



***Winter Rules Addendum  
Winter Guard  
2017***

***(Excerpt from WGI Rulebook)***



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# 1. General Information

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The NWAPA follows Winter Guard International (WGI) contest rules in regard to:

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This NWAPA Rules Addendum document contains an excerpt of the WGI Color Guard Adjudication Manual and Rule Book that contains this information. A complete copy of the WGI Rule Book is available to WGI members at [WGI.org](http://WGI.org). However the information that is specifically pertinent to NWAPA members can be found here.

## 2. Eligibility

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- A. Color guards in the Independent A Classes from the United States composed of performers not over 22 years of age as of 12:01a.m. on April 1st of any given year shall be permitted to compete in contests governed by WGI. Independent Open Class color guards from the United States may utilize performers not over 23 years of age as of 12:01a.m. on April 1st of any given year. Independent World Class Color guards may compete with performers of any age. Each color guard appearing in a WGI contest shall be prepared to show proof of age. International color guards are not bound by any age limit and must compete in the independent classes.
- a. US Military veterans may be granted one (1) year of eligibility immediately following their end of active service. To qualify, individual must have enlisted prior to their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday, served for no less than four (4) years, and must have been honorably discharged or medically separated. Veterans must submit a copy of their discharge papers and separation documents to WGI prior to December 1 to qualify.
- B. All performers of any color guard competing in any scholastic class must be approved for participation by the principal of the sponsoring school. If participating at a WGI event, each scholastic color guard shall submit a WGI Scholastic Eligibility Certification Form signed by the authorizing school principal or administrator listing all approved participants of that school's color guard.
- i. Color guards may combine students from multiple schools within their district provided the color guard competes under the name of a single school or the school district name. The purpose of this exception is to encourage smaller districts to combine students to create a color guard, not for larger districts to create multiple groups. Color guards may not combine names or use any other fictional name. Combined scholastic color guards may only use students that are in the district and/or home schooled students that would be zoned for those schools. Color guards combining students from different schools may be asked for additional information on reasons for combining students.
  - ii. If participating in a WGI event, the WGI Scholastic Eligibility Certification form must be signed by each principal of the schools involved and filed with the WGI office.
  - iii. If participating at a WGI event, a letter on district letterhead from the district superintendent that allows combining students from multiple schools within the district must be filed with the WGI office. Content of letter will be provided by WGI.
- C. No color guard performer shall compete in more than one color guard at the same contest.
- D. Color guards in the A and Open classes may not compete with less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) performers in the competition area at any time. Color guards in the World classes may not compete with less than five (5) nor more than forty (40) performers in the competition area at any time.
- a. Exception - NWAPA guards that are not competing at a WGI regional may have these minimum and maximum performer numbers waived.
- E. Color guards must compete in the same or higher classification at WGI events as they do at NWAPA contests.

***PENALTY: Disqualification - Any color guard violating any requirement in the Eligibility section shall be disqualified from that contest and must forfeit any scores, placements or awards***

### 3. Classifications

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- A. **Cadet** – The Cadet class is exclusive to NWAPA. These guards are often elementary or middle school age performers experiencing winter guard for the first time. They are not required to be from the same school. There is no minimum equipment time or overall performance time for these units. Scoring will be festival style (ratings only) and rankings will be based on ordinals. There will only be 3 judges for Cadet class; two downstairs and one upstairs. Commentary and criteria sheets will focus on demonstration and achievement of basic skills and designed effect.
- B. **Regional A** – This class exists for both NWAPA competitions and WGI regionals. Here we find performers who are experiencing their first set of skills at a body and equipment level and journey through the developmental levels that take them to the point where they are ready to move into the higher, more challenging A Class. The NWAPA does not require units in this class to be comprised of students that attend the same school. The NWAPA also does not have a minimum equipment time requirement for this class.
- C. **Scholastic/Independent A** – This class exists in the NWAPA as both Scholastic A and Scholastic AA. While all guards are judged using “A” criteria, the NWAPA has split this class into two competitive neighborhoods. Scholastic AA may be guards experiencing the “A” class for the first time while Scholastic A guards will include units that intend to compete at regionals or nationals. At the programming level, success is seen in choices that lead the performers understanding and achievement of excellence. Designers should be sensitive to musical selections that offer clear guidelines for the performers to follow. Programming choices consider tempo, dynamic changes, and points of audio impact that help these younger performers develop their range of performance skills in all captions. In this class we look for the layering of equipment on some body and some phrases done while traveling. Phrases will begin to lengthen, showing the performers’ skills in this area. Standard tosses will normally top out at quads or lower with an occasional individual who may be spotlighted with a more challenging aerial.
- D. **Scholastic / Independent Open** - Open Class is where we see the growth in performer’s ability offering greater choreographic choices. We will expect to see this impact all captions, further separating these guards from their A Class counterparts. This shift in opportunity will challenge not only the students but designers and choreographers as well. This shift in emphasis is reflected in the Open Class scoring system. Unlike the Regional A and A Class, the Open Class scoring system rewards vocabulary and excellence equally in the Equipment and Movement captions, encouraging the exploration of a broader range of vocabulary relative to the growing abilities of the Open Class performer. Programming and design will show greater exploration into staging and a more developed connection to the audio and physical settings. Individual and group personality, role, characteristics and artistic nuance will be present and understood by the performers. The developing communication skills will lend greater effect to the performance of programs. Broader skills and choice will manifest in a range of stylistic identities as more designers, and choreographers work to be more unique and creative.
- E. **Scholastic / Independent World** – These guards are competing at the very highest level. They have strong defined personalities and are highly creative and unique; striving to set new standards in achievement and design. Programs are designed to showcase their impressive body and equipment talent. Their depth of training and skills are strong and push the limits of the top of the scholastic classes as this class strives to set new standards.

