



WGI Sport of the Arts

# Participant Protection Report

Dr. Will Frankenberger





# Agenda

What this report will cover

- Summary of 2025 Audits
- Summary of 2025 Reports & Inquiries
- 2026 Season Adjustments

# Summary of 2025 Audits

# Total Audits

**436**

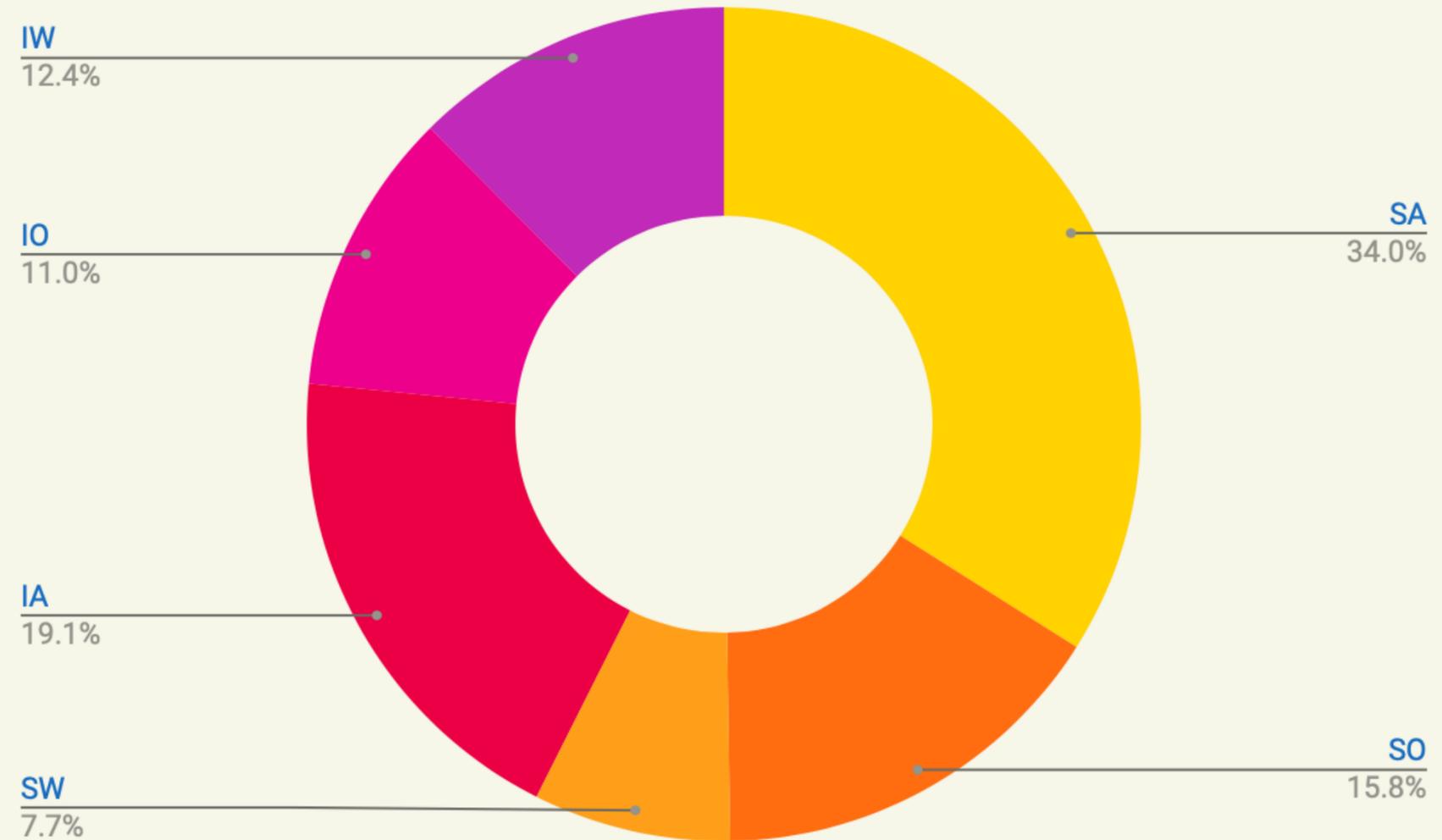
**Total number of groups audited across all three divisions.**

11 groups did not comply/withdrew from the audit process.

