

Proposals for Policy and Procedure Implementation

Competition Proposals

1. Team Affiliation/Author: Lake Howell HS JV/Jarret Thompson

Policy Reference: VI.M.2

“Teams may be promoted to a higher class of competition. The Chief Judge and/or a committee designated by him/her, makes promotions based on team performances at any FFCC or WGI contest. All official WGI promotions will be honored and implemented within the FFCC regardless of the date.”

Proposal:

Modify policy VI.M.2 of the FFCC Policy Manual from its current form: Teams may be promoted to a higher class of competition. The Chief Judge and/or a committee designated by him/her, makes promotions based on team performances at any FFCC or WGI contest. All official WGI promotions will be honored and implemented within the FFCC regardless of the date. To read as follows: Teams may be promoted to a higher class of competition. The Chief Judge and/or a committee designated by him/her, makes promotions based on team performances at any FFCC or WGI contest. The FFCC Chief Judge and/or a committee designated by him/her must use a current video of the unit to aid in their promotion decision. All official WGI promotions will be honored and implemented within the FFCC regardless of the date.

Rationale:

The growth of our circuit has resulted in many multiple show weekends. In a perfect world the scores from all events would be directly comparable and a useful tool for the Chief Judge to make promotion decisions. However, contest dynamics and/or different judging panels make it difficult to use this metric without the possibility of promoting a unit before they are ready for the next level of classification. By requiring the use of a video in the evaluation process, the Chief Judge and/or his/her committee can more accurately evaluate the unit on the qualifications necessary for promotion.

Financial Impact: Cost of video taping shows.

2. Team Affiliation/Author: Marion Independent Winterguard/Barry Miller

Policy Reference: None Found

Proposal: Provide one video pass, with units name, so that the unit may designate a person to video only that units show performance.

Rationale: There are not videographers at every circuit show during the season. It is a teaching and learning tool, utilized by units to improve and fix their shows during the competitive season. I suggest a lanyard pass, not unlike the director's pass, but made in a way/color that it cannot be utilized for show access. The bearer would still need to have a circuit pass or wristband for show entry. If the show has a videographer, the pass would be invalid and the unit would have to utilize the videographers taping of that competitions show for teaching and learning. If the pass is lost/misplaced during the season, it will not be replaced.

Financial Impact: Cost of printing the video pass.

3. Team Affiliation/Author: Fleming Island JV/Randy Nelson

Policy Reference: Classes of Competition

Proposal: Change the classification names of Cadet, Novice and B Class to Regional A Cadet, Regional A Novice and Regional A

Rationale: Better align the name of the class with the sheet they use for Adjudication. Eliminate the confusion when entering WGI events for local teams wishing to compete in the Regional A Class at regionals.

Financial Impact: None

4. Team Affiliation/Author: Lake Nona HS/Christopher Haubenestel

Policy Reference: VI.) Contest Policy; M.) Placement Within and Movement Between Classes.

Proposal: This is a proposal to add the following to the current policy regarding placement within and movement between classes; "A unit cannot be reviewed for promotion at any competition without at least 75% of their show completed."

Rationale: The opportunity for a unit to be promoted to a higher class can be a very rewarding experience for the performer and the staff involved, however, it has shown

that promotions made too premature in that unit's process can lead to results that are not only undesirable but can impeded the educational experience of the activity. A majority of promotions tend to happen after the Premiere show or during early contests of the season. Even though this is an ideal point in the season to receive notice of promotion, many of the decisions are based on a perceived potential simply because the teams that are being reviewed have not had the opportunity to perform a complete show. It is not beneficial for a competing unit to be required to perform in a higher class when they have not been able to exhibit all the basic fundamentals and standards that are a benchmark for the class in which they have entered. For example, a unit has been promoted from Class B to Scholastic AAA. At their premiere show they may have only performed half of their production with only a few sections that demonstrate the skills they currently possess, meaning, they may only perform small equipment features that do not connect from phrase to phrase. Even though the skills they have shown at that moment may have been strong, there is not enough evidence to decide as to what class is appropriate. In this example, the design staff may not have been able to provide a seamless product that shows that they are able to connect from phrase to phrase as the program progresses. The performers may not have been able to demonstrate that they can manipulate equipment and move around the stage simultaneously and have a firm understanding as to what they have been asked to do. Skills that are a standard in the higher classes. It obviously a goal that these skills will develop over the competitive season, but a decision to promote should not be made if these standards are not currently evident in real time. If a unit presents a complete thought from start to finish that is sufficiently choreographed and achieved at a strong level over the expectations of the class they are in; even if it is early season, they should be promoted. However, if the decision is based on an incomplete product that does not exhibit all the skills required for the higher class the unit should not be promoted until they are able to do so with a complete production.