## 4. Competition Area

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- A. For the purpose of interpretation, the “competition area” shall measure a minimum of sixty feet by ninety feet (60’ x 90’) and does not include entry ramps, hallways, bleachers or seating area. Color guards are permitted to utilize the entire designated competition area for their performance. All performers must be in the designated competition area when performance time begins. Depending on the performance venue, WGI or the NWAPA (as appropriate) will authorize additional competition area space whenever possible and include that information in the diagram (footprint) to be made available to all competing color guards to identify the competition area. While the competition area will be increased whenever possible, all color guards must be prepared to perform within the minimum sixty foot by ninety foot (60’ x 90’) area.
- B. All WGI contest sites are required to have a minimum of seventy feet by one hundred feet (70’ x 100’) to accommodate a “safety zone” of five (5) feet from any spectator seating. If no spectators are seated on the sides, then the safety zone may be measured from the left and right walls of the competition area. This will ensure the minimum sixty-foot by ninety-foot (60’ x 90’) competition area within the minimum seventy feet by one hundred feet (70’ x 100’) of the contest site. The NWAPA will do their best to provide a similar experience but it is not guaranteed.
- C. Once performance timing begins, no performer may enter the safety zone. Equipment and props may be placed into safety zones, but not extend more than five (5’) feet beyond the designated competition area. There can be no equipment choreography outside the competition area including the safety zone at any time.
- D. The front boundary line shall be considered to extend the full width of the competition area and shall be clearly marked at a minimum of five (5’) feet from the first row of spectator seating.

***PENALTY: One-tenth of a point (0.1) penalty shall be assessed for each member for each boundary offense of violation of the competition area***

- E. At WGI contests, the center of the front boundary line shall be marked by a six (6”) inch taped line at the front and back of the competition area. The outer edges of the competition area shall also be marked by six (6”) inch-taped lines at the corners to designate the safety zone. The NWAPA will do their best to provide a similar experience but it is not guaranteed.
- F. All floor coverings (tarps) must fit in the designated competition area at each particular contest site and cannot enter the safety zone.
- G. 110-volt grounded power sources shall be available at the front and back of the center line of the competition area. Color guards must provide their own extension cords.
- H. Power sources must be dedicated for color guard use only and have no other electrical devices using designated power sources.
- I. All contests must utilize a high-quality sound system with a variable speed CD player and the capability to use external devices such as MP3 players and/or iPods.

## 5. Equipment

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- A. The bottom of all props, flats and scenery that could cause possible damage to the performance floor must be padded or taped.

***PENALTY: Two-point (2.00) penalty***

- B. Definitions of authorized equipment:

- i. Flags are defined as any material attached to a pike, pole, rod or staff other than an authorized weapon and used as a flag, with a minimum size of eight inches by twelve inches (8" x 12"). National colors must be at least three feet by five feet (3' x 5'). Flagpoles must be at least twenty-four inches (24") in length. (Curved and straight poles are acceptable; however, complete circles, squares, etc. to which material is attached are not flags. Material attached to chains, ropes or hoses are not considered flags.) The intent of this definition is to utilize a flag as a flag and not as a scenic element or a prop.
- ii. Rifles are defined as devices constructed so as to conform to the outward appearance of a military rifle past or present. Rifles must be at least twenty-four inches (24") in length.
- iii. Sabres/swords are defined as those weapons that are a curved blade (sabre) or a straight blade (sword) and may be constructed of wood, plastic, metal or any other suitable material. Simulated sabers/swords must have either a hand guard or a hilt and must be at least twenty-four inches (24") in length.
- iv. Authorized equipment may be modified by the addition of visual items, however, attaching a flag, rifle or sabre/sword to a prop does not make the prop a flag, rifle or sabre/sword – it is still a prop. Timing and Penalty judges have the right to inspect and challenge guards for authorized equipment either before or after the maximum performance time with permission of the Contest Administrator.