# Color Guard

## Key Data Points:

- 58% Scholastic & 42% Independent
- 4 groups did not complete the audit
- 58% of groups were compliant BEFORE they were audited.

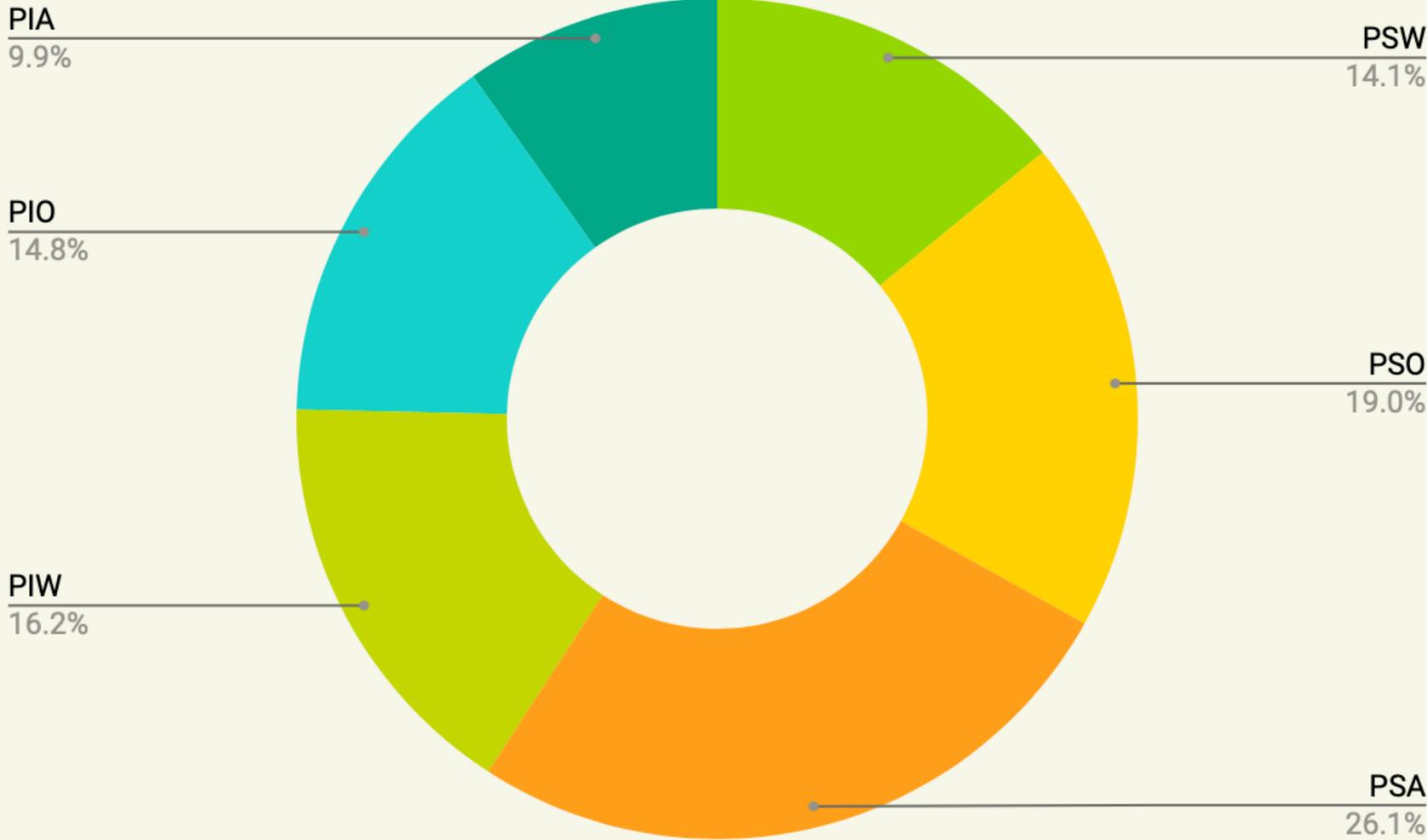


**BREAKDOWN BY CLASS**

# Percussion

### Key Data Points:

- 64% Scholastic & 36% Independent
- 5 groups did not complete the audit
- 39% of groups were compliant BEFORE they were audited.

