

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual



Serving the Pageantry Arts since 1985.

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual
Table of Contents

- I) [Definitions](#)
- II) [Meetings](#)
- III) [Fees & Insurance Requirements](#)
- IV) [Non-performance Fees](#)
- V) [Contest Policy](#)
- VI) [Circuit Championships](#)

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

I) Definitions

- A) The following definitions shall apply to this Policy Manual:
- 1) “FFCC” means Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Incorporated.
 - 2) “FFJA” means the Florida Federation of Judges Association.
 - 3) “Board of Officers” means the elected Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Board of Officers.
 - 4) “President” means person appointed by the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Board of Officers to serve as President.
 - 5) “Vice President” means the person appointed by the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Board of Officers to serve as Vice-President.
 - 6) “Secretary” means the person appointed by the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Board of Officers to serve as Secretary.
 - 7) “Treasurer” means the person appointed by Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Board of Officers to serve as Treasurer.
 - 8) “Chief Judge” means the person the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Board of Officers has given the responsibilities of administering all aspects of the adjudication of FFCC events with the guidance and input of the Board.
 - 9) “Contest Coordinator” means the person designated by the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Board of Officers to coordinate a given FFCC competitive event.
 - 10) “By-Laws” means the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit By-Laws document as approved by the Fourth Judicial Circuit Court of the State of Florida.
 - 11) “Member Team” means color guard, percussion, and wind ensembles that have paid membership fees for the current season,
 - 12) “Show Host” means the sponsoring organization that has filled out an application, paid a sponsorship fee, and been selected to host a FFCC sanctioned contest.
 - 13) Show means the event hosted by the Show Host that may or may not involve the competitive, adjudicated, performances.
 - 14) Contest means the adjudicated performances, where the participants are ranked and rated according to specific criteria by adjudicators selected by the Chief Judge of the FFCC.
 - 15) Sanctioned means officially authorized action, permission, or approval by the FFCC Board of Officers or executive committee.
 - 16) Co-sanctioned means officially authorized action, permission, or approval by the FFCC Board of Officers or executive committee and another entity recognized and authorized by the FFCC Board of Officers or Executive committee.
 - 17) “WGI” means Winter Guard International.

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

- 18) “Circuit Championships” means the Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Championships.

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

II) Meetings

A) Initial Membership Meeting

- 1) Teams register and/or update their information.
- 2) Teams pay any fees or financial obligations to the Treasurer.
- 3) Teams designate their voting delegate.
- 4) Competition dates and locations are presented.
- 5) Teams select contests in which they choose to participate.
- 6) Teams receive necessary information for operation during the season, including but not limited to: rules changes, policy revisions, etc.
- 7) At the conclusion of the meeting, maximum entry capacities are set for each event based on facility safety standards and manageable workload for staff and judges.

B) Annual Meeting

- 1) Team Delegates are issued voting cards.
- 2) Roll Call of Team Members.
- 3) Proposals for amendments to the By-Laws and policy changes are read and reviewed, and polled for approval, review, or rejection.
- 4) Potential dates for the next competition season are presented.
- 5) Annual Board Reports are presented.
- 6) At least 6 weeks prior to Championships, a Nominating Committee will seek nominations for board seats for the following two year term, to include current board members who wish to seek re-election. The nominating committee will accept nominations from circuit members, as well as pursue individuals whose service could be beneficial to the organization, and make those nominees and their biographical/pertinent information available to the membership at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting for consideration. The Nominating Committee will be comprised of the Executive Director, at least two current board members whose tenure is not ending, and at least two directors. While there is no limit on the number of nominees to be considered, there will be no nominations at the Annual Meeting.
 - (a) Voting procedures at the Annual Meeting will continue as outlined in the policy manual.
- 7) Nomination and election of the Board of Officers.
 - Voting Procedures:
 - (i) The voting delegate will be issued a ballot form for the election of the Board of Officers.
 - (ii) Voting delegates will select their choices for the total number of Board positions available.

