

Percussion Classifications

I. Percussion units will be organizations with no less than six (6) performing members. A unit will declare their class on the membership application. A unit may move up a class no later than 14 calendar days before the Circuit Championships. 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. A. 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 creativity of the designer or 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 his/her unit during the contest season. It is expected that there will be some overlap of classes in terms of what is being attempted and what is being achieved. Often units at the top of one class will demonstrate some qualities in the next class. However if a unit is demonstrating a majority 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.

1. SCHOLASTIC MARCHING WORLD CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. Ensembles demonstrate a high degree of physical development. All the performers contribute to the consistent high levels of performance being demonstrated. World Class ensembles are trendsetters in the indoor percussion activity. Programs are unique and innovative and these components are important at this level. Some very sophisticated challenges will be placed on the performers. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "World Class" criteria.

2. SCHOLASTIC MARCHING OPEN CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. Ensembles have some experience in the indoor activity. This classification recognizes the achievement of the ensemble, and puts a greater emphasis on show design than the 'A' class. Open class ensembles have several members who understand intermediate skills, with a few who may know advanced skills. Here is where the intermediate student explores new challenges through performance and realizes a greater sense of achievement as each more complex skill is achieved. Units in this classification will be judged using the WGI 'Open' class criteria.

3. SCHOLASTIC MARCHING A CLASS - All Members attend the same school or feeder school. This class serves as a moderately competitive scholastic unit which is not ready for the demands of Open or World Class. Percussion units in this area are at a level where members and staff have a complete understanding of the basic principles of performance and design. Percussion units in this class are applying basic skills and some intermediate skills. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "A Class" criteria and will be encouraged to maximize the achievement of these criteria.

4. SCHOLASTIC MARCHING AA CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. This class serves as an entry level class for programs with the majority or all students having no indoor percussion experience. Directors and members will recognize which principles are essential at a beginning 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 percussion playing. Achievement of simple beginning skills is the main focus of this class. Units competing in the classification will be judged using the WGI "A Class" criteria.

5. SCHOLASTIC CONCERT WORLD CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For those scholastic percussion sections who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or allow for better presentation of musical performance only. (No guard auxiliary members allowed) One non-student conductor is allowed in the concert classes only. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only. Performers in World class are experienced and fully trained. Trend setting programs and performance levels are often displayed.

6. SCHOLASTIC CONCERT OPEN CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For those scholastic percussion sections who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or allow for better presentation of musical performance only. (No guard auxiliary members allowed) One non-student conductor is allowed in the concert classes only. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only. Open class ensembles have several members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing.

7. SCHOLASTIC CONCERT A CLASS - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For those scholastic percussion sections who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or allow for better presentation of musical performance only. (No guard auxiliary members allowed) One non-student conductor is allowed in the concert classes only. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only. A class members have a majority of members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing.

8. INDEPENDENT MARCHING CLASSES – For percussion units who wish to combine the elements of percussion and marching but do not fall into the definition of a scholastic unit. The age limit is 14-21. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI criteria for the class they declare A, OPEN or WORLD.

9. CADET MARCHING OR CONCERT CLASS – All members attend the same middle school. For MARCHING CLASS, the criteria for Scholastic Marching AA class will be used. For CONCERT CLASS the criteria for Scholastic Concert A class will be used.