- C. Definitions of other allowed equipment:

- i. Color guards may manipulate their soundboard by using a remote-controlled wireless device through a self-supplied network. WGI will provide an area in or near General Effect judging area for one designated staff member to adjust the mix using wireless technology. The soundboard must remain in the competition area.
- ii. Performers playing musical instruments or singing using a 115/120-volt power source provided to allow amplification is permitted in the competition area.
- iii. World Class color guards may use any electrical device within their program deemed safe by the Contest Administrator/Coordinator. At WGI contests the Contest Administrator has the ultimate decision regarding safety of any electrical device in consultation with the Director of Color Guard and/or Executive Director. At NWAPA contests it will be the Contest Coordinator/T&P Judges decision in conjunction with the chief judge and any NWAPA board members that are present. Color guards should consult with the Director of Color Guard (WGI) or Winter Vice President prior to using any equipment not specifically defined in these rules. The Color guard will assume any liability for issues arising out of use of said electrical devices.
- iv. A & Open Class color guards may only use the electrical power sources provided as defined in Rule C ii

- v. Battery operated devices using common off the shelf flashlight batteries (AA, AAA, AAAA, C, D, N, 9V and button cells) are allowed. Devices using dry-cell secondary “rechargeable batteries” including cell phones, cameras, MP3 players and computers are also allowed. Car and/or truck batteries are not permitted.
- D. Definitions of prohibited equipment:
- i. No pyrotechnics, discharge of arms, pressurized canisters, dangerous materials, flammable liquids or gas will be permitted in or around the competition area. Smoke machines and/or compressed air apparatuses will not be permitted.
  - ii. Gasoline, electric or manual powered generators will not be allowed.
  - iii. Use of lasers and flashcubes (electrical and chemical) are not permitted.
  - iv. Use of live animals is not permitted.
  - v. Use of powder, dirt or any other substance that lingers in the competition area past the interval time of the color guard shall be strictly prohibited.
  - vi. Use of helium, including helium-filled balloons, is prohibited.
  - vii. No motorized vehicles will be allowed except for motorized wheelchairs used by disabled performers.
  - viii. Use of glass objects is prohibited.
  - ix. Use of drones or any remote-controlled airborne devices.
  - x. Hoverboards

***PENALTY: Ten point (10.0) penalty to Disqualification for use of any prohibited equipment***

- E. Props built and/or used, including drum major podiums, that measure over six feet (6') high and are used in such a way that result in a participant whose feet are more than six feet (6') above the competition area must have appropriate safety railings in place. Participants are prohibited from jumping or leaping off any prop that exceeds six feet (6') in height unless protective padding is in place or other adequate safety precautions are taken.

***PENALTY: At the discretion of the Contest Administrator/Coordinator, including (but not limited to) prohibition of the use of the overheight/unsafe prop(s) or disqualification.***

## 6. Timing

Color guards will be timed to compete at intervals according to class.

<b>Class</b>	<b>Interval Time</b>	<b><u>Minimum Performance</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum Performance</u></b>	<b><u>Authorized Equipment</u></b>
World	10 minutes	4 minutes	7.5 minutes	3.5 minutes
Open	9 minutes	4 minutes	6.5 minutes	3.5 minutes
A Class	8 minutes	4 minutes	5.5 minutes	3.5 minutes
Regional A	7 minutes	3 minutes	4.5 minutes	3 minutes *
Cadet (NWAPA only)	7 minutes	N/A	4.5 minutes	N/A

\*\* The NWAPA waives the authorized equipment time for Regional A guards.

