenario as well. Additionally, if the second model was used and the focus/preliminary competition was held 3-4 weeks prior to Championships it would allow for an earlier publishing of the Championships schedule giving units more time to prepare schedules.

Financial Impact:

There is no foreseeable financial impact associated with this proposal.

2.

Name: Jen Rex

Team Affiliation: Steinbrenner HS

Area of Focus: Competition

Proposal:

Problem: The first time many units compete in direct competition is at circuit championships. The growing size of the circuit has created a need for more shows, covering various geographical locations around the state; in meeting this need it has become very possible some units may compete all season without directly competing against other units within their competitive class. This in conjunction with seed scores based on varying show dynamics (week of season, number of entries, judging panels) makes it hard for some units to realistically assess the competition within their class.

Proposed solution: Divide each competitive class with 16 or more units into divisions at the start of the season with the Premier competition. Divisions could be created based on geography, or another way determined by the board. By dividing each class at the outset of the season it would guarantee units compete at Championships against the same (with the exception of promotions) units they competed against at the Premier competition.

Rationale:

All units would start and end their season competing against the same units within their division. This would allow units to better gauge their competitive class since all units within a division would compete under more similar conditions at the outset of the season. Based on attendance from the 2015 East and West Premier competitions, if units were divided geographically, most classes that would be affected would be divided relatively evenly.

B Class= 16 units (East) vs. 20 units (West)

AAA Class= 16 units (East) vs. 13 units (West)

AA Class= 12 units (East) vs. 17 units (West)

A Class= 12 units (East) vs. 9 units (West)

Financial Impact:

There is no foreseeable financial impact associated with this proposal.

3.

Name: Patrick Duncan

Team Affiliation: Wiregrass Ranch Indoor Percussion

Area of Focus: Competition

Proposal:

I am proposing that seeding into FFCC championships be determined by the scoring of the last performing contest, with a 2 point curve per week before championships. Teams will be seeded in the same manner as FFCC Color Guards.

Rationale:

This proposal will give the most accurate seeding into championships. Teams that improve drastically through the course of the season are left with a competitive disadvantage based on the scoring of their first show. Since this is not done with the color guard circuit, it makes the most sense that we treat all facets equal in terms of ruling. To ensure that teams are participating in the circuit adequately, it should be required that percussion ensembles participate in the Premier event, Percussion Focus, plus one other regional event.

Financial Impact:

The only financial impact I see is there will be less incentive to attend regionals with an earlier date, as those will most likely not influence their seeding.

4.

Name: Shelba Waldron

Team Affiliation: Paradigm

Area of Focus: Competition

Proposal:

Create an Independent Regional A Class.

Rationale:

The Independent A Class has become as competitive in the past several years as any other class in Dayton. The majority of guards that come out in the IA class do so with intents to go to Dayton or at the least, compete at the regional level. There are skills and show ideas that are being attempted and achieved in the Independent A class that take high levels of sophistication in design and training.

Many Independent Guards are not ready for this and need a class to learn design and training concepts. This also gives the circuit a way of moving guards out of IA when they are clearly not ready. It would also allow for promotion from IRA to IA if warranted.

Financial Impact

Not quite sure, aside from adding the extra class at local shows and championships.

Procedural Proposals

5.

Name: Michelle: Llerena/Joe Cavallaro

Team Affiliation: Jackson Heights MS

Area of Focus: Procedural

Proposal

That the placement announcements for each division at the Championship contest be announced in reverse order up to and including 5th place prior to the announcement of the Medalist positions in each division.

In prior years, the placement announcements for each division were announced up to and including 4th place prior to the announcement of the Medalist positions.

The announcement of the top 4 would include scores for each. Immediately after announcing 4th place, the traditional Fanfare music would begin as the first Medalist is announced and approaches the awards table in the traditional way.

Rationale

Medalist positions have high value and an atmosphere of excitement always surrounds their announcement. Properly framed delay can create even more anticipation. Instead of the Medalists being known for several minutes with what amounts to a "sigh of relief" that doesn't maximize the moment, the top 4 groups in each division would still be left not only wondering about "which medal", but, actually, "did we get one"? ; Sort of an "Oh, my God...we're still in it!" situation.

At that point (in the 3 Class B divisions, for example) there would still be 12 groups on the floor (and their supporters in the stands) participating in a moment of high drama.

Leaving the 4th place announcement for the final "reveal" of the Medalists creates a higher drama and electricity for the crowd and performers and would further accentuate the value of the top placements in those divisions where competition is the keenest. The goal is more tears (of joy) "in the moment" as the kids approach the award tables, as opposed to having had several minutes to react but at a greater distance (physically and emotionally) from the audience.

The audience connection here is crucial as it would maintain interest for longer periods of time during the ceremony.

At FFCC 2016, this proposal would have applied in class B, AAA, AA, and A.

Financial Impact

Zero.

6.

Name: Michael Higbe

Team Affiliation: Fleming Island Winter Guard

Area of Focus: Procedural

Proposal

All reclassification of color guard, percussion, and winds teams will be made during the competitive season.

Rationale

Directors are making responsible choices with regard to the talent and skills of their teams relative to classification. Directors are better aware of their team's abilities and what they have returning to their teams than people not directly involved.

7.

Name: Tom Slaughter

Team Affiliation: Board of Directors

Area of Focus: Procedural

Proposal

Eliminate critique held at Circuit Championships during years where WGI World Championships occurs less than one week later. If the WGI calendar has their Championships occurring more than one week in the future, the critique would still be scheduled. So, for instance, following this updated policy would have cancelled the color guard critique held this past season, but not affected the Percussion and Winds critique.

Rationale

Due to lack of rehearsal time before departing for Dayton, these critiques are not an effective use of our judges' or instructors' time. This would free instructors to

spend retreat with their students without feeling an obligation to critique with the judges.

Financial Impact

None.

8.

Name: Tom Slaughter

Team Affiliation: Board of Directors

Area of Focus: Procedural

Proposal

Limit critiques during the season to 2 choices per team. For shows that have more than 30 ensembles request to critique (90 minutes) with a specific judging panel during the day, the circuit will supplement the judge pay for this event with an additional \$80. This will be at the circuit's expense and not the show host.

Rationale

Critiques are adding hours to the judge day and there has not been compensation provided. We offer critiques at every event, which is not the norm with our competitors. By limiting the choices of each team to 2 critiques during the season, and then compensating our judges for the additional time they work we can hopefully continue to offer more of these opportunities to our ensembles.

Financial Impact

Cost to circuit for additional supplements potentially paid to judges.

9.

Name: Tom Slaughter Slaughter

Team Affiliation: Board of Directors

Area of Focus: Financial

Proposal

Raise judge pay for the upcoming competition season as follows:
WGI/National Level - \$400 minimum or \$8 per ensemble judged whichever amount is higher.

Local Level - \$300 minimum of \$7 per ensemble judged, whichever amount is higher.

Rationale

Our circuit is widely known as a leading destination for traveling judges. Recently many circuits have become competitive with us in regards to pay. This adjustment, will keep us at the forefront of the activity and continue our reputation as the most preferred destination for judges.

Financial Impact

Show hosts will be impacted by the additional fees. Amount varies based on size of show. Circuit will be impacted by additional costs incurred at Premiere, Focus, and Championship events.