

# AIA Regulations

## 2023

### 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 the Color Guard Contest Rules, Percussion Contest Rules, and Wind Contest Rules of the most recent manuals and rule books published by WGI.

1.2 To be eligible for membership, organizations must submit an application annually. 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 Scholastic Units that are combining more than one school must submit an application for Combined Schools to the EBOD of their region for approval.

1.4 All Independent units must provide proof of insurance, both general liability and accidental medical. This must be postmarked or sent electronically to the AIA Color Guard or Percussion and Winds Coordinator (for Percussion/Winds) for its regions on or before January 15. Units will not be permitted to perform without proof of insurance on file.

1.4.1 General Liability: Each independent unit must provide proof of \$1,000,000 general liability coverage per organization. This coverage protects the unit, instructors, directors, and officers against claims of bodily injury liability, property damage liability, and the litigation costs to defend against such claims. Further information can be obtained on the WGI website ([www.wgi.org](http://www.wgi.org))

1.4.2 Accidental Medical: Each Independent unit must provide proof of \$10,000 accidental medical coverage per organization. This covers all injuries (instructors and performers) at all activities sponsored and supervised by the unit (rehearsals and performances) as well as travel as a group and travel individually from member's home. Further information can be obtained on the WGI website ([www.wgi.org](http://www.wgi.org)).

1.4.5 All music presented at an AIA contest will either be uploaded through the Competition Suite portal or be brought on a USB flash drive (music must be in mp3 or .wav files) or device able to connect to an 1/8" cable.

### 2.0 AIA-Sanctioned Contests

2.0 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 AIA competitive season is a minimum of 10 available weekends prior to the earliest AIA Regional Championship event

2.1.1 The competitive season will begin no earlier than the weekend following January 1 and extend no later than April 30.

2.1.2 The key dates for each region (coming out dates, end of reclassification) will be the same for both regions. (See 4.1 for more details)

2.1.3 The competitive season may include weekends with no AIA event due to host availability and/or holidays

2.2. AIA-sanctioned contests must offer all categories of competition (color guard, percussion, and winds) except for individual contests 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 / wind 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.

2.2.4 Judges Coordinators will have judging panels posted to the AIA website at least 5 days before the cut off to withdrawal from a competition without financial penalties being assessed. This excludes assignments at championships.

2.3 The contest entry fee for member unit(s) and non-member units to AIA sanctioned contests will be determined annually by the Governance Board and posted on the website prior to contest registration

2.3.1 All units regardless of classification will be subject to all membership and competition fees.

2.3.2 Member units with an overdue event registration prior to the date of closing of the event may be removed from the competition schedule and replaced by a wait-listed member unit with paid event registration. At the discretion of the EBOD

2.3.3. The official deadline for amending or change of registration for AIA contests will be four Fridays before the contest date. Once the show registration period ends at **11:59pm** on Friday, the following will apply:

- a. Unit contest entry fees are locked and non-refundable or transferable. Any unpaid entry fees will still be due.
- b. There will be a penalty fee of \$100 for any manual registration changes within the four weeks leading up to a contest (i.e. - Withdrawal From or Late Add To a Contest). An invoice will be created and sent to the unit director for payment within 30 days.
- c. Waitlisted units who are added to the event schedule will not be subject to a Late Add fee.
- d. Withdrawal penalty fees are paid to the event host partner by AIA and late addition penalty fees are placed in the scholarship fund

2.3.4 Any event refunded by AIA WILL NOT count toward fulfilling any championship attendance requirements and the unit must select another event to fulfill these requirements.

2.3.5 A competition for which a unit does not perform will not be counted towards fulfilling any Championships attendance requirements. Note, this does not apply to inclement weather.

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.

2.7.1 AIA is not responsible for vetting an Event Partner's vendors. However any vendor claiming to be representing a member unit must be submitted to the Event Partner by the member unit's Director.

2.8 AIA shall limit the total number of units in a regular season contest to 60. The unit entry count can be increased at the discretion of the region's EBOD.

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.

2.9.1 Full penalties for Color Guards will be assessed at all AIA Contests. Full penalties for Percussion and Wind units will be assessed at all AIA Contests including interval timing. Performance Timing penalties will begin for percussion and winds on the percussion coming out date.

2.9.2 All contests for the 1st three weeks of the competitive season may offer a single clinic judge for percussion and winds units in attendance.

2.10 Performance order at all regular-season contests will be randomized utilizing the randomization tool in Competition Suite.

2.10.1 Registered units will be automatically entered into their event by the Competition Suite program. Contest Coordinators will select the "randomize" button to create the order of performance for each contest.

