

Texas Educational Colorguard Association

Winterguard Manual

ARTICLE VII. CLASSIFICATION

I. Colorguard units will be organized ranging in size from five (5) through fifty (50) performing members. A unit will declare their class on the membership application. A unit may move up a class no later than the last contest in Block A. The unit director must put this in writing to the Texas Educational Colorguard Association President. A unit may not move down a class once they have performed within a specific classification.

The following unit classification descriptions are merely that; descriptions of what units in that class will typically be attempting and achieving. These descriptions are in no way meant to limit or restrict the creativity of the designer or the achievement of the performer. Instead, they are meant to serve as general guidelines for the instructor when making the decision as to what classification to place their unit during the contest season. It is expected that there will be some overlap of classes in terms of what is being attempted and how strongly it is achieved. Often units at the top of one class will demonstrate some qualities in the next class. However, if a unit is demonstrating most of the criteria for a particular class, then they should be competing in that class. Directors and designers should pay close attention to the criteria when creating the program and classifying the unit.

A. CADET CLASS – Any unit in which every member is an 8th grader or younger. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the locally developed “Cadet Class” criteria.

B. NOVICE CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. This class serves as an entry level class for new, first year programs which have never competed in the winter activity. Equipment and movement will focus on the training and achievement of the SIMPLEST INTRODUCTORY SKILLS. Directors and members will recognize which principles are essential at an introductory level and train for the excellent demonstration of these skills. The purpose of this class is to help the performers grow in the very elementary principles and efforts in handling equipment and movement. Typically, phrases are very short and have generous recovery time built in. Many may use props, small swing flags or other pieces of equipment, which can be handled through full arm rotation. Always support proper training and development on whatever piece of equipment or movement choice the unit displays. In the Design Analysis caption compositional qualities should include logic and presentation with good connections and flow from one single idea to the next. Obvious melodic line reflections will be the choice for most groups in reflecting musical structure. Focus on the correctness of the basics of composition. At pulse, in step and consistent step-offs, builds and transitions to new sets will be the priorities. In General Effect, design and performance skills will be at an introductory level. As beginners, single efforts and simple responsibilities are

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typical. The concept of layered skills will probably not exist. Shows will likely “set, move and spin” presenting one skill at a time. Performance Effect will be generated largely through precision and timing. Achievement of simple introductory skills is the focus of this class. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI “Regional A Class” criteria.

C. SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL AA CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. This class is designed for units that may have a mix of new and limited experience performers. This class is designed for individuals to be somewhat more competitive than the Novice class and still working on the refinement of introductory to beginning skills. Design and thematic efforts play a prominent role and are at introductory to beginning training and performance levels. Equipment and movement will focus on the training and achievement of introductory to beginning skills. Shorter phrases with ample recovery time is typical. Design and General Effect will focus on logic, connection, single efforts, and may have some introductory to beginning level dual performance responsibilities and layered effects. Groups who have had some exposure and experience combined with introductory to limited beginning training should declare this class. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI “Regional A Class” criteria.

D. SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL A CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. This class is designed for units that may have new performers and may include a majority of returning performers who have had some previous exposure to dance and/or color guard. Teams will show more beginning to advanced beginning level skills than introductory skills but are not ready for the demands of the A Class sheet. Equipment and movement will focus on the training and achievement of the foundational skills. Tosses use a limited variety of release and catch points and typically take place from a stationary position. Weapons will usually toss no higher than a triple. Dimensionality is limited and phrases are lengthening with some built in recovery time. Movement is mostly demonstrated by moving from place to place with a good range of gestural qualities being demonstrated. There is usage of simple turns and leaps and performers occasionally explore level changes around the body. Performers should demonstrate good examples of body awareness (posture, line, shape, weight) with some change in dynamic qualities. Design Analysis will display a beginning to advanced beginning level of artistic effort that focuses on clear staging of the elements, logical progression of ideas (horizontal orchestration) and the basic use of the design elements. The triad is never completely used with elements most often being presented singularly and occasionally presented two at a time. In General Effect, the concept and intent should be clear consistent and moderately developed. Ideas should move successfully from one to another and the intent

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of the concept is not totally dependent on the role of the performers. Performer role, character and emotional development is evident but at a beginning to advanced beginning level with minimal changes. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "Regional A Class" criteria.