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

- (iii) Those votes are counted and a candidate must receive a majority of the delegates present to win the position.
 - (iv) Should there still be positions available after the initial vote, another vote shall be taken.
 - (v) Delegates will select from the remaining ballot of candidates and the next candidates must receive two thirds of the vote to secure the remaining positions.
- 8) Delegates absent from a meeting can designate a substitute. The Team Director must log on to their team profile page no later than 48 hours in advance of the meeting. On the Team profile page, they may change the name of the Designated Voting Delegate. The delegate must be someone authorized to act on behalf of the Team in binding policy decisions.
- (a) Should Directors have trouble logging on to their account, Electronic messages (e-mails) designating a voting delegate will be permitted as long as the e-mail shows the sender as the email address of the Team Director on record. The same forty-eight hour requirement applies for e-mail.
- C) All voting for the election of the Board of Officers will be by secret ballot.
- D) Board Members have a vote in general meetings (Annual Meeting, Initial Membership Meeting, and other meetings as convened.)
- E) Under NO circumstances shall any person cast more than one vote in any given poll. Nor shall they be permitted to represent more than one Member Team in any voting.
- F) All meeting minutes will be published within ten days of the conclusion of a meeting.

III) Fees

- A) The financial fees are determined by the Board of Officers and are as follows^{1*}:
- 1) Membership Fees
 - (a) Color Guard Teams
 - (b) Percussion Teams
 - (c) Winds Teams
 - (d) Florida Federation of Judges Association Dues
 - (e) Show Host Sponsorship Fees
 - (f) Non-performance Fee
 - (i) If a team fails to appear for a performance they will pay a fee to the Treasurer before they will be allowed to perform again.

¹

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

- (ii) Member teams with a Surety Bond on account will be exempt for the first infraction but will be subject to the fee for each subsequent infraction.
- (g) Non-Member Entry Fee
 - (i) Non-member Teams will pay this fee to the Treasurer.
 - (ii) A Non-Member Team will not be placed on the schedule of a Contest until payment has been received.
 - (iii) The non-member fee must be received at least fourteen (14) days prior to the contest date.
 - (iv) The non-member team may withdraw fourteen (14) days prior to the contest date and receive a full refund.
- 2) Fees can be paid by check, money order, PayPal, or cash. The issuance of a purchase order is not considered as payment until the check is received by the FFCC.
- 3) **Membership Fees Increase incrementally based on the date of payment.**

IV) Insurance Requirements

- A) All Independent Teams (member teams and non-member teams) must provide proof of liability insurance by December 15 prior to the beginning of the competitive season and be dated to last the full term of the competitive season, with FFCC listed as additional insured, or they will not be allowed to compete in FFCC contests. Please upload this information in the space provided on the FFCC web site under the “Show Information” tab on your Team Profile page. This must be done for your registration to be complete. Non-member teams must upload the document prior to being scheduled for any FFCC event.

V) Non-performance Fee/Withdraw Fee

- A) Any Member Team that fails to appear at a contest to which they have committed must pay a “Non-performance Fee” and the Member Team may not compete in any additional FFCC sanctioned contests until the fee is paid. The Board of Officers may vote to waive any fees at their discretion.
- B) Any Member Team that withdraws from a contest **less** than FOURTEEN (14) DAYS PRIOR TO A SCHEDULED PERFORMANCE (i.e., for a Saturday contest, notification must be received by 11:59 PM on Friday two weeks prior.) is subject to a “Non-performance Fee”. The Board of Officers may vote to waive any fees at their discretion.
- C) Any Member Team that withdraws from a contest FOURTEEN (14) DAYS or more PRIOR TO THE CONTEST will not be subject to the “Non-performance Fee”

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

- D) Beginning with the 2016 season Surety Bonds will no longer be required for new Member teams.
- E) Member Teams with a Surety Bond from a previous season will be able to use that bond to pay the non-performance fee. After the bond is used, the team will be subject to the rules and regulations regarding “Non-performance Fee”. (refer to Sec. V sub. A, B, and C)

VI) Contest Policy

A) Contest Site Selection Process

- 1) The FFCC Board of Officers will award the right to host FFCC sanctioned contest based on the following criteria.
 - (a) Valid bid submission – Bids must be submitted by Member Teams on or before the stated deadline. Each submission must include the completed online “Event Host Form” (found online at www.ffcc.org), the required deposit check, and a letter from the school principal or facility manager on corresponding letterhead, stating that the facilities will be available on the requested date. Late or incomplete bids will be considered only if no valid and complete bids have been submitted for the same date.
 - (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.
 - (c) Calendar distribution - The Board of Officers considers the regional distribution of contest dates throughout the competition calendar to avoid an uneven balance of dates in each region.
 - (d) Venue – The Board of Officers must consider the size of the performance venue (based universally on Fire Code Rating), amount of space for warm up areas, ease of access, and logistical support. The selection of a venue should support our goals of providing a positive performance experience for member teams.
 - (e) Show Hosting History – The Board of Officers will consider applicants with previous show hosting experience before applicants without FFCC experience. Prior show hosting experience does not guarantee a show will be awarded over a group with no hosting history.
 - (f) In an effort to help profitability of events, consideration will be given to the regional location of shows on dates with multiple events.