2.10.2 If a unit is reclassified at a previous contest and the schedule has already been posted, that unit will perform first in the upcoming contest, but will be randomized with the remaining units in their class at the following contest.

2.10.3 A schedule will be posted no later than three Mondays before the contest. Units with unpaid registrations at the close of event registration will perform first in the class and will not be included in the randomization of contest order.

## 3.0 Unit Classification

3.0.0 Colorguard groups may intentionally move to a higher classification during the off-season if they feel this is appropriate for their performers. Groups may choose to move down only one AIA class during the off-season. Units wishing to classify more than one AIA class lower must petition the Judge's Coordinator with an explanation of why the lower class is warranted prior to January 1.

### 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 A class sheets but permitted to use World Class Regulations.

### 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.

**A1 Class (National A)** - adjudicated on WGI Scholastic A Sheets. Advanced caliber locally. Units whose program includes a high level of basic equipment and body handling and demonstrate some open class skills, particularly in equipment. These units are the National teams and are generally the only AIA Scholastic A class that attend WGI World Championships where they intend to be competitive. They are likely to have larger, more experienced staff. These programs may exhibit sophisticated production value.

**A2 Class** - adjudicated on WGI Scholastic A Sheets. Units with programs that include an intermediate through high level of basic equipment and body handling. These units may attend WGI Regionals, but do not attend WGI World Championships with a competitive intention. These groups are teaching beginning and some intermediate skills. Exploration of more sophisticated soundtracks is appropriate in this class (3/4, 6/8, moderate to faster tempos, etc) and will likely show more production value (floors, props, etc) than the lower classes.

**A3 Class** - adjudicated on WGI Scholastic A Sheets ("national" level). Units whose program includes a low to intermediate level of basic equipment and body handling. These groups exhibit achievement of basic skills and are exploring intermediate skills and longer phrases. Soundtracks are still straightforward, but begin to show more variety. These units are the newest to the A Class and would typically be competitive at local AIA events, and do not attend or are not generally competitive at WGI events. These groups may be transitioning from Regional A programming to A programming. Programs in this classification may also be restricted by resources, but find creative ways to achieve general effect and program success.

**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 content is developed to allow the performer to MASTER BASIC SKILLS. The goal of this class is uniform ACHIEVEMENT from all performers, designers and instructors. Groups in this class are (re)building. Equipment releases should max out at triples; attempting higher releases is not appropriate for this class.

**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. Programs should focus on ACHIEVEMENT of INTRODUCTORY skills in movement and equipment. We do not anticipate groups should stay in this class for more than a few years as groups and instructors mature. Groups with the ability for high production value (digital floors, large props, etc) are not appropriate for this class. Soundtracks allow for performers to easily understand and follow a music structure. Equipment releases should max out at doubles.

**Independent Regional A** - adjudicated on the WGI Independent Regional A Sheets. This class is focused on teaching and achieving MASTERY of BASIC SKILLS. Groups in this classification may be middle or high school students for which scholastic classifications are not practical. College-age students are discouraged from competing in this class. Equipment releases should max out at triples; attempting higher releases is not appropriate for this class.

**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 the Middle/Elementary class sheets.

**Elementary School Class** - Elementary schools will be adjudicated on the Middle/Elementary class sheets.

### 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 differences. 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 upperclassmen. 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 sub-captions 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.

#### 3.0.6 Independent Winds

**World Class** - performers demonstrate a high degree of musical and physical development. They are very experienced and fully trained and there is no age limit. 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 differences. Performers within one group can range from 12 to 22+ years of age, as there is no age limit. 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** - groups use the same criteria as the Scholastic A Class with the exception of no age limit. Here is where the beginning student discovers the joy of performing and realizes the sense of achievement as each skill is learned.

#### 3.0.7 Scholastic Winds

**World Class** - is consistently aged 14 through 17 because of the make-up of the high school arena. Often this class will consist of upperclassmen. Unlike the Independent World Class, these performers are rarely over 18 years of age. Groups 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 18. Unlike Scholastic A Class, these groups 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 18. Like most high school students, the groups show a tendency to be similar to one another. The formatting of their shows and the depth of their training and skills are comparable in many cases.

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.

