

Reclassification

Reclassification is a delicate issue. Some units are very happy to be recognized as having progressed to another class, while others are concerned about the competitive ramifications of being moved. The judging community is sensitive to this dilemma, and realize that it can be a difficult situation. The goal is a system where units are competitive with other units at a similar maturity level. Here are some notes about reclassification in AIA--

---Judges assume that the unit staff place their unit in the correct class.

--Judges do not aim for a specific distribution of units among classes (they aren't trying to divide all the units equally into PSRA, PSA, and PSO.)

--Judges may advise that units would be better concerned competing in a lower class, but will never force a unit to compete in a lower class.

--Judges often do not suggest moving up a class in recorded commentary in order to avoid sending mixed messages to the units. They discuss as a group after the show before presenting a consensus opinion to the staff.

--Scores should reflect a judge's opinion regarding classification, but there is no set total or caption score at any point in the season that automatically triggers reclassification. This percussion policy is different than the guard reclassification policy. Often, percussion judges give units that may potentially be ready for the next class a box 4 score, but not necessarily a box 5 or 6. Previous versions of the WGI manual have had verbiage linking box scores and fitness for the next class, but these descriptors no longer apply.

--There is no cutoff date for reclassification. Reclassification can occur as late as championships.

--Units attending WGI events must compete in the same classification for AIA (unless the unit is registered for AIA in PSRA.) If a unit is reclassified at a WGI event, they will be reclassified in AIA to match the WGI classification.

AIA Reclassification Process

--Notification

1. Unit staffs are informed in critique by either show coordinator and/or chief judge that the unit is being referred to the advisory board for potential reclassification.

2. Unit staffs not present at critique will be informed about unit referral within 2 days of the show by the percussion coordinator via phone, text, email, etc...
3. Upon notification, units may elect to self-reclassify by informing percussion coordinator, show coordinator, or chief judge. This reduces the timeline involved and may allow them to compete in their new class quicker, however it is important to note that AIA ENCOURAGES units to go through the advisory board review process. Referral to the advisory board does not ensure reclassification. There are often times that the advisory board elects to keep a unit in their current competitive class.

--Video Submission and Review

1. Unit staffs have 7 days following notification to provide a current performance video to the advisory board via private Youtube channel or cloud-based service (Google Drive/Dropbox.) The video does not need to be full-uniform run in front of an audience, but it does need to reflect current production development of the show. Units provide link to this video to the percussion coordinator. If the percussion coordinator does not receive access to the video within 7 days of notification, the unit will automatically be reclassified to the next class.
2. The advisory board has 3 days following video submission to review the video, discuss, and determine if the unit should be reclassified.
3. The percussion coordinator notifies units of reclassification after communicating with EBOD and show coordinators to determine the show the unit will compete in their new class (it is possible that the reclassification process isn't resolved before the unit's next competition.)

Percussion Advisory Board

The percussion advisory board consists of the following—

1. North and South region percussion coordinators (unit directors)
2. 2 at-large members (unit staff or directors, traditionally from World Class units)
3. AIA Percussion Judging Coordinator (also functions as one caption representative)
4. 3 caption representatives (AIA judges)

The diversity of roles and experience allows for a thorough evaluation of the unit to determine the competitive environment in the best interest of the unit and the circuit as a whole. If the opinions are equally divided between the advisory board members, the percussion judging coordinator functions as the tie-breaking vote.

AIA units with questions regarding classification may request an advisory board review at any time. If initiated by the unit, the advisory board recommendation does not tie a unit to a particular class.

If there are any questions about the reclassification process or the advisory board, please contact your region's percussion coordinator or the percussion judging coordinator.