Financial Impact: No known impact.

5. Team Affiliation/Author: Weeki Wachee/Rene Robles

Policy Reference: Classes of Competition

Proposal: Creation of the Scholastic BB class

Rationale: In 2019, the B class was the largest class in the FFCC with 48 competitive units at Championships, up from the 41 units in 2018, and 30 units in 2017. This year we saw as much as a 23 point gap between the top and the bottom of the class. I propose the creation of the BB class to help alleviate these issues. By creating this new class, the younger and less experienced teams with less experienced staff could compete in the BB class. There are units in the B class that have significantly more resources than some of those younger units by being JV teams for larger programs or by just being more established programs with more experienced staff. Furthermore, by

creating the BB class, we can use that as a recruitment tool to gain even more units in the FFCC. There are many programs that don't compete in the FFCC because they are much less experienced with competitive winter guard and think that they would have no chance of being "successful" against the army that B class currently is. By advertising the creation of this new class as a "beginner" or "training", we may be able to continue and further the growth of the circuit by pulling in more programs.

Financial Impact: Cost of awards at Premiere and Championships. Development of paradigms for each box criteria and additional training for judges.

6. Team Affiliation/Author: Fleming Island/Michael Higbe

Policy Reference: Classes of Competition - "Class B – One division to include both Independent and Scholastic teams. This class is for the very inexperienced performers who are just entering the performance arena for the first time. Show concept, equipment skills, movement skills, and performance are achieving only at an introductory level. This class is made to encourage and develop the growth of teams that are only beginning to understand indoor color guard. Their evaluation will be on the WGI Regional A criteria."

Proposal: I propose that we add a three-year consecutive limit to this classification. Teams may compete in this class for three consecutive years before they have to move up to the next highest suitable classification of competition. The team director can petition the Classification Committee for reclassification after a Premiere Day performance. Moving up to the next higher level of classification resets the three year limit for the team should their ability warrant a return to the Regional A class criteria.

Rationale: The B class is, by definition of the criteria used to judge the class, a beginning class. Once the performers demonstrate fundamental skills, they begin to outgrow the criteria and the competitors. If a team has been in B Class for multiple years and have any retention of membership, they are no longer beginners. This will also help the growth of the backlog of teams we currently have in the B class.

Financial Impact: No known impact.

7. Team Affiliation/Author: Fleming Island/Randy Nelson

Policy Reference: Mandatory Events - Premiere

Proposal: Consider a revamped FFCC Premier weekend to include two sites instead of three. Add a Friday night event for the Regional A classes with Saturday being AAA,AA,A, Open and World Classes. Consider a 4 person panel for the Friday show with the 5th person being an overview person. (SoCAL model). The Friday panel could

be primarily local judges. (we have plenty of very strong ones). Saturday would be the normal panels with an additional overview.

Rationale: Create a bigger, more exciting event. Allow for more comparison between more groups which would result in better information for the teams.

Financial Impact: Should result in a substantial savings with the elimination of a site, staff and judging panels.

8. Team Affiliation/Author: Innovation Montessori Ocoee/Kristen Janke

Policy Reference: Classes of Competition - "Cadet Class – One division to include both Independent and Scholastic teams. This class is for teams whose performers are Junior High / Middle School age or younger. Evaluation will be on the WGI Regional A criteria. Teams may include up to 40 members."

Proposal: This class is for teams whose majority of performers are Junior High / Middle School age or younger. A majority is calculated as follows: at least 60% of performers must be Junior High / Middle School age or younger, no more than 40% of performers may be High School age. An Alternative would be to Allow for an application process for exemption of Class Rules for special circumstances.