3.2 All color guard units who win their respective class at AIA Championships will automatically be promoted to the next higher class for the next competitive indoor season. These classes will include Scholastic Regional A2, Scholastic Regional A1, Scholastic A3, and Scholastic A2. All remaining finalists from these classes will be reviewed by the AIA Chief Judges and they will determine which groups, if any, are deserving of being promoted for the next competitive season. The director(s) of any group that is to be promoted shall be notified directly no later than May 31st of that same year. Upon this notification, each director shall also receive a letter or outline explaining the qualifications for the promotion. If the director feels the promotion is truly unwarranted for valid and supported reasons, they may appeal with a declaration stating all reasons a promotion is not warranted. This appeal must be submitted by no later than July 1st. The AIA Chief Judges will then have 30 days to review the appeal and respond accordingly.

3.3 Those units who wish to move down in classification after a unit's first competition 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 and must have no overdue invoices with AIA prior to the close date of AIA championships. Subject to the discretion of AIA EBOD.

4.1.1 Color guard units (except middle school classes) must compete in an AIA sanctioned CONTEST or WGI Regional Event hosted by an AIA member by "color guard coming out date" which is the fourth competitive week of the season. They must have competed in at least one additional contest by the end of the reclassification period.

4.1.2 Percussion and Wind units must compete in an AIA-sanctioned contest or WGI regional event hosted by an AIA member by "percussion/winds coming out dates" which is the sixth competitive weekend of the season to be eligible for AIA championships.

4.1.3 Scheduled contests canceled due to weather will count toward fulfilling any Championship attendance requirements (See Inclement weather policy)

4.2 At the discretion of the regional EBOD, any member units not meeting these requirements are subject to additional penalty fees in order to attend Championships

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

4.4 The AIA Championships committee should consist of a member of the AIA EBOD and eligible representatives of the AIA general membership.

4.5 Performance order for Championships will be determined by its region's EBOD.

## **5.0 Reclassification and Promotion**

### **Color Guard**

5.0 The AIA Classification strategy has one main goal: "Provide a consistent and fair grouping of units achieving at a similar level while encouraging their development". This goal will be met by doing the following:

- a. Provide unit management and staff with clear descriptions of the qualities of performing ensembles in each class.
- b. Provide incentives for performing ensembles to move in to the higher levels of classification.
- c. Provide mechanisms for the circuit to ensure consistent and fair groupings.
- d. Provide an appeal process for performing ensembles that feel they are unfairly classed.

5.1 Reclassifications to a higher class of competition will occur following review by the chief judge at each local contest on the basis of raw score, caption scores, and competitive parity. The chief judge at a contest will review scores in each class and compare with previous scores and performance day context. The chief judge may confer with local judges, judges from a previous contest or both. Scores, in addition to comparative placement and judge's analysis at WGI Regionals, may be used in recommending a reclassification. The ultimate power of decision lies solely with the EBOD and the Color Guard Judges Coordinator.

5.1.1 Color guard units may be reclassified up to 3 Mondays prior to circuit championships.

5.2 Units reclassified to a higher classification will be recognized at the earliest possible date; either the same day or the next competition date. Medals will not be awarded.

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**

5.5 Percussion units competing in the WGI circuit, must compete under the same classification at AIA contests, with the exception of PSRA. For example, if you compete in PSO at a WGI Regional, you must register and compete in the PSO class for an AIA contest and not in the PSA class. PSRA may compete in the PSA class at WGI events.

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

5.7 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 the judging panel and the Percussion Judging Coordinator. The Percussion Judging Coordinator will notify the EBOD when the decision is made.

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

5.9 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).

5.10 Winds reclassification procedures will be developed and addressed as the participation in this class grows.



## **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 As an Official Circuit Partner of WGI, AIA and all AIA member units must comply with all WGI policies and guidelines, including the WGI Code of Conduct. Situations that arise involving performing members or staff of any participating unit in which questionable or improper behavior has been exhibited in such a way as to offend, threaten or violate another member or unit will be reviewed immediately by the Governance Board, and appropriate action will be taken. Units questioning the conduct of another member unit, director, or marching member must submit observations in writing to the Governance Board via the AIA website, at which time the Governance Board will take appropriate 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 Regulatory Procedures**

7.1 These rules and regulations in conjunction with our Bylaws will function as our rules of order.

7.2 These rules and regulations may be amended and revised when necessary by a simple majority vote of the Primary Voting Body at the Fall General Meeting. Proposals for changes should be submitted to the Executive Director and the Executive Board of Directors prior to the caucus meeting. These changes will be brought up at the summer caucus meeting at which they can be discussed by the membership prior to being voted upon at the Fall General meeting.

7.3 In the event of extenuating circumstances, times of crisis, or budgetary concerns, these Rules and Regulations can be amended by a two-thirds majority of the Governance Board.

## **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](http://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 within a week of the missed event.