B) Contest Sponsorship

- 1) A distinction is to be made between “show” and “contest.” The “show” is the event hosted by the Show Host. The “contest” is that portion in which color

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

guard, percussion, and winds teams perform and receive adjudication from a panel of adjudicators selected by the Chief Judge of the FFCC. The Show Host may organize the non-contest portions of their shows in any manner they wish provided they do not interfere with the contest or reflect poorly on the FFCC. No non-contest activities may take place in the hour preceding the beginning of the contest.

- 2) All Show Hosts must agree with and sign the “Show Host Contract.” Signing stipulates that you are willing to fulfill the obligations as outlined by the contract and abide by the policies of the FFCC.
- 3) The Show Host is responsible for paying the contest invoice as invoiced by the Chief Judge. The line items invoiced are as follows:
 - (a) FFJA Judges
 - (b) WGI Judges
 - (c) Contest Director
 - (d) Transportation
- 4) Show Hosts will be invoiced 7 – 10 days prior to the event.
- 5) Potential Show Host Fees^{2*}.
- 6) **Payment is due the day of the event.** If the invoice is not paid a penalty fee will be assessed and the member team of the sponsoring organization will not be allowed to compete until invoice and penalty are paid.

C) Membership Entitlements

- 1) The FFCC Board of Officers reserve the right to deny or cancel the membership of any team that is counter productive, disruptive, or in direct conflict with the goals and philosophy of this organization. This includes all forms of social and digital media.
- 2) Application or registration to the FFCC does not guarantee acceptance or membership.
- 3) Member Teams are entitled to compete in contests that are sanctioned or co-sanctioned by the FFCC and which are still open for registration. They will be given priority performance order over guest teams. In the case of co-sanctioned events, performance order for FFCC Member Teams will be merged with that of other co-sanctioning circuits with the hosting circuit holding the last performance slot.
- 4) Entries might be limited based on logistics and facility limitations. All teams that pay their fees and register for contests at the Initial Membership Meeting are exempt from the maximum stipulation. At the conclusion of the Initial Membership Meeting any entry restrictions apply to all teams.
- 5) Member Teams are entitled up to seven staff passes at each circuit contest, to be used at the team’s discretion. Additionally all Member Teams will receive one Team Director’s Season Pass. The Team Director’s Season Pass permits

2

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

entrance to all FFCC contests and will not be replaced if forgotten, lost, or misplaced. The person to receive this pass will be regulated by the team and any rules governing the team by the relative school district or managing organization. The FFCC Board reserves the right to revoke the privileges of this pass at any time.

- 6) Teams may purchase Super (5) and Mega (10) Passes until Rosters and Insurance are due on December 15th.
- 7) Member Teams meeting competitive requirements are entitled to registration into Circuit Championships. This is not, however, mandatory.

D) Performance Order Procedure

- 1) Performance order priority is as follows with highest priority performing last.
 - (a) Member Teams in attendance and paid at or before Initial Membership Meeting and meeting all registration requirements.
 - (i) For each contest, the order of appearance for teams is determined by computer randomization.
 - (ii) The order of appearance will be determined immediately after the fourteen (14) day contest registration cutoff.
 - (iii) This method of determining performance order will be used for all contests regardless of the date of registration for a particular contest.
 - (b) Member Teams paid after the Initial Membership Meeting and meeting all registration requirements.
 - (i) The performance order for each contest entered is determined by postmark date of the Team's payment of the membership fees.
 - (ii) Teams will be ordered in reverse order of the postmark date.
 - (iii) If more than one Team's dues are postmarked the same day, order will be determined by computer randomization for those teams.
 - (c) Guest Teams.
 - (i) The performance order for each contest entered will be determined by postmark date of the Team's entry fee.
 - (ii) Teams will be ordered in reverse order of the postmark date.
 - (iii) If more than one Team's fees are postmarked the same day, computer randomization will determine their performance order.

