

NWAPA Winter Proposal #1 - Classification Review Policy

2025 Rules and Policy Proposal

Proposal overview:

Provides a more defined structure for the term “classification review” in the Winter Member Handbook and creates a reasonable timeline for this to occur for all units every season. The review panel responsible for any classification reviews must be able to provide rationale for reclassification to unit directors upon request or upon denying a reclassification appeal.

Affected season:

Winter

Rationale:

Lack of enforceable language in NWAPA's current handbook has left too much room for ambiguity in reclassification decisions. Consistent review of units will provide a more balanced distribution of units across classifications, alleviate discrepancies between the skill sets of different groups, and ensure that units are reclassified when ready or if in the best interest of the unit. Adjudicators and review officials are not currently required to provide any sort of reasoning or evidence for reclassification.

Financial impact or considerations:

Requires personnel for review panel.

NWAPA documents that will be amended:

2025 Winter Member Handbook

Document language as it exists now:

“Over the course of the season competitive units may be subject to review to ensure they are competing within the correct classification according to appropriate national standards. Reviews shall take place via live sampling at NWAPA sanctioned events or by video. Classification review shall be conducted by appropriate judges, clinicians, NWAPA Judges Coordinator, and applicable NWAPA Winter VPs. Winter VPs shall abstain from review of affiliated units.

NWAPA Judges Coordinator shall chair classification review sessions and inform NWAPA Contest Coordinator of any reclassification decisions. Every best effort will be made to reclassify a unit in a way that minimizes disruption of educational process and student performer experience. Waivers and exceptions relating to contest rules (such as minimum performance time, equipment time) may be granted to the reclassified unit for the remainder of the season.

Note* NWAPA currently adheres to WGI Circuit Partner Agreement policy that states that units must compete in the same classification locally (NWAPA) and at WGI events. NWAPA may consult relevant WGI officials as part of unit classification review. Directors may appeal reclassification via written notice to NWAPA Board.”

Document language that will exist if the proposal passes:

Bold text indicates changes and additions to the original NWAPA policy.

“Over the course of the season competitive units **will** be subject to review to ensure they are competing within the correct classification according to appropriate national standards. Reviews shall take place via live sampling at NWAPA sanctioned events or by video. Classification review shall be conducted by **a panel of no less than three** appropriate judges, clinicians, NWAPA Judges Coordinator, **unit directors**, and/or applicable NWAPA Winter VPs, **whose roles shall be decided by the first competition of the winter season**. Winter VPs and **unit directors** shall abstain from review of affiliated units.

NWAPA Judges Coordinator shall chair classification review sessions **each season at the premier show**. **If units choose not to attend the premier show, they will be required to send a video of their show prior to the first week of March. Directors will be notified of the deadline by the first competition of the season. If at least two-thirds of the review panel agree that a unit should be reclassified, the panel will** inform NWAPA Contest Coordinator of any reclassification decisions **within one week or as soon as possible**. Every best effort will be made to reclassify a unit in a way that minimizes disruption of educational process and student performer experience. Waivers and exceptions relating to contest rules (such as minimum performance time, equipment time) may be granted to the reclassified unit for the remainder of the season.

Note* NWAPA currently adheres to WGI Circuit Partner Agreement policy that states that units must compete in the same classification locally (NWAPA) and at WGI events. NWAPA may consult relevant WGI officials as part of unit classification review. **If a unit is competing in WGI events outside of the local circuit, the unit director may inform the review panel and this may be factored into reclassification decisions.**

Directors may appeal reclassification via written notice to NWAPA Board. **The review panel must provide rationale for reclassification to the unit director upon request or in the event that an appeal is denied within one week or as soon as possible.”**

Additional considerations:

- WGI policy manual is consistent in specifying that a two-thirds majority should be reached for reclassification decisions.
- Timeline for review is intended to provide units with reclassification decisions prior to their second competition if attending the premier show or prior to their first competition if participating in review via video so as to ensure that the unit will be competing in the correct class for the remainder of the season.
- The composition of the review panel will be decided by NWAPA initially but may be amended in the future to elect review panel members more democratically.

Submitted by: Ryan Tai

Contributors: Kevin Soon, Nick Benson, Ian Fuller

Submit completed proposals to president@nwapa.net



NWAPA Winter Proposal #2 - Performance Order by Distance

Rules and Policy Proposal

Proposal overview:

This proposal recommends that the preliminary performance order for NWAPA Winter Shows be determined based on the distance each participating school must travel to the event venue. Within each competitive class, performance order will proceed from the school located nearest to the venue to the school located farthest away. The current classification order will continue to be the primary grouping for scheduling.

Affected season: WINTER

Rationale:

This scheduling adjustment improves logistical efficiency and supports a smoother event flow by allowing schools located closer to the venue to perform earlier within their respective class. Ensembles traveling longer distances will benefit from additional time to arrive, reducing the potential for delays and minimizing travel-related stress.

Importantly, this change also considers the well-being and performance quality of students. Early call times combined with long travel distances can significantly reduce the amount of rest students get prior to competition, which may negatively impact performance readiness. By adjusting performance order based on travel distance, students from farther schools will have a more reasonable start to their day, supporting better rest and ensuring they are physically and mentally prepared to perform at their best.



Financial impact or considerations:

There is no significant financial impact to NWAPA or show sponsors, as travel distances can be calculated using publicly available mapping tools and school addresses.

For participating ensembles, this proposal may help reduce expenses related to transportation and logistics. Allowing schools with longer travel distances to perform later in the day can decrease the need for overnight accommodations for drivers, potentially eliminating hotel costs.