- A. Interval time will include entrance, setup, performance, exit and removal of all performers, props, floors and equipment from the competition area. Interval time will begin when the Timing and Penalty Judge signals the color guard.
- B. Each color guard, with all competing performers, shall remain in the competition area and be judged in all captions for a minimum of four (4) minutes with the exception of the Regional A classes which shall have a minimum of three (3) minutes. Penalties for under time in competition area will be waived the first two weekends of the competitive calendar.
- C. Timing for the “maximum performance time” will begin with the first step of body movement, first move of equipment or the first note of music whichever comes first after the announcement ends. Judging will also begin at this time. The end of the maximum performance time is at the obvious conclusion of the show. All captions will be judged until the obvious conclusion of the show.
- D. Each color guard must accumulate a minimum of three and one half (3 1/2) minutes of authorized equipment time during their performance except for Regional A Class where the minimum is three (3) minutes (\*\*the NWAPA waives authorized equipment time for Regional A class and Cadet class). Authorized equipment may be flags, rifles or sabres/swords. Penalties for authorized equipment time will be waived the first two weekends of the competitive calendar.
  - i. Authorized equipment must be in hand to be considered for accumulating authorized equipment time. (In hand means equipment must be in hand ready to be used, or being used. For example, a sabre hung at side with hand touching is not considered authorized equipment in hand.)
  - ii. A color guard performer is considered visible as determined by the Timing and Penalty judge viewing from the front sideline.
- E. Competing color guards cannot be required to perform before the time set in the latest contest schedule distributed.
- F. Any color guard unable to make their scheduled performance time will be rescheduled to perform during the next most logical performance slot in their class. Schedule adjustments will be made at the discretion of the Contest Administrator/Coordinator.

***PENALTY: One-tenth of a point (0.1) for each 3 seconds or fraction thereof for any timing violation***

## 7. Entry

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- A. All performers must enter the competition area through the designated entry door, tunnel or ramp. Prior to the actual start of the performance time, color guard may utilize the entire arena for setup and pre-show preparations.

***PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty per performer for failing to use designated entry door, tunnel or ramp***

- B. All props must be able to fit through a standard size (36") single door. No timing exceptions will be made for oversized props. Props will not be allowed in the competition area before the color guard's performance time.
- C. Any color guard creating a delay in the schedule will be subject to penalty.

***PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty for each class interval time of lateness or part thereof up to the conclusion of the class and/or contest***

- D. The color guard will line up at a ready line to be designated by the Contest Administrator / Coordinator to enter the competition area.
- E. Authorized equipment and/or props may be placed anywhere in the competition area by color guard performers or anyone prior to the start of the performance. Authorized equipment and/or hand held props may be placed in front of the front boundary line not to exceed five (5') feet beyond designated competition area. Any non-performers involved in set up must exit the competition area prior to the start of performance time.

***PENALTY: One tenth of a point (0.1) penalty for each non-performer failing to exit competition area prior to performance time.***

- F. World Class color guards will be allowed to use music and/or recorded narration as part of their setup process through the house sound system after one (1) minute of the color guard's interval time. If a color guard chooses to use music or recorded narration they must communicate this to the Timing and Penalty judge. The color guard is responsible for any music direction required at the sound table, which must be given in person. A & Open Class color guards are not allowed to have any kind of pre-show music or narration prior to their performance time.

- G. When the color guard first enters the competition area, an announcement of...“Please welcome from (city, state, country), (name of color guard)” will be made. At one minute thirty seconds (1:30) of the interval time for Open and A Classes, two minutes (2:00) for World Class or at any specific time noted to the Timing and Penalty Judge by the color guard, the announcer will be cued to say, “Performing their program (title), WGI Sport of the Arts is proud to present (name of color guard)”. This is known as the “WGI start”.
- a. For NWAPA contests, guards also have the option of the following traditional announcement and start:

When the unit crosses over the competition area the announcer will say, “Please welcome from (unit location), (name of unit)”. The unit will begin set-up. When the ensemble appears set-up, the T&P judge will signal the announcer, who will say, “Are the judges ready?” When the judges acknowledge they are ready, the T&P judge will signal the announcer who will say “Is the ensemble ready?” Performers or staff will indicate the ensemble is ready via salute or other short music or visual signal. The T&P judge will signal to the announcer that the unit is ready. The announcer will then say, “Performing their program (name of show), the NWAPA is proud to present (Name of Unit)!”

- A. World Class color guards are permitted to have the second portion of the announcement (“Performing their program (title), WGI Sport of the Arts is proud to present (name of color guard) pre-recorded into their soundtrack.
- H. Once the performance begins, performers must remain in the designated competition area for the minimum performance time as designated in Rule Entry A. Performers may not re-enter competition area during performance time once they have exited until after performance has concluded.