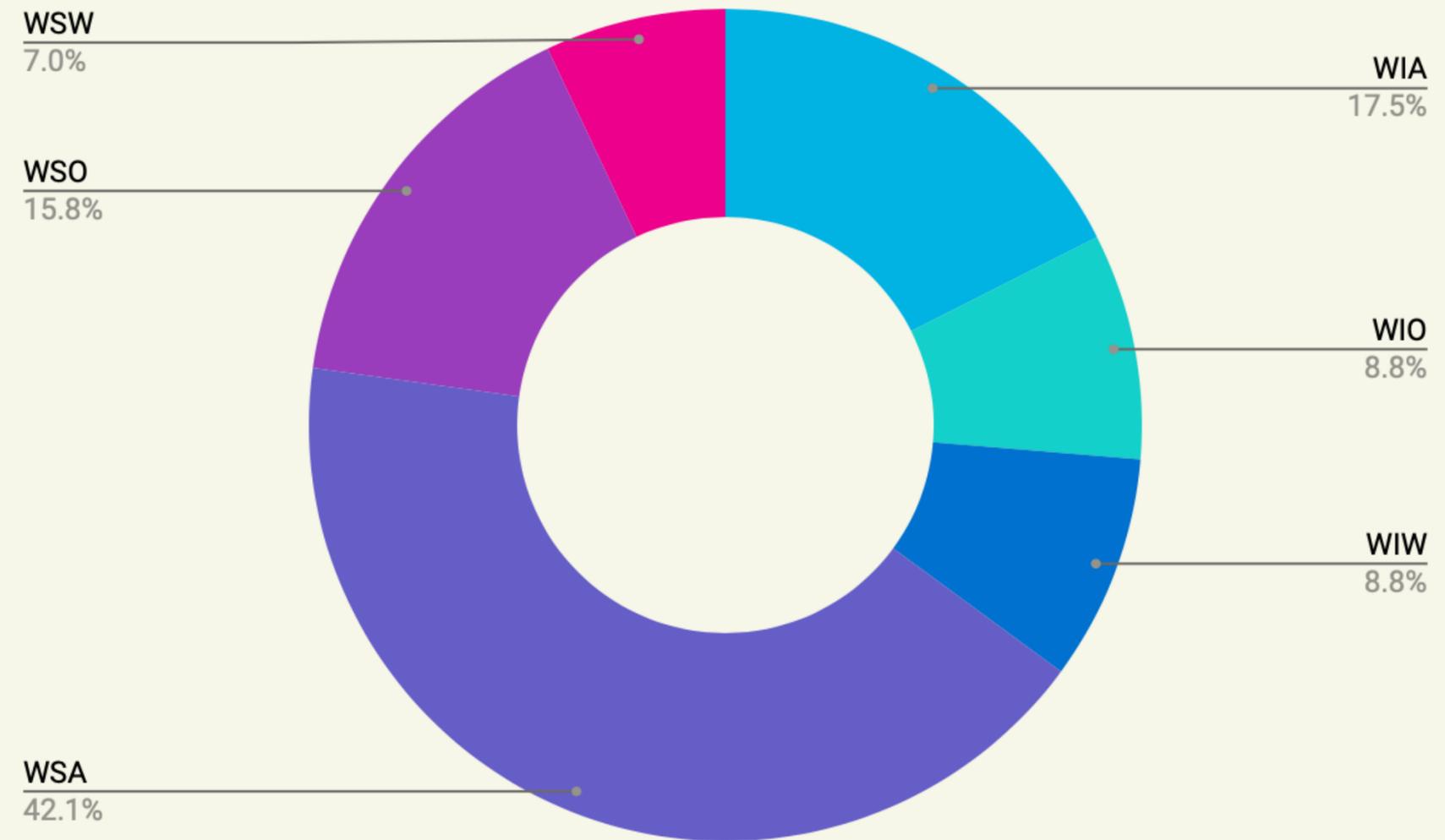


BREAKDOWN BY CLASS

# Winds

## Key Data Points:

- 65% Scholastic & 35% Independent
- 3 groups did not complete the audit
- 61% of groups were compliant BEFORE they were audited.



