



2020 Rules and Policy Proposal

Proposal overview:

The NWAPA Fall Season rules do not sufficiently cover or detail many prop usage and safety protocol items. Other national organizations such as DCI, WGI, BOA cover prop usage and safety in an objective and detailed fashion. An NWAPA Fall Season prop usage and safety protocol is needed in order to objectively promote and regulate a safer environment for performers.

Affected season: FALL / WINTER / ALL Rationale:

FALL

Financial impact or considerations:

Certain props and equipment may be more costly to build and maintain with stricter safety regulations in place.

NWAPA documents that will be amended:

NWAPA Fall Member Handbook

Document language as it exists now:

The language regarding safety is largely non-existent, consisting of one sentence related to prohibited equipment:

“The use of mechanized vehicles, live animals, or fireworks in any way is prohibited.”

Document language that will exist if the proposal passes:

Prop/Equipment Use and Safety

Props/ Staging (backdrops, screens and or similar objects) built and/or used by participating ensembles at NWAPA events shall be limited to a maximum height of (15) feet including wheels, platforms, safety or other railing or equipment. Any prop found in violation will not be allowed to enter the performance field.

No participant may be on any portion of any prop more than six (6) feet above the surface of the performance field unless appropriate safety railing and/or other safety equipment are in place and in use. Appropriate safety railing and/or safety equipment is defined but not limited to the following:

- Safety railing – A barrier at least forty-two inches (42”) in height at all points and surrounding participant a minimum of 50%.
- Safety harness - A method to preventing or arrest a fall.
- Protective padding - Compressed foam padding (gymnastic mat type) or other suitable material measuring a minimum of two inches (2”) in depth.

Participants are prohibited from jumping off or leaping between any prop or structure that exceeds six feet (6’) in height above performance field surface unless protective padding or other adequate safety precautions are in place.

Prop assembly must be done during the ensemble’s allotted time for arrival, unload and warm-up. Additional on-field assembly must be completed during the ensemble interval time. No additional setup/tear down time will be allowed. Prop disassembly and removal must not be disruptive to or hinder the next performance.

Because the NWAPA is a guest at our host stadiums, additional stadium and/or venue specific policies may be in effect. The NWAPA will identify and include known restrictions/limitations in pre-contest communications. However, any concerns expressed by the stadium management onsite will be addressed and must be acted upon and complied with by the participating ensembles.

The Contest Director shall at all times have the authority to prohibit the use of any prop or equipment that they believe presents an unreasonable or unacceptable risk of injury or harm to participants, facilities, or others or potential danger to a venue or its property. The Contest Director may request that modifications be made to a prop and equipment in order for their usage to be allowed.

The NWAPA strongly recommends that ensembles and their instructors use the utmost caution and forethought in designing and using props and/or equipment that might place participants and others in potential danger during assembly or use. Directors are encouraged to contact the NWAPA to inquire about the use of equipment or materials when its permissibility under this

section may be in question.

PENALTY	-0.1 points to a maximum of disqualification from the round of competition in which the infraction occurred.
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Additional Rules

Off road mechanized vehicles (golf carts, garden tractors, small ATV All-Terrain Vehicles, etc.) will be allowed to pull equipment trailers, only for set-up and take-down, unless prohibited by contest venue. Pick-up trucks, large tractors, or similar vehicles are never permitted in the competition area for any reason. The participating ensemble and its school are liable and will be held responsible for any damage to a Performance Field or venue caused by violation of these policies and/or actions of the operators.

PENALTY	-0.1 points to a maximum of disqualification from the round of competition in which the infraction occurred.
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The use of, live animals, lights out routines, pyrotechnics of any kind (fire, fireworks, discharge of arms etc.) or any equipment, object or material (including, but not limited to debris, powder, water, or other liquids) that may cause damage to the Performance Field, present a safety hazard and/or disrupt the scheduled flow of the contest are prohibited.

PENALTY	-0.1 points to a maximum of disqualification from the round of competition in which the infraction occurred.
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Use of drones or any remote-controlled airborne device is prohibited.

PENALTY	-0.1 points to a maximum of disqualification from the round of competition in which the infraction occurred.
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Glass objects that may break and/or leave shards of glass on the Competition Field are not allowed. Video monitors must utilize screen protectors. Mirrors must be of the acrylic type and cannot contain glass. Any lightbulbs used must be shatter resistant, safety coated.

PENALTY	-0.1 points to a maximum of disqualification from the round of competition in which the infraction occurred.
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Hazardous equipment or illegal use of equipment is prohibited.

PENALTY	-0.1 points to a maximum of disqualification from the round of competition in which the infraction occurred.
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Please note that the following **may be used** in a performance, provided they are not hazardous and do not remain on the Performance Field or in the air following a performance: Water or other non-hazardous liquids, paper, confetti or other debris.

Additional considerations:

This proposal was submitted with a maximum prop height as 15 feet, based on national considerations, however this is not a uniform standard. The NWAPA should vet this number.

Submitted by:

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Submit completed proposals to president@nwapa.net