E) Team Member Restrictions

- 1) The FFCC Board of Officers will address all WGI policies that are inconsistent with the policies of the FFCC.
- 2) All competing teams in the FFCC must abide by WGI rules and regulations concerning the eligibility of performing members. WGI Eligibility Rules include but are not limited to:
 - (a) Members who have not reached their 23rd birthday on March 31 of any given year shall be permitted to compete in contests governed by WGI.

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

This age rule applies to all teams except those entered in the color guard Independent World Class. Independent World Class teams may compete with members of any age. Each team appearing in a FFCC contest shall be prepared to show proof of member's age.

- (b) Member Teams whose total membership comes from the same school or schools that feed into that school and abide by the WGI age rule may compete in the scholastic (non-post secondary) divisions provided by WGI. Each school team appearing in a FFCC contest in a scholastic class shall be prepared to show proof of enrollment in sponsoring schools.
 - (c) No Color guard team may compete with less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) members on the floor of competition at any time. Independent World Class Color Guard teams may have up to forty (40) members. Percussion teams have no minimum or maximum members. Winds teams have a minimum of ten (10) members and a no maximum number of members.
 - (d) No person may compete on more than one team at the same FFCC Color Guard contest, unless waived by the Board of Officers. This includes any preliminaries /finals situations. Performers may compete with more than one Percussion or Winds team at an FFCC Contest, as long as all rules and guidelines regarding membership eligibility have been adhered to (including letters of release from affected scholastic programs). Members may compete in any combination of guard, percussion and/or winds at the same contest. For these purposes, a contest is defined as the full competitive day of an FFCC Color Guard show. For example, a member may not compete in "B" class Color Guard show at the beginning of the day, and "A" class Color Guard show later in the day.
- 3) Scholastic member participation in an independent team:
- (a) The FFCC strongly discourages independent color guard, percussion, or winds teams from utilizing membership composed of ANY students who were previously enrolled in an active competitive scholastic color guard, percussion, or winds program and have not yet graduated from high school.
 - (b) Independent Teams may not recruit students who are currently members of a scholastic color guard, scholastic percussion, or scholastic winds program who are competitive in the FFCC.
 - (c) Recruiting is defined as any direct email contact, targeted contact by members of the independent team, or encouragement by the team directors through educational spin camp "experience" environments. Use of Social or other digital media contact is also a form of recruitment.

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

- (d) If a student enrolled in a school with a competitive color guard, percussion, or winds program wishes to join an Independent Program, he/she may do so provided they meet the following standards:
 - (i) He/She has not successfully auditioned for the program.
 - (ii) He/She has **never** participated in the scholastic program in a **classroom, rehearsal, or performance** situation.
 - (iii) No letter of intent, permission, or commitment to participate in the scholastic program has **ever** been signed by the student or parent /guardian.
 - (e) If a student is enrolled in a school that has an active color guard or percussion program or winds program and chooses to participate in an Independent program, a letter must be on file with the FFCC. This letter must state that the student is officially released of any obligations to the scholastic team, and must be signed by the student, a parent or guardian of the student, the director of the Independent team, and the officially credentialed teacher in charge of the scholastic team or a school administrator.
 - (f) This letter must be on file with the Secretary of the Board of Officers of the FFCC, no later than **December 15** of the season that the member will be participating (December 15, 2016 for the 2017 season). **Failure to file this letter will leave the student ineligible for that competitive season.**
 - (g) Failure to comply with these regulations will result in the forfeiture of FFCC membership and participation in any FFCC governed event by any team that has said person(s) in their membership. The Board of Officers may review and address any circumstances not covered by current policy.
- F) Contest Regulations
- 1) Where possible, competition rules will remain consistent with WGI and will be updated accordingly.
 - 2) All FFCC Policies and Procedures will be adhered to for administrative purposes.
 - 3) A penalty of 0.5 points up to disqualification may be assessed on any team that exhibits behavior that endangers person or property during entrance or exit in regards to setting and/or clearing props, floor covers, and personnel.
 - 4) All teams, regardless of class, will have protective padding on rifles and sabres. All flagpoles will have rubber tips securely taped onto the flagpoles. Any footwear with hard soles or taps must have protective tape and/or padding to protect the performance surface. Any team not doing so will be subject to a minimum penalty of two (2) points and are subject to disqualification and will not be allowed to perform unless corrections can be made without delaying the contest.
 - 5) Sound checks will be permitted during the hour prior to the start of the show. Sound checks may be permitted during breaks in the show at the discretion of

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

the Contest Director. Sound checks will be for pitch/speed and balance only. Headphones will be available for listening.