- E. SCHOLASTIC AA CLASS - All Members attend the same school or feeder school. Guards in this class have members with prior winterguard experience and are moderately competitive at the advanced beginning to intermediate level. Teams will be encouraged to demonstrate logical yet imaginative programs with achievable standards for performers. Guards in this class should display evidence of strong fundamentals and some of the intermediate qualities of performance and design. Teams have talent to grow beyond the basics and explore intermediate levels of design and performance technique. Equipment and movement success comes from strategic choices in advanced beginning to intermediate vocabulary and a growing achievement of excellence. Design shows advanced beginning to some intermediate levels and a logical composition that facilitates a growing display of skills and achievability. Effect choices combine advanced beginning to some intermediate repertoire with growing success in communication of performance skills. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "A Class" criteria.
- F. SCHOLASTIC A CLASS - All Members attend the same school or feeder school. Guards in this class have previous winterguard experience and a more mature understanding of the basic principles of performance and design at the intermediate level. Units may also occasionally explore more advanced intermediate concepts that encourage performers and designers to broaden their skills. Stylistic diversity is encouraged. Equipment and movement success comes from strategic choices in intermediate vocabulary that lead to achievement of excellence. Design shows intermediate levels and a logical composition that facilitates performer skills and achievability. Effect choices combine logically written intermediate repertoire with success in an achieved and communicated performance. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "A Class" criteria.
- G. SCHOLASTIC OPEN CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For a highly competitive unit which is too advanced to find any competition in the Scholastic A classes but is not ready for the demands of Scholastic World Class. Guards in this class have a greater experience level. Teams have the talent to grow beyond the basics, exploring a higher level of design and performance techniques. Open Class guards demonstrate intermediate and some advanced level qualities in all captions with an

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expectation of stylistic diversity. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "Open Class" criteria

- H. SCHOLASTIC WORLD CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For the most highly developed high school programs. The designation World Class indicates the unit is competitive on the national level. This is the most advanced level of scholastic competition for guards with the talent and capabilities to produce challenging and creative programs. Teams will be challenged to expand their technical and performance base to achieve their fullest potential within programs that utilize advanced concepts in all captions. Stylistic diversity is designed and achieved at a high level. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "World Class" criteria.
- I. INDEPENDENT REGIONAL A CLASS – All members do not attend the same school or feeder school. Performance criteria for this class are identical to the Scholastic Regional A classification
- J. INDEPENDENT SENIOR CLASS – All members do not attend the same school or feeder school and there is no age limit placed on performers. Performance criteria for this class are identical to the Scholastic Regional A Classification.
- K. INDEPENDENT A CLASS - Every member does not attend the same school. For a competitive independent unit that is not ready for the demands of Open or World Class. Guards in this class are at a level where their members may be young or less experienced in their equipment and movement skills. In this category, guards will be encouraged to demonstrate skills in movement and equipment handling. Designers should present imaginative shows with sound and logical designs setting achievable standards for their performers. Members may not be over 22 years of age as of the date of the WGI national competition. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "A Class" criteria.
- L. INDEPENDENT OPEN CLASS - Every member does not attend the same school. This class is for a highly competitive unit that is too advanced to find competition in A Class but is not ready for the demands of World Class.

Guards in this area have a greater experience level. Guards will be challenged to broaden their design and performance skills. Designers and instructors will be challenged to expand their programming, creative and instructional techniques. Members may not be over 22 years of age as of the date of the WGI national competition. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "Open Class" criteria.

