

NWAPA - 2019 Rules and Policy Proposals

Proposals Submitted for Consideration

- Proposal #1 (Circuit Business) – Voting Clarification
- Proposal #2 (Winter-All) - Floating Winter Judge
- Proposal #3 (Winterguard) – Winterguard Promotion System
- Proposal #4 (Winterguard) – Winterguard Venue Standard
- Proposal #5 (Fall) – Fall Member Unit Definition
- Proposal #6 (Fall) – Classification Based on Unit Member Number
- Proposal #7 (Fall) – Classification Movement
- Proposal #8 (Fall) – Championships Finals Awards Ceremony

Voting:

- Fall Proposals are voted on by Fall Units.
 - Winter Proposals are voted on by Winter Units.
 - If proposal #1 passes:
 - Guard Units Vote on Winterguard Specific Proposals
 - Percussion Units Vote on Winter Percussion Specific Proposals
 - Winds Units Vote on Winter Winds Specific Proposals
 - All Winter Units Vote on Winter-ALL Proposals
 - Proposals regarding circuit business and elections may be voted on by circuit members.
-

PROPOSAL #1 (Circuit Business) – Winter Voting Clarification

Proposal overview: We would like to add clarity to the voting process for the winter units (ex: winterguard units voting on winterguard specific proposals).

Affected Season: Winter

Rationale: Our language does not clarify whether or not a percussion, guard, or winds unit can vote (or not vote) on a winter proposal that does not involve their winter unit's genre.

Financial impact: None

NWAPA documents that will be amended: NWAPA Constitution and Bylaws Page 6 ARTICLE VII Paragraph 4 – VOTING AND ELECTIONS SECTION I - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Document language as it exists now: (Paragraph 4 and 5)

Proposals concerning only Winter or Fall will be put forth to only units that are eligible members under that season. Proposals concerning all seasons or amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws will solicit a

vote from the entire membership of both seasons. Proposals put forth to all seasons will solicit ONE vote from each school or independent member organization.

The President shall audit the proposals put forth before the membership for correct affected constituency (Fall, Winter, All) and advise the membership on what bodies will be allowed to vote on each proposal.

Document language that will exist if the proposal passes: Proposals concerning only Winter or Fall will be put forth to only units that are eligible members under that season. Proposals concerning all seasons or amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws will solicit a vote from the entire membership of both seasons. Proposals put forth to all seasons will solicit ONE vote from each school or independent member organization.

The President shall audit the proposals put forth before the membership for correct affected constituency (Fall, Winter-Guard, Winter-Perc, Winter-Winds, Winter-All, All) and advise the membership on what bodies will be allowed to vote on each proposal.

Submitted by: Brant Stai, Sherwood High School & Jeff Mitchell, NWAPA Circuit Admin

PROPOSAL #2 (Winter-ALL) – Floating Winter Judge

Proposal overview: In the instance a judge is unable to attend a scheduled contest/fulfill the duties of the day, for all divisions competing that day, the circuit will have a “back up” judge on site to fill in. This judge can be a float for any unknowns that happen for the day.

This float could also turn into a “training” scenario. If the board & circuit are interested in pursuing a 6th adjudicator for training purposes, see below.

(“NWAPA judge’s coordinator or their designee shall hire a “floating trainee” for each event. This position will be a new or junior level local judge that will make necessary training preparation with NWAPA Judges Coordinator, and will attend events with the purpose of making commentary for training purposes and later review by NWAPA Judges Coordinator (or their designee). The stipend for this position will be set by NWAPA board but will targeted to be in line with NWAPA junior staff (likely \$100 per event). Additional duties and responsibilities will be outlined and documented jointly by NWAPA Contest Coordinator, NWAPA Judges Coordinator and NWAPA Board.

If a regular assigned judge cannot fulfill their duties at an event, NWAPA Contest Coordinator shall conference with Chief Judge and Judges Coordinator (if available), and make necessary assignment adjustments to promote “floating trainee” to an assigned judge for that event. Floating trainee that is promoted for an event shall receive regular judges stipend (or fraction thereof) instead of their floating trainee stipend.”)

Affected season: WINTER

Rationale: All divisions will be receiving the same judges’ comments, feedback, and scores if an unknown occurs that effects the day. This will eliminate a duplication of a GE score for the 2nd column of GE. All rules/regulations reflect 2 GE columns for a contest. These 2 columns must have 2 separate judges scoring to continue to promote positive growth for both students and educators.