BREAKDOWN BY CLASS

# Summary of 2025 Reports and Inquiries

# Total Reports

54

From June 1, 2024 until  
May 31, 2025

68% of the reports were filed in-Season

- 9 in February
- 6 in March
- 21 in April
  - 14 during WC weekend(s)

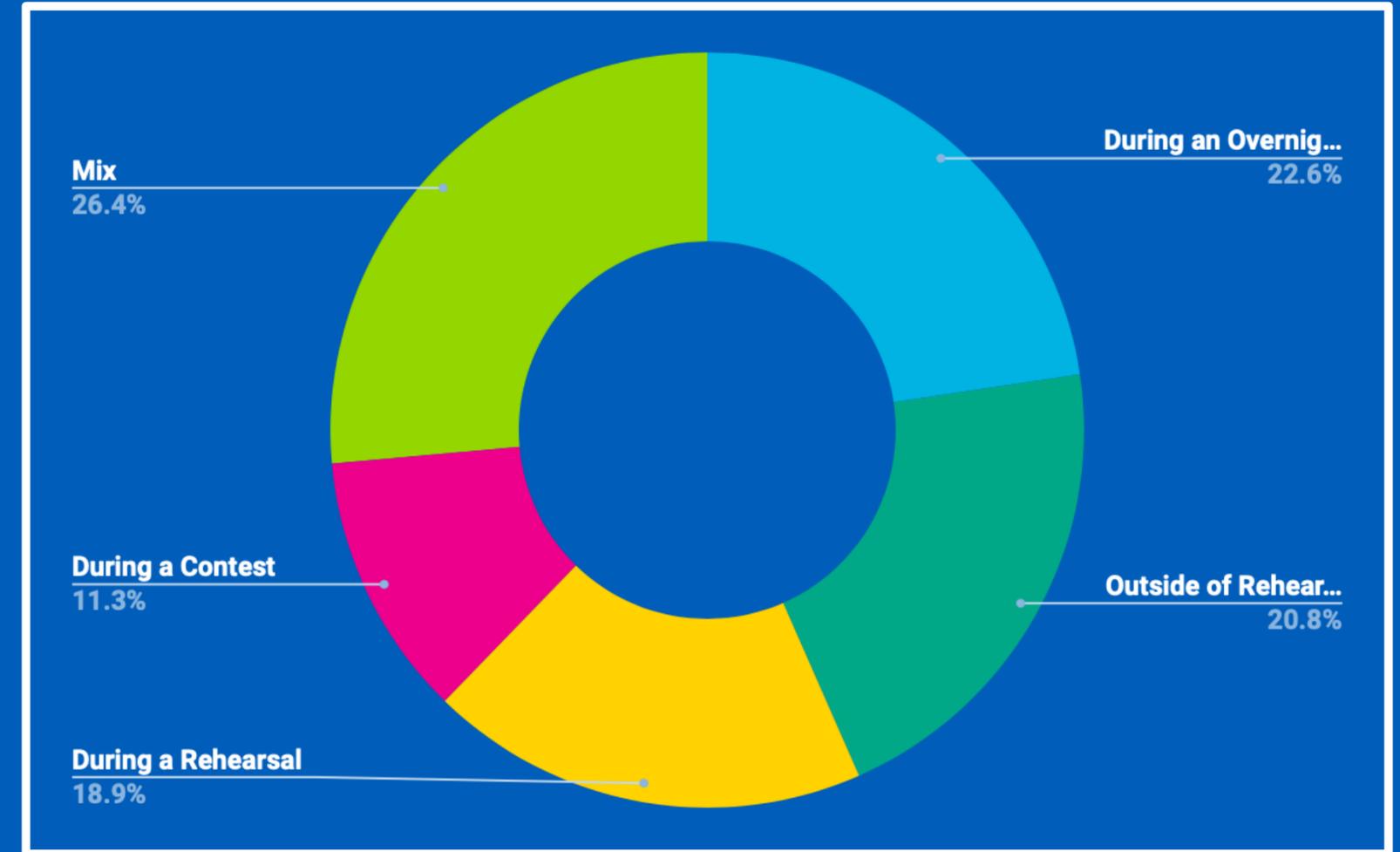
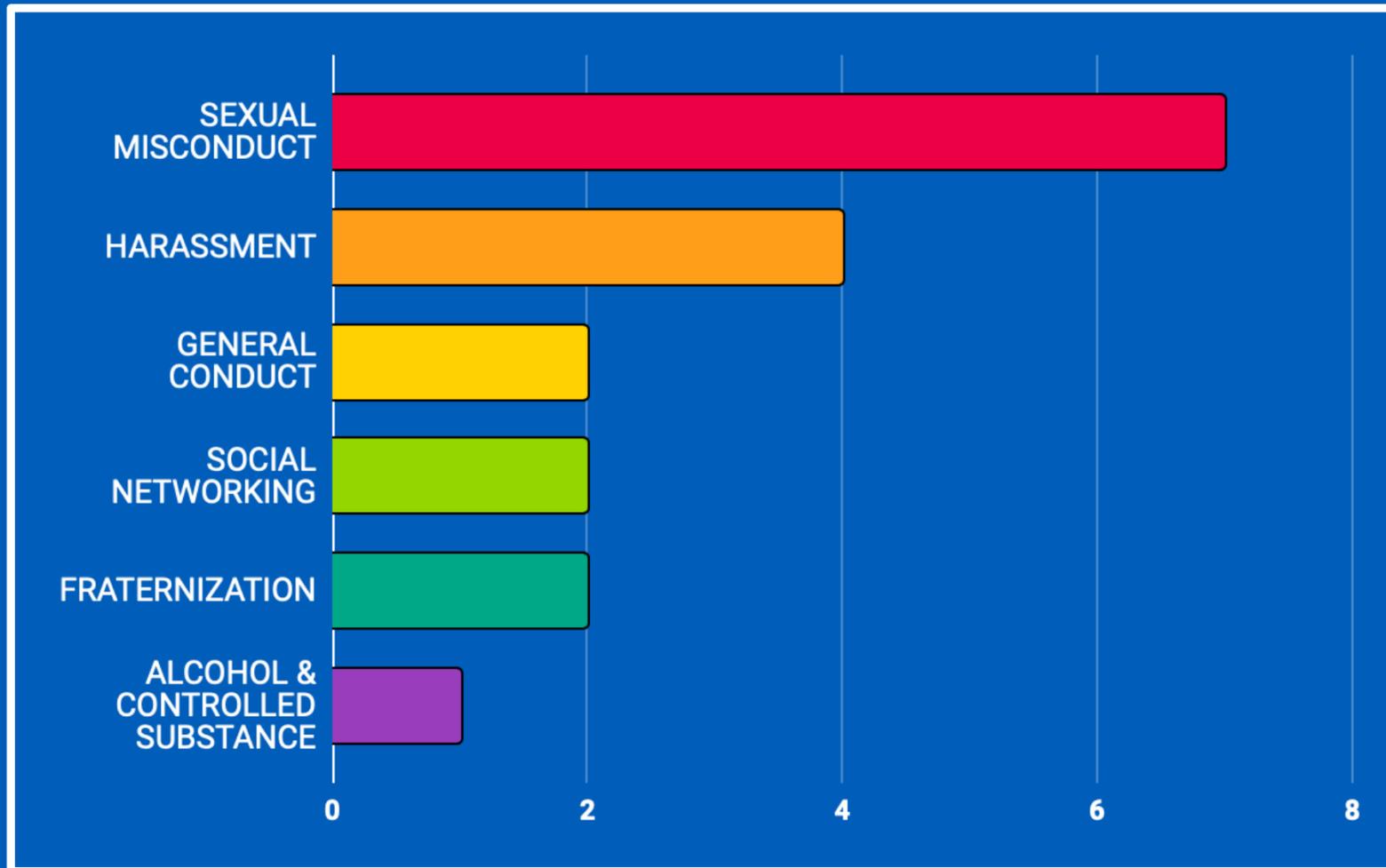