Rationale: We are a small charter school with a PK3-9th grade population. Next year, our school will introduce 10th grade. We began our program in the 2019 season with 11 performers ranging from 4th-9th grade. Two of our performers were 9th graders and thus we had to perform in Class B. Given the age/maturity of the majority of our performers, Cadet class would be an appropriate fit for our circumstances. We will likely continue to have a majority of performers in the elementary/middle grades as we continue to build our program.

Financial Impact: No known impact.

Procedural

1. Team Affiliation/Author: Seminole HS/Drew Titland

Policy Reference: VI A 1 (b) Regional distribution -
"It is a prime consideration of the Board of Officers to provide a schedule in which contest sites are evenly distributed throughout the circuit boundaries. This will provide reasonable opportunity for all guards to meet their minimum show requirements without undue travel."

VI G 3 (c) and (d) -

"(c) - A Percussion/Winds Premiere Contest. More than one Percussion/Winds Premier Contest may be scheduled based on geographic or other membership factors."

“(d) - A Percussion/Winds Focus Show. More than one Percussion/Winds Focus Show may be scheduled based on geographic or other membership factors.”

Proposal: To Add a Gulf Coast Premiere and Focus show to the 2020 competitive season.

Rationale: There are many scholastic ensembles located on the gulf coast, that would save lots of money not needing to travel 3 times past Orlando to qualify for FFCC championships. This may also make it financially possible for more groups in the gulf coast to participate in finals.

Financial Impact: More financial responsibility for scholastic groups' travel needs, not much financial change in regards to FFCC. *Tom Slaughter will provide additional information at the meeting.

2. Team Affiliation/Author: Fleming Island/Michael Higbe

Policy Reference: M) Placement Within and Movement Between Classes - “7) The Chief Judge will establish a committee to review all teams after Circuit Championships for possible promotion between seasons.”

Proposal: Remove item seven as we no longer review teams for promotion after the competitive season.

Rationale: Previously stated.

Financial Impact: None

3. Team Affiliation/Author: Fleming Island HS/Michael Higbe

Policy Reference: Section VII - Circuit Championships -

“E) For classes with 16 or more entrants, separate divisions will be created for the Circuit Championships Contest. Teams will be assigned divisions based on their ranking in the final championships seeding order with an alternating assignment pattern (i.e. odd number rankings in one division, even number rankings in the other).
1) All Percussion teams will be seeded and not utilize a random draw.”

Proposal: For classes with 16 or more entrants, separate divisions will be created for the Circuit Championships Contest. Teams will be assigned divisions based on their ranking in the final championships seeding order. They will be assigned and seeded within the divisions using the NCAA model of "snaking" the teams until the divisions are full.

- 1) All classifications and divisions will be seeded.
- 2) All Percussion teams will be seeded and not utilize a random draw.

Rationale:

- 1) The current wording in the policy manual does not reflect the current system in use.
- 2) The NCAA method yields mathematically balanced rounds.
- 3) The judges we secure each year are highly competent, well trained, free-thinking individuals, capable of making sound decisions based on the performances of the day. Seeding some of the events and not seeding others can only lead to confusion on the part of the visiting judges.
- 4) Transparency can only build trust. Unless there is a way for the teams to view or participate in the random draw there will always be a level of doubt as to the fairness of the performance order.

Financial Impact: No known impact.

Administrative

Team Affiliation/Author: Fleming Island/Michael Higbe

Policy Reference: None Currently in Place

Proposal: I propose the Nominating Committee be composed of eight people from our active membership. Three Color Guard Advisory Board members, elected by the Color Guard Advisory Board. Two Percussion Advisory Board Members, elected by the Percussion/Winds Advisory Board. One Winds Advisory Board Member, elected by the Percussion/Winds Advisory Board. Two FFCC Board of Director Members, appointed by the FFCC Board of Directors. The leadership of the Committee to be determined by the members once assembled.

Rationale: This will populate this committee early enough for them to effectively search and review potential candidates. This structure would give a balanced representation of the membership based on the current population and can be open to modification or review as needed. I believe it will create an opportunity for more active participation by a broader base of our directors.

Financial Impact: The possible cost of meeting space and travel allowance.