NWAPA documents that will be amended:

2025 Winter Member Handbook: Registration
Page 6

Document language as it exists now:

“Units that register and pay by January 20th will be added to the schedule with the earliest registered unit performing later. Units will not be added to the schedule until payment is received or a PO is in process and, at that time, will be scheduled in their respective class prior to those already scheduled in the contest.”

Document language that will exist if the proposal passes:

“Preliminary performance order for NWAPA Winter Shows shall be determined within each class by the distance of each participating school from the event venue, as measured in miles. Schools located closest to the venue will be scheduled to perform first, proceeding to those located farthest from the venue.”



Additional considerations:

- ☐ **Tie-breaking for identical distances:** In the event that two or more schools are located the same distance from the event venue, a secondary method—such as order of registration or a random draw—may be used to determine performance order within the class.
- ☐ **Standardized distance measurement:** To ensure consistency and fairness, a standardized method (e.g., Google Maps, Apple Maps) should be used across all events for calculating travel distances.
- ☐ **Exceptions for unique circumstances:** NWAPA reserves the right to make scheduling adjustments in special cases, such as severe weather, transportation issues, school activities, or other unforeseen logistical challenges.
- ☐ **Show Sponsors:** Show sponsors may opt to perform last within their class division to allow adequate time for event preparation and setup. If a sponsor chooses not to perform last, they will instead follow the standard performance order outlined in the proposal, which is determined by the distance from the venue.

Submitted by:

Member Unit Affiliation:

Samantha Cecilio-Barei

Crater Band & Guard

Submit completed proposals to president@nwapa.net

Proposal overview: NWAPA Winter Proposal #3 - Performance by Random Draw

Schedules will be made by random draw - just like we do for Fall Season.

Affected season: WINTER

Rationale:

Aligns us more with fall standards and WGI standards. Not everyone *can* register on opening day, so this levels the playing field.

Financial impact or considerations:

None

NWAPA documents that will be amended:

Page 6 - Winter Handbook - "Registration"

Page 14 - Winter Handbook - "Event Contest/Performance schedules"

Document language as it exists now:

Page 6

Registration

Registration opens December 1st at noon. There is a two step registration process.

- 1. Go to nwapa.net and register your unit for the events you wish to compete in. Register each unit separately. You will receive a confirmation email and instructions on how to pay. You will also receive a formal invoice within 48 hours.
- 2. Pay show fees for the shows your unit is registered for. Registration is time sensitive. If you are going to pay via PayPal, NWAPA recommends establishing a verified PayPal account, and successfully completing other transactions, prior to beginning the registration process.

Note - payment with Visa or MasterCard is also acceptable. Personal or school checks can also be used and mailed to the NWAPA mailing address. All questions regarding registration can be sent to registration@nwapa.net.

Units that register **and** pay by January 20th will be added to the schedule with the earliest registered unit performing later. Units will not be added to the schedule until payment is received or a PO is in process and, at that time, will be scheduled in their respective class prior to those already scheduled in the contest.

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Event/Contest Performance Schedules

Contest performance schedules are published on nwapa.net no later than two calendar weeks before the event and are locked 7 days before the event. Units that are excluded from a performance schedule they expected to be included on must contact contest_coord@nwapa.net immediately.

Prelims round performance order is determined by date. Units that register and pay by January 20th will be added to the schedule with the earliest registered unit performing later. Units will not be added to the schedule until payment is received or a PO is in process and at that time will be scheduled in their respective class prior to those already scheduled in the contest.

Finals performance order is determined by reverse order of placement within class from the prelim round.

Document language that will exist if the proposal passes:

Page 6

Registration

Registration opens December 1st at noon. There is a two step registration process.

- 1. Go to nwapa.net and register your unit for the events you wish to compete in. Register each unit separately. You will receive a confirmation email and instructions on how to pay. You will also receive a formal invoice within 48 hours.
- 2. Pay show fees for the shows your unit is registered for. Registration is time sensitive. If you are going to pay via PayPal, NWAPA recommends establishing a verified PayPal account, and successfully completing other transactions, prior to beginning the registration process.

Note - payment with Visa or MasterCard is also acceptable. Personal or school checks can also be used and mailed to the NWAPA mailing address. All questions regarding registration can be sent to registration@nwapa.net.

*Units that register **and** pay their fees in full by January 15 shall be entered in a random draw for performance order in the preliminary contest for each event in which they have registered including Championships. This will determine the order in which units perform in the preliminary contest, within each classification.*

Unit representatives need not be present at a meeting to be entered in the draw process.

Units that register and pay for events after the Winter Draw shall be scheduled before other units in their class in the preliminary contest on a first paid - last scheduled basis.

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Event/Contest Performance Schedules

Contest performance schedules are published on nwapa.net no later than two calendar weeks before the event and are locked 7 days before the event. Units that are excluded from a performance schedule they expected to be included on must contact contest_coord@nwapa.net immediately.

Prelims round performance order is determined by random draw. Units that register and pay their fees in full by January 15 shall be entered in a random draw for performance order in the preliminary contest for each event in which they have registered including Championships. This will determine the order in which units perform in the preliminary contest, within each classification.

Exhibition units shall perform in a time slot at the discretion of NWAPA Winter Vice Presidents, Contest Coordinator, and Show Sponsor.

Units that register and pay for events after the Winter Draw shall be scheduled before other units in their class in the preliminary contest on a first paid - last scheduled basis.

Finals performance order is determined by reverse order of placement within class from the prelim round.

Additional considerations:

In an event that a group is reclassified, the draw order would be used to place them in the appropriate order in their new division.

The draw should only include the units that have paid by the posted date (historically by Jan 20th, but recommended we move to Jan 15th since we are considering shows at the end of January). This aligns with fall season.

Submitted by: Member Unit Affiliation:

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Lisa King - West Salem High School

Submit completed proposals to president@nwapa.net