- 6) Any protest of the rules and/or judging of a contest will be addressed by the Contest Director and the Contest Chief Judge.

G) Contest Season

- 1) The contest season will begin no earlier than January 1 and will extend no later than April 30.
- 2) The Board of Officers, at a meeting prior to the Initial Membership Meeting shall decide event hosts and event dates. Show Applications must be submitted online by a date determined and announced by the Board of Officers. Checks and Letters may be delivered by hand or through the mail and must be received by the specified deadline date.
- 3) The following are the minimum contests to be held by the FFCC:
 - (a) A Color Guard Premier Contest that will be the first contest of the season. More than one Premier Contest may be scheduled based on geographic or other membership factors.
 - (b) Three sanctioned color guard contests. Every attempt will be made to have these contests geographically evenly distributed.
 - (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.
 - (e) A Circuit Championships that will be the last competitive event of the FFCC season.
- 4) To be eligible to compete at Circuit Championships, a Color Guard Member Team **must** compete in the following events:
 - (a) Color Guard Premier.
 - (b) Three (3) FFCC contests, in addition to a Color Guard Premier.
 - (c) Color guard teams may include competition in one (1) WGI Regional event to satisfy one of their three circuit contests requirements.
- 5) To be eligible for Circuit Championships a Winds Member Team **must** compete in the following contests:
 - (a) Percussion/Winds Premier Event.
 - (b) Percussion/Winds Focus Show.
- 6) To be eligible for Circuit Championships a Percussion Member Team **must** compete in the following contests:
 - (a) Percussion/Winds Premier Event.
 - (b) Percussion/Winds Focus Show.

H) Divisions of Competition

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

- 1) Independent Division – All teams that meet WGI guidelines and FFCC Team Member Restrictions are eligible to compete in this division. Scholastic Division – All teams whose members all come from the same school, school district, from a junior high/middle school, or elementary school that feeds the high school program are eligible to compete in this class. Each scholastic color guard or percussion ensemble must have the principal of the sponsoring school approve any student within that district participating in that team. The principal must then sign a letter stating that each participant is following their local guidelines, as well as affirm that this is an approved activity by the district and individuals are insured through the district. This letter must be submitted on school letterhead to the Secretary by December 15 prior to the start of the season. Teams will be removed from shows and lose performance priority after December 15 if roster is not complete and on file.
- I) Color Guard Classes of Competition
 - 1) World Class – Independent and Scholastic divisions. This is the highest level of competition. Participants in this class should have advanced vocabulary, programs, and achievement levels. Evaluation will be on the WGI World Class criteria.
 - 2) Open Class – Independent and Scholastic divisions. Participants in this class should have intermediate vocabulary, programs, achievement levels, and are beginning to incorporate advanced concepts. Evaluation will be on the WGI Open Class criteria.
 - 3) Class A – Independent and Scholastic divisions. Participants in this class should have beginning vocabulary, programs, achievement levels, and are beginning to incorporate intermediate concepts. Evaluation will be on the WGI Class A criteria.
 - 4) Class AA – Scholastic division only. Participants in this class should have beginning vocabulary, programs, achievement levels, and are ready to begin incorporating intermediate concepts. Evaluation will be on the WGI Class A criteria.
 - 5) Class AAA – Scholastic division only. Participants in this class should have beginning vocabulary, programs, achievement levels, and have progressed beyond the introductory level, but are not yet ready to begin incorporating intermediate concepts. Evaluation by caption judges will be on the WGI A Class criteria. Timing and Penalty rules used for this division will be on the WGI Class A criteria.
 - 6) 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. Evaluation will be on the WGI Regional A criteria.