Financial impact or considerations: Financial impact- circuit will have to pay for a 6th adjudicator for each winter contest. This may impact unit entry fees to accommodate. 6th adjudicator could be a reduced fee? (See above training fee) **If too high of a financial burden, consider Championships only.

NWAPA documents that will be amended: There is currently no verbiage within the 2019 Winter Handbook in regards to procedure for when a judge is unable to attend a scheduled contest. Upon further investigation, there is also no verbiage in the WGI handbook that NWAPA directly links to the circuit handbook.

Document language as it exists now: Nonexistent.

Document language that will exist if the proposal passes: For all Winterguard contests, there will be a panel of 5 judges with 1 additional judge on site for the contest day. The 6th judge would adjudicate if any unforeseen instances arise where one of the 5 other judges cannot fulfill the duties of the day.

Proposal would change to Championships only if financial burden too heavy.

Please also see trainee option.

Submitted by:

Jennifer Brouillette
Grants Pass High School

PROPOSAL #3 (Winterguard) – Winterguard Promotion System

Proposal Overview: Winter Guard Promotion System. At the conclusion of the season at the NWAPA Championships the winning units from RA and SAA will be promoted into the next classification up. This will not affect SA for WGI reasons. The promotion will stay in effect until the Premier show the following season. For the following season directors will place their ensemble in the class they believe they should be in (minus the groups that had been promoted the previous season). At the conclusion of premier the adjudicators will place groups in the class in which they believe that they need to be in. At this point all units must remain in that class for the rest of the season. The cycle would then repeat at the NWAPA Championships the first place from RA and SAA will be promoted. So on and so forth.

Affected Season: Winter Guard

Rationale: Currently the circuit has groups that currently choose to be in a lower class than their skill level. The promotion/evaluation system will place groups in the classification best to their skill level. WGI and the Seattle circuit have this promotion system or something similar.

Financial Impact or consideration: ZERO

NWAPA Document that will be amended: Winter Member Handbook

Document Language: “Classifications are based on the unit’s performance experience. If you have questions regarding the correct classification for your unit, please reach out to your Winter VP.

Classification changes after the first scheduled show for your unit type must be approved and coordinated by the appropriate Winter VP. Note—More detailed information regarding specific rules for competitive classes will be detailed in NWAPA rules addenda.”

No current information about a promotion system.

Document language that will exist if the proposal passes: Upon completion of the NWAPA Winter Guard Championships the first place champions from RA and SAA will be promoted to the next level of competition. The follow season at the NWAPA Winter Guard Premier Show the adjudicators will place groups in the correct class based on skill. Directors will register for the event in the class in which they believe the ensemble should perform. The champions from the previous season must register for the promoted classification.

Additional Consideration: The promotional system will also help regulate the number of units in each class. Currently RA is a very large class while SAA is very small. As a circuit we a few top RA groups that should be competing is SAA.

Submitted by: Amy DeGiovanni & Michael Davis

PROPOSAL #4 (Winterguard) – Winterguard Venue Standard

Proposal Overview: Winter Guard Premier Show Venue. For many years we have held Winter Guard Premier at a school with a very small gym. Many a times the adjudicators have made comment like “If we were at a high vantage point” or “ I can’t really see the forms so I can assume...”. As you know at this show the staff from each program get to sit with the judges and get feedback in real time. This is very helpful for gaining knowledge and helping them push forward in all aspects (design, choreography, staging, etc.).

Affected Season: Winter Guard

Rationale: A better vantage point will help the staff from each school absorb all the information that the adjudicators have to offer and get a real feel of how their production is doing at that time. Many schools do not have access to a large gym during their season. The more large performing options the better in preparation for WGI and Championships.

Financial Impact or consideration: ZERO

NWAPA Document that will be amended: Winter Show Sponsor Handbook

Document Language:” Competition Area /Circuit floor: The competition area is a gymnasium floor measuring a minimum of sixty feet by ninety feet (60’ x 90’) and does not include entry ramps, hallways, bleachers or seating areas. An insulated and grounded 110v AC power cord shall be supplied near the middle of the competition area. Additionally, a power supply should be accessible to the rear of the performance floor. The NWAPA circuit floor should be positioned approximately ten (10) feet away from the beginning row of spectator seating and centered on half court (or the middle of the gym). The floor should be taped in place around the perimeter with wide painters tape. The NWAPA Contest