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M. INDEPENDENT WORLD CLASS - Every member does not attend the same school. There is no age limit to this classification. For the most highly developed independent programs. The designation World Class indicates the unit is competitive on the national level. This is an area where innovation and setting standards are the goal. This category is open to a guard with the membership talent, design, and instructional staff and budget to place their performers at this challenging level to stimulate their growth and development through World class competition. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "World Class" criteria.

ARTICLE VIII. CIRCUIT PROMOTION PROCESS

1. The promotion process will promote units that have surpassed the criteria reference expected for their class at that point in the season. The purpose of the reclassification process is to ensure units with the same defined characteristics, as described in the Class Descriptors, are identified as competitors within the same classification. The process for determining classification is as follows:

A unit is considered submitted for reclassification/ promotion if:

- i. The total gross score is 15% higher than the next highest score in the class, or
 - ii. At least 3 judges at the contest indicate that a unit should be reviewed as competing out of class.
2. The circuit will have two review committees: Color Guard and Percussion.
 - i. The Color Guard review committee will consist of the following: TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION President, Education Director, Colorguard Chief Judge, and a unit representative. The unit representative will be elected by the Circuit membership at the fall meeting, serve a one-year term, and must be a color guard unit director in good standing with the circuit.
 - ii. When the season begins, a unit can be requested for review if they are perceived to be in the wrong class. This review request can be made by the Chief Judge of the contest, a Working Board member, or the Education Director. A video recording of the unit will be made at a local contest and distributed to the committee within a very quick turnaround, usually within ten (10) days. The committee views the guard and considers the training and development level of the performers, the challenges they are achieving, and to a slightly lesser degree the quality

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and depth of the program. The students are the primary emphasis in considering any move. One of the things not considered is “who is on staff”. The committee is charged with carrying a good understanding of what the next class “norm” represents in order to have a barometer to measure whether or not the potential promotion will permit those students to achieve and be competitive. The decision is voted upon independently by each member and the President then informs the guard of the decision. This process is usually completed within one week.

- iii. A unit that feels a promotion was inappropriate must appeal the decision in writing within three calendar days of notification. Appeals must include supporting rationale based on class definitions as outlined in the by-laws to justify reversing the promotion. The review committee will hear the appeal, vote, and return a decision within three days of the receipt of the appeal.
- 3. Promotions are viable through the weekend of the second (2nd) score requirement.
 - i. The Review committees and class representatives will convene at the conclusion of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION season to determine if any units are ready to join the next higher classification. The units will be notified in writing that they are under review for promotion and will receive the decision of the committee prior to the circuit's fall meeting. The committee's decision can be appealed according to section D.
- 4. Each year the top two (2) units in each class will be recommended to move up to the next higher class of competition. If the unit does not enter the next higher class on their own, they will automatically be reviewed at their first competition of the following season.

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Proposed Promotion Scores							
	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7
NOVICE	33	42	48	54	62	65	70
REG AA	45	58	63	68	74	79	85
REG A*	63	68	73	79	85	92	96
SCH AA	51	61	65	71	77	83	89
SCH A*	59	64	69	74	80	86	93
REG A & SCH A PROMOTIONS WILL ALSO BE REVIEWED BY COMMITTEE DUE TO THE CHANGE OF JUDGING SHEET							

ARTICLE IX. PERFORMER ELIGIBILITY

- i. As TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION follows all UIL and TEA eligibility rules, a roster listing all eligible performing members in a unit must be turned in by each competing unit at their first performance of the season.

ARTICLE X. SPECIAL SITUATIONS

All other situations will be decided upon by the President on a case-by-case basis.

ARTICLE XI. CONTESTS

- I. For rules that the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION follows for the contest it sponsors, please see the Winter Guard International Rule Book.
- II. Contest Sponsors (Hosts) will have certain responsibilities for the organization of the contest they are hosting.
 - A. Any unit which has held Circuit membership for one full year may apply to host a show. Applications must be submitted to the Board at or prior to the Spring meeting. Show sites will be discussed by the general membership and voted on by the Executive Board at the fall meeting.