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

- 7) 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.
 - 8) Novice 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 and are entering the performance arena for the first time. Evaluation will be on the WGI Regional A criteria. Member Teams may not register for Novice Class at the beginning of the season. Teams will be placed, based on the performance of all Cadet Teams, in the Novice Class at the conclusion of the Cadet Class competition at Premier and announced within 48 hours of the end of the Premier contest.
 - 9) Evaluation Class – One division to include both Independent and Scholastic teams. Entrants in this class will receive a performance evaluation consistent with the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) rating system, from each of the five judges. Participants in this class will receive a certificate with their final rating. Evaluation will be on the WGI Regional A criteria.
- J) Marching Percussion Classes of Competition
- 1) World Class – Independent and Scholastic divisions. This is the highest level of competition. Participants in this class should have advanced vocabulary, programs, and achievement level. Evaluation will be on the WGI World Class criteria.
 - 2) Open Class – Independent and Scholastic divisions. Participants in this class should have intermediate vocabulary, programs, and achievement levels, and are beginning to incorporate advanced concepts. Evaluation will be on the WGI Open Class criteria.
 - 3) Class A – Independent and Scholastic divisions. Participants in this class should have beginning vocabulary, programs, and achievement levels, and are beginning to incorporate intermediate concepts. Evaluation will be on the WGI Class A criteria.
 - 4) Class AA – Scholastic division only. Participants in this class should have beginning vocabulary, programs, achievement levels, and are ready to begin incorporating intermediate concepts. Teams will be placed, based on the performance of all Scholastic A teams, in the Scholastic AA Class at the conclusion of the Scholastic A Class competition at Premier and announced within 48 hours of the end of the Premier contest. Evaluation will be on the WGI Class A criteria.
 - 5) Evaluation Class – One division to include both Independent and Scholastic teams. Entrants in this class will receive a performance evaluation consistent with the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) rating system from each of the three judges. Participants in this class will receive a certificate with their final rating. Evaluation will be on the WGI A criteria.

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

K) Concert Percussion Classes of Competition

- 1) World Class – Scholastic division only. This is the highest level of competition. Participants in this class should have advanced vocabulary, programs, and achievement level. Evaluation will be on the WGI World Class criteria.
- 2) Open Class – Scholastic division only. Participants in this class should have intermediate vocabulary, programs, and achievement levels, and are beginning to incorporate advanced concepts. Evaluation will be on the WGI Open Class criteria.
- 3) Class A – Scholastic division only. Participants in this class should have beginning vocabulary, programs, and achievement levels, and are beginning to incorporate intermediate concepts. Evaluation will be on the WGI Class A criteria.
- 4) Evaluation Class – One division to include both Independent and Scholastic teams. Entrants in this class will receive a performance evaluation consistent with the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) rating system, from each of the two judges. Participants in this class will receive a certificate with their final rating. Evaluation will be on the WGI A Class criteria.

L) Winds Classes of Competition

- 1) World Class – Independent and Scholastic divisions. This is the highest level of competition. Participants in this class should have advanced vocabulary, programs, and achievement level. Evaluation will be on the WGI World Class criteria.
- 2) Open Class – Independent and Scholastic divisions. Participants in this class should have intermediate vocabulary, programs, and achievement levels, and are beginning to incorporate advanced concepts. Evaluation will be on the WGI Open Class criteria.
- 3) Class A – Independent and Scholastic divisions. Participants in this class should have beginning vocabulary, programs, and achievement levels, and are beginning to incorporate intermediate concepts. Evaluation will be on the WGI Class A criteria.
- 4) Evaluation Class – One division to include both Independent and Scholastic teams. Entrants in this class will receive a performance evaluation consistent with the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) rating system, from each of the three judges. Participants in this class will receive a certificate with their final rating. Evaluation will be on the WGI A Class criteria.

M) Placement Within and Movement Between Classes

- 1) Color Guard, Percussion, and Winds teams may enter into any class at the beginning of the season that their membership is eligible to participate, unless they have been promoted to a higher class based on the previous year's

Revision Date 05/1/2018

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

Championship performance. Classification for all color guard and percussion units will be reviewed at their respective Premiere Show(s).