Coordinator will place all additional markings needed for the event. DO NOT tape timing lines. It is advisable to provide additional floor covering beyond the 60' x 90' circuit floor to protect the entrance and exit areas of the gymnasium where equipment carts, percussion instruments etc. are maneuvered. The Show Sponsor should situate door monitors for unit entrance, unit exit, and spectator entrance/exit during the event. The NWAPA Contest Coordinator will assist in training door monitors." At this time there is no language that states the size of the gym other than the gym floor

Document language that will exist if the proposal passes: Sponsors wishing to host NWAPA winter events must secure a venue that supports full viewing of the performance area. Venues with at least 25 rows of bleachers/seats are strongly preferred. Venues with less than 15 will NOT be considered. NWAPA Contest Coordinator and Winter Vice Presidents shall provide consultation and feedback regarding additional venue suitability.

Additional Consideration: In the best interest of the units and performers a large venue will help every unit immensely and give the best adjudication feedback they can get.

Submitted by: Amy DeGiovanni & Michael Davis

PROPOSAL #5 (Fall) – Fall Member Unit Definition

Proposal overview: The status of "Member Unit" is extended to all fall units that participate in an NWAPA fall event.

Affected season: FALL

Rationale: In the spirit of inclusion and openness, we should welcome all units who compete in our events to be members of our circuit and contribute to its growth. Current procedures exclude marching bands that only attend one show from membership, but do not exclude any winter units from the same privileges. There is no standalone membership fee, and the sole benefit of membership for fall units is the ability to compete in finals at the fall championship event

Financial impact: None

NWAPA documents that will be amended: Fall Member Handbook

Document language as it exists now: Fall Member Handbook, Page 6 - Membership Requirements Any band that competes in two (2) or more NWAPA sanctioned events (including championships) are considered members of the NWAPA with full voting privileges. Any band may compete in one NWAPA sanctioned event in a single season without becoming a member (hereafter referred to as "Guest Bands.")

Fall Member Handbook, Page 13 - At NWAPA Championships, only Member Bands may advance to the competitive Finals contest. (See Guest Bands for more detail)

Fall Member Handbook, Page 14 - Guest Bands In Preliminary Contests and in events with only one round, Guest Bands shall perform within their appropriate class in reverse order of when their entry fee payment was received but before bands whose performance time was determined via the draw process.

Guest Bands may attend any regular season show and are able to advance to the competitive round of finals if they receive a score that enables them to compete in Finals. Guest Bands may attend championships. However, only 15 member bands will advance to the competitive finals round. If in receipt of a preliminary score that earns the Guest Band a place in finals, they may perform in exhibition only at the start of the finals contest.

Document language that will exist if the proposal passes: Fall Member Handbook, Page 6 - Membership Requirements Any unit that competes in an NWAPA event is considered a member.

Fall Member Handbook, Page 13 - At NWAPA Championships, only Member Bands may advance to the competitive Finals contest. (See Guest Bands for more detail)

This text will be deleted.

~~Fall Member Handbook, Page 14—Guest Bands In Preliminary Contests and in events with only one round, Guest Bands shall perform within their appropriate class in reverse order of when their entry fee payment was received but before bands whose performance time was determined via the draw process. Guest Bands may attend any regular season show and are able to advance to the competitive round of finals if they receive a score that enables them to compete in Finals. Guest Bands may attend championships. However, only 15 member bands will advance to the competitive finals round. If in receipt of a preliminary score that earns the Guest Band a place in finals, they may perform in exhibition only at the start of the finals contest.~~

Submitted by: Kevin Soon, Liberty High School

PROPOSAL #6 (Fall) - Classification Based on Unit Member Number

Proposal overview: Classifications for fall marching band will be determined as follows: A Class - up to 60 members AA Class - 61 to 89 members AAA Class - over 90 members

Affected season: FALL

Rationale: The current system recognizes the general difference between bands of 60 members and 80 members, but not between bands of 80 members and 125 members. If there is a need to separate bands by band size, it should be applied evenly across the circuit. Currently the goal of the A/AA split in this circuit is to produce classes that have as close to identical numbers of groups as possible. The goal

should be to set up classes that are as competitively equitable as possible. Preserving a class for our smallest bands allows them to compete with groups that are as close to their size as possible, minimizing the inherent effect boost that often benefits larger groups. Capping the AA class does the same, as bands with 65 members would not have to compete in the same class with bands that have 40-90 more members than they do.