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- ii. Sponsors have all concession and program privileges. At regular Circuit shows, the show sponsor will receive 100% of all admission. At Circuit Championships, the show sponsor will be compensated \$3000 and TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION will receive 100% of admission. If the show sponsor is a non-circuit member, the contract will be negotiated.
- iii. All pertinent information must be made available to the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION Webmaster at least five (5) weeks prior to the contest date. Included information will be:
 - 1. Letter to directors/units
 - 2. Accurate maps/directions to the site
 - 3. Diagram of the facilities being used at the site
 - 4. Contest flow information
 - 5. Parking
 - 6. Pre-Performance procedures (prop storage, etc)
 - 7. Performance procedures (spiel sheets, entrance and exit flow, etc.)
 - 8. Post-Performance procedures (including a "Colorguard Instructor's Evaluation")
 - 9. Award ceremony procedures
 - 10. Critique procedures
 - 11. Host's contact information (office, cell, home, etc.)

D. Securing awards. Refer to Article IX – Awards

- iv. Schedule of the day's events will be provided by TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION.

III. Performance order will be determined in lottery fashion drawn by the executive board for each contest.

A. The Contest Director and the Contest Host will jointly address concerns for scheduling problems.

B. A categorized performance order of units will be provided by the circuit.

i) The schedule will be strictly adhered to.

ii) In the event of an emergency, rescheduled performances will be made at the discretion of the President/Contest Director, but rescheduling will not be guaranteed.

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C. The contest host will have the performance order, determined by TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION, prior to the contest date.

i) A host may cancel the contest not less than ten (14) calendar days prior to the show date if the host feels there are not enough competing units to meet operating costs. A sponsor should consult with the President/Contest Coordinator before making the final decision.

D. All full-show unit "no-shows" must be reported to the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION Treasurer within five (5) days after the contest. (Written or verbal is allowed.)

IV. The Contest Director has the authority to assume the responsibility of Contest host at the discretion of the majority of the Executive Board Present.

V. The TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION Executive Board will determine the admission fees for all contests throughout the season as well as the State Contests.

VI. The TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION Executive Board will determine the number of staff, directors and "student crew" members admitted to each contest including the circuit championships

ARTICLE XII. AWARDS

1. Awards for all TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION contests will be as follows.

- A. All divisions will receive awards/trophies for the top three (3) placing.
- B. All awards/trophies will be purchased at the contest sponsors' expense.
- C. Awards will meet the following minimum specifications:
 - i) 3rd place- 11 inches in height ii) 2nd place-13 inches in height iii) 1st place- 15 inches in height
- D. Awards for the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION Circuit Championship will be as follows
- E. All divisions will receive awards/trophies for the top three (3) placing.

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- i) All Divisional Champions will receive a Texas Educational Colorguard Association Divisional State Championship Banner.
- ii) All Class Units will receive Bronze, Silver, and Gold medals and be recognized as Bronze Medalists, Silver Medalists, and Gold Medalists.

ARTICLE XIII. TECA CHAMPIONSHIPS

- I. The TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION will sponsor a final show at the end of the indoor season; this contest will be known as the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION'S Circuit Championships.
 - A. The TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION championships will be held at a site where the President best seems appropriate, to be determined at the Spring Meeting and voted on by the executive board. If no facility is available, the next closest (to the central location) available facility will be determined by the board.
 - B. Special rules govern the Circuit Championships.
 - 1. All Winter Guard International and TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION rules apply to this contest.
 - 2. A unit or individual must be a member of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION AND must have their first and second score assessed by the dates set by the executive board. Actual calendar dates will be set every year by the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION Executive Board and will be published within the By-Law document, website, and in the fall minutes.
 - C. Performance order will be determined by a random generation.