

***Winter Rules Addendum***

***Guard***

***2024***

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



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# General Information

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

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This NWAPA Rules Addendum document references 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](https://wgi.org).

Exceptions and information specifically pertinent to NWAPA members can be found below.

# Eligibility

1.2.1 Combined Schools. NWAPA will abide by any WGI ruling regarding combined schools. The NWAPA may also approve a request for combined schools on a case-by-case basis for units that are not competing in WGI events.

 1.4 Exception - NWAPA guards that are not competing at a WGI regional may have minimum and maximum performer numbers waived.

# Competition Area

2.1 The NWAPA does not guarantee a competition area larger than 60’ x 90’ at any venue.

2.2 The NWAPA does not guarantee the accommodation of a five foot safety zone at all venues.

# Scoring

The NWAPA utilizes all elements from the WGI scoring system, including caption criteria, weighting, and judging philosophy.

# Equipment

NWAPA utilizes all WGI polices and rules regarding equipment with the exception that there is no required minimum time for Authorized Equipment. The onsite NWAPA Contest Administrator has the ultimate authority regarding the safety and usage of any prop or electrical device.

# Timing

 NWAPA timing exceptions are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Interval Time**  | **Minimum Performance Time** | **Maximum Performance Time** | **Authorized Equipment Time** |
| World | 10 minutes | No minimum | 7.5 minutes | No minimum |
| Open | 9 minutes | No minimum | 6.5 minutes | No minimum |
| A Class | 8 minutes | No minimum | 5.5 minutes | No minimum |
| Regional A | 7 minutes | No minimum | 4.5 minutes | No minimum |

Competing color guards cannot be required to perform before the time set in the latest contest schedule for prelims distributed by the NWAPA. Schedules for finals may be adjusted up to 30 minutes from the published schedule. If a schedule change occurs, color guards will be notified at the conclusion of prelims.

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.

# Entry

NWAPA utilizes WGI entry and performance start protocol:

For NWAPA contests, the announcements will occur as follows:

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. The T&P/starter will coordinate with ensemble staff and then cue the announcer to say: “Performing their program (name of show), the NWAPA is proud to present (Name of Unit)!”

Unit directors may coordinate specific program start with the T&P judge.

# Exit

NWAPA utilizes WGI performance exit rules and policy.

# Penalties

For the NWAPA, Timing and Penalty judges will assess all penalties for infractions that take place in the competition area. Any final decision regarding penalties belongs to the Contest Administrator.

# Classifications

1. **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. Performers are not required to be from the same school. The NWAPA does not have a minimum equipment time or minimum overall performance time for this class. Scoring will be on Regional A Sheets.
2. **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 does not have a minimum equipment time or minimum overall performance time for this class. The NWAPA does not distinguish between Scholastic and Independent classes for Regional A.
3. **Scholastic/Independent A** – This class exists for both NWAPA competitions and WGI regionals. 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. The NWAPA does not have a minimum equipment time or minimum overall performance time for this class.
4. **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. The NWAPA does not have a minimum equipment time or minimum overall performance time for this class.
5. **Scholastic / Independent World** – This class should satisfy requirements for WGI World class. The NWAPA does not have a minimum equipment time or minimum overall performance time for this class.