Financial impact: None

NWAPA documents that will be amended: Fall Member Handbook

Document language as it exists now: Page 10 - Class Description Open Self-identified, no limits on size. AA Larger-size bands. See Assigning Classification below for more details. A Smaller-size bands. See Assigning Classification below for more details.

Page 10 - Open Bands shall self-identify during Registration. Any band of any size may choose to compete in the Open class. After the completion of the Fall Draw, but no later than 2 weeks prior to the first event of the fall season, the pool of non-Open member bands shall be split in half according to total size. This will define the size restrictions for A and AA and shall be announced for purposes of assigning classification for late registration and guest bands. The average and the median will be taken into consideration with the desired result being an equal number of A and AA bands prior to any late registration or guest bands. Bands registering after the Fall Draw but prior to the announcement of class size for A and AA will not be included in the pool for purposes of calculation and will be assigned a class upon announcement of the split.

Document language that will exist if the proposal passes: Page 10 - Class Description AAA Class - over 90 members AA Class - 61 to 89 members A Class - up to 60 members Page 10 - Bands will supply a preliminary number by the fall draw, and a final number by a date set by the Fall VP.

Additional considerations: This proposal may be affected by a proposal regarding the ability to perform up a class.

Submitted by: Kevin Soon, Liberty High School

PROPOSAL #7 (Fall) – Classification Movement

Proposal overview: Fall units must perform in the class dictated by the size of their group as outlined in the Fall Member Handbook.

Affected season: FALL

Rationale: Our system divides groups into classification based on number of member units. Allowing groups to self select partially invalidates that division.

Financial impact: None

NWAPA documents that will be amended: Fall Member Handbook

Document language as it exists now: Page 11 - Competing Up One Class At any time during the season, a band may choose to compete up a class (A to AA, A to Open, AA to Open). Class switch must be submitted in writing to NWAPA Fall Vice President. Show schedules that have been set at the time the written request is received may be adjusted or left in a 'locked' status at the discretion of NWAPA Fall Vice President, Contest Coordinator, or President. Bands that have elected to switch classification must remain in the new class for the duration of the NWAPA Fall Season.

Document language that will exist if the proposal passes: Page 11 - Bands will compete in the classification that is dictated by the number of members in their group. There is no mechanism for competing outside of your assigned class.

Submitted by: Kevin Soon, Liberty High School

PROPOSAL #8 (Fall) – Championships Finals Awards Ceremony

Proposal overview: During the NWAPA Fall Championships Awards Ceremony, all performing unit's total score and placement will be announced from lowest score and placement to highest score and placement during the ceremony.

Affected season: FALL

Rationale: We currently only recognize the top 5 placements in each finals awards ceremony. This was a new change in procedure for us as a circuit this past fall. In my mind, it worked for our circuit membership up until the finals round at Championships.

To be able to make it into the finals round at championships is a huge honor regardless of final placement. Historically speaking, there are healthy competitive rivalries within our circuit outside of the top 5 placing units in the finals round. I would like to bring all of these 15 placers back into the ceremonial process to recognize those programs for their achievement in making the final round and also to add some more electricity back into the championships finals round awards ceremony atmosphere.

Financial impact: None

NWAPA documents that will be amended: Fall Member Handbook

Document language as it exists now: Page 22

At the conclusion of the Finals contest of the NWAPA Championships Event, in addition to all of the awards listed above, the following four awards shall also be presented. • A Class Champion • AA Class Champion • Open Class Champion

These awards are based only on scores from the Finals round of competition at NWAPA Championships. The awards are given to the highest scoring A, AA and Open band, regardless of their placement in Finals. • NWAPA Marching Band Champion

This award is given to the single highest scoring band, regardless of its classification (A, AA or Open). This award may be combined with one of the above Class Champion awards.

Document language that will exist if the proposal passes: Page 22

At the conclusion of the Finals contest of the NWAPA Championships Event all performing unit's total score and placement will be announced from lowest score and placement to highest score and placement during the ceremony.

In addition to all of the awards listed above, the following four awards shall also be presented. • A Class Champion • AA Class Champion • Open Class Champion

These awards are based only on scores from the Finals round of competition at NWAPA Championships. The awards are given to the highest scoring A, AA and Open band, regardless of their placement in Finals. • NWAPA Marching Band Champion

This award is given to the single highest scoring band, regardless of its classification (A, AA or Open). This award may be combined with one of the above Class Champion awards.

Additional considerations: None

Submitted by: Brant Stai, Sherwood High School