***PENALTY: Five tenths of a point (0.5) penalty for each performer failing to remain in competition area for designated time or returning after they have exited before conclusion of performance.***

- I. The front boundary line is inviolate at all times except for performers involved in entrance set up or tear down at the end of the performance. Boundary line violations (including first aid cases) do not constitute permanently leaving the floor.

***PENALTY: One-tenth of point (0.1) penalty for each member per offense***

- J. Floor coverings (tarps) may not cover the front boundary line at the beginning of performance time.

***PENALTY: Two point (2.0) penalty***

## 8. Exit

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- A. Exit may be over any line at the conclusion of the performance.
- B. All performers must exit the competition area through the designated exit door, tunnel or ramp.

***PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty per performer for failing to use designated exit door, tunnel or ramp***

- C. All personnel, equipment and/or props must clear the vertical or horizontal center-line at the conclusion of interval time. The timing line shall be for visual use by the Timing and Penalties judge and not designated by tape.
- D. For purposes of timing, equipment and props are considered removed when they cross the vertical or horizontal centerline. After crossing the timing line, all equipment and/or props must continue to make forward progress out of the competition area in a timely manner or receive a penalty at the discretion of the Timing and Penalty judge.

***PENALTY: One-tenth of point (0.1) penalty for each 3 seconds or fraction thereof***

- E. There will be no flying of tarps (also known as “ballooning”) to clear floor at the conclusion a color guard’s performance.

***PENALTY: Disqualification***

## 9. Penalties

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- A. Timing and Penalty judges will assess all penalties for infractions that take place in the competition area. Contest Administrators may not waive competition area penalties. A color guard has a right to challenge any penalty in consultation with the Lead Judge but any final decision regarding penalties will remain with the Timing and Penalty judge.
- B. Any color guard violating any rule or part of a rule, breaching standard contest etiquette or failing to comply with directions from contest personnel for which no specific penalty is provided, shall be penalized for each such violation, not less than 0.1 point up to disqualification at the discretion of the Lead Judge, Contest Administrator/Coordinator, Director of Color Guard or Executive Director.
- C. All programs, soundtracks, thematic and costuming choices must reflect the qualities that would be acceptable for performance at a scholastic venue or suitable for marketing to sponsors on a national level.

***PENALTY: Denial of performance or possible disqualification as determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the Director of Color Guard at a WGI contest or the Contest Coordinator in consultation with the Winter Vice President Guard and Board President at an NWAPA contest.***



# TIMING & PENALTY

## REQUIREMENTS (Min 5/Max 30)

Number of Performers: \_\_\_\_\_

### UNIT TIMING (minutes)

CLASS	Interval Time	Min Perf. Time	Max. Perf. Time	Min. Equip. Time
WORLD	10	4	7.5	3.5
OPEN	9	4	6.5	3.5
A	8	4	5.5	3.5
REG A	7	3	4.5	3.0

### EQUIPMENT TIME REQUIREMENTS

World, Open & A - 3:30  
Regional A - 3:00

Total Equipment Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Undertime: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Seconds Undertime

3 = \_\_\_\_\_ X 0.1 = \_\_\_\_\_ OK \_\_\_\_\_

### EQUIPMENT TIMES

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### PERFORMANCE TIME REQUIREMENTS

World, Open & A - 4:00  
Regional A - 3:00

Total Performance Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Undertime: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Overtime: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Seconds Undertime

3 = \_\_\_\_\_ X 0.1 = \_\_\_\_\_ OK \_\_\_\_\_

Total Seconds Overtime

3 = \_\_\_\_\_ X 0.1 = \_\_\_\_\_ OK \_\_\_\_\_

### TOTAL TIME IN COMPETITION AREA (INTERVAL TIME)

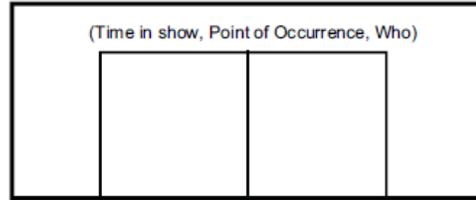
Total Overall Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Overtime: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Seconds Overtime

3 = \_\_\_\_\_ X 0.1 = \_\_\_\_\_

### BOUNDARY LINES



Front Stage

TOTAL (.1 per Occurrence) \_\_\_\_\_

### FLAG CODE - ILLEGAL EQUIPMENT- OTHER

(Note Time In Show Of Each Occurrence)

### PENALTY SUMMARY

Required Equipment Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Minimum Performance Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum Performance Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Interval Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Boundary Lines: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Notes:

T & P Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

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