- 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.
- 3) Teams may be promoted by the FFCC any time during the season, with a deadline of all promotions being finalized fourteen days prior to the first day of Championships, with the exception of the WGI promotions.
- 4) If a team is promoted during the year to a class with longer required performance times, the team will not be required to increase its times at a FFCC sponsored or sanctioned contest, with the exception of teams moving from AAA to AA/A classes. These teams are responsible for the additional time requirements or subject to penalties.
- 5) Movement down in class or between divisions may be done only with the approval of the Chief Judge, and/or a committee designated by him/her. This includes teams who feel they have been inappropriately promoted to a higher class or wish to move down from Scholastic Class AA. Teams may petition the Chief Judge, and/or a committee designated by him/her, at any point in the season to change their classification.
- 6) Non-Member Teams may select the class in which they wish to compete relative to past experience and ability. Members of the Board of Officers and the FFJA will help guide teams who are unsure of the class that is relative to their experience and ability. They will not be allowed to enter Class B or Scholastic Class AAA unless classified accordingly by the Chief Judge at a previous FFCC contest in the current season.
- 7) The Chief Judge will establish a committee to review all teams after Circuit Championships for possible promotion between seasons.

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

VII) Circuit Championships

- A) The FFCC will sponsor Circuit Championships at a site to be determined by the Board of Officers with all gate proceeds going to the FFCC.
- B) Member Teams must fulfill all financial responsibilities and performance requirements to participate in the Circuit Championships. Member Teams may appeal to the Board of Officers to be allowed to compete in cases where these responsibilities and/or requirements are not met.
- C) When a Championships site does not offer staffing or FFCC finances do not allow, all Member Teams are required to volunteer two (2) adults to work at a post position assigned to them by the Contest Coordinator. Failure to do so will result in a fine of \$250.00 per volunteer. The team shall not be allowed to perform until the fine is paid. Only the Board of Officers can waive any fees or fines.
- D) The order of performance for Circuit Championships will be determined as described in the Performance Order Procedure section of "Contest Policy". For classes of nine or more teams, the class will be divided into thirds based on scores received at FFCC contests using the Seeding Formula^{3*}. Each third of teams based on the seeding process will compete within their block utilizing the random draw and priority blocks to determine their order.
 - 1) Color Guard: Based on your score at your final FFCC appearance and adjusted by a factor of 2 points per week to quantify growth.
 - 2) Percussion: Based on your score at your FFCC Focus show appearance and adjusted by a factor of 2 points per week to quantify growth.
 - 3) Winds: Based on your score at your FFCC Focus show appearance and adjusted by a factor of 2 points per week to quantify growth.
- 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.
- F) Trophies or plaques will be awarded at Circuit Championships for First, Second, and Third place in all competitive classes and class divisions.
- G) Championship medals will be awarded to each performing member of the teams that place first, second, and third in each class at Circuit Championships.
- H) Kevin Paulus Award - The team that displays qualities of outstanding sportsmanship throughout the season will be awarded the Kevin Paulus Memorial Trophy. This is to honor the team displaying the true Spirit of community learning and giving of one's self to make this activity better for all who engage in it.

3

Florida Federation of Colorguards Circuit Policy Manual

Member teams will nominate the candidates for this award during the contest season. The Board of Officers will select 3 finalists from which the team directors will vote prior to Circuit Championships.

- I) Performers who are engaging in their last year of eligibility with their team because of age restrictions or high school graduation will receive recognition.
- J) If financially feasible, the FFCC will award at least two scholarships. The name of this scholarship shall be the “Martha Stark Memorial Scholarship.” Applications detailing criteria for the “Martha Stark Memorial Scholarship” will be sent to each Member Team and is available on-line at www.ffcc.org
- K) Hall of Fame
 - 1) Any FFCC member in good standing may submit an individual nomination for selection to the FFCC Hall of Fame.
 - 2) The nominating member is responsible for submitting a letter of nomination and two letters of support to the chairperson of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee.
 - 3) All completed nominations will be forwarded for voting.
 - 4) Voting will be done by the current members of the FFCC Hall of Fame and the current members of the Board of Directors.
 - 5) The vote will be either “Yes” or “No”
 - 6) Any nominee receiving 75% affirmative votes will be selected to the FFCC Hall of Fame.
- L) Susan Taylor Humanitarian Award
 - 1) Any FFCC member in good standing may submit an individual nomination for selection to the Susan Taylor Humanitarian Award.
 - 2) The nominating member is responsible for submitting a letter of nomination and two letters of support to the chairperson of the Susan Taylor Humanitarian Award.
 - 3) All completed nominations will be forwarded for voting.
 - 4) Voting will be done by the current members of the Susan Taylor Humanitarian Award and the current members of the Board of Directors.
 - 5) The vote will be either “Yes” or “No”
 - 6) Any nominee receiving 75% affirmative votes will be selected to the Susan Taylor Humanitarian Award.

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