# Total Open Inquiries

From June 1, 2024 until  
May 31, 2025

18

# Violation Type



# Violation Location



# What's Coming in 2026

to Participant Protection Requirements

# 2026 Changes

Don't worry this will be communicated very clearly and we will talk more in the Division Meetings!

01

All participant protection materials due December 31, 2025

02

Background check confirmation letter

03

Mandatory disclosure language in confirmation letter

04

Adult supervisor list submission in Director Dashboard

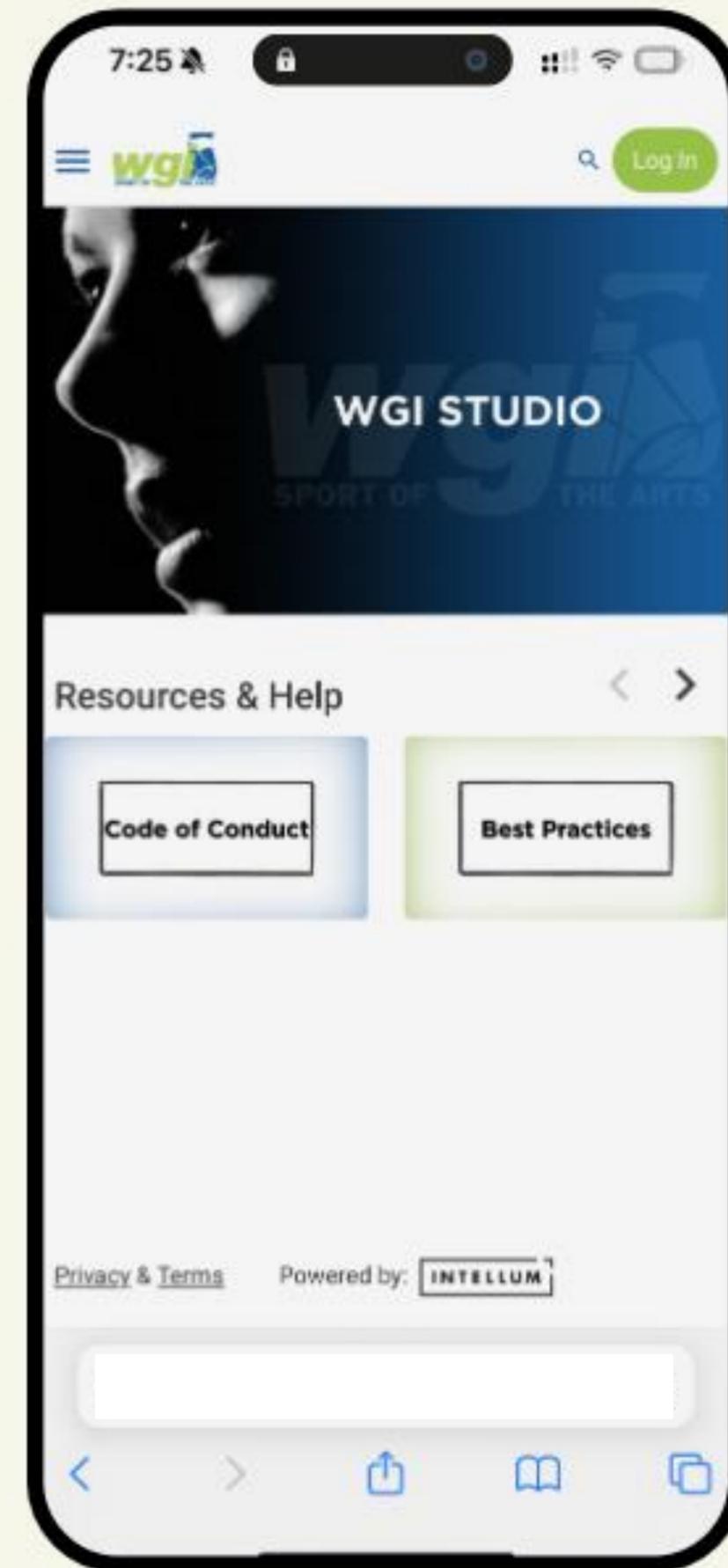
05

Discontinuing the use of SafeSport for education

Meet...

# WGI STUDIO

Our new online learning management system!



# Participant Protection Practices (3P)

WGI's custom built, four-year, progressive learning pathway designed to build a strong foundation of safety, ethical behavior, and proactive prevention across the WGI community.

## Course 1: Setting the Standard

- Launch live August 1, 2025
- Online interactive course designed with our community in mind
- 30 minutes
- \$15-\$20 per learner, bulk purchase available
- Directors will have reports to track completion
- Complete by December 31, 2025





1  
Setting the Standard

Foundational course that introduces core concepts and expectations of support for participant protection.



2  
Understanding Boundaries & Authority

Focuses on creating professional and personal boundaries to uphold healthy power balances and create a culture of respect and trust.



3  
What to See and What to Say

Equips learners with tools to identify signs of misconduct and how to provide appropriate support and reporting processes.



4  
Cultivating a Culture of Safety

Final course focusing on sustainability to create lasting cultures of protection.

# Participant

# Protection

# Practices (3P)

# Series

# WGI's Best Practice Guides

Quick guides designed to help provide support and guidance on topics that can be tricky to navigate.

## WGI BEST PRACTICE GUIDES



### OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

WGI understands that our groups face challenges when it comes to overnight accommodations, especially for independent groups. This resource is meant to serve as a helpful guide for administrators to utilize for planning, but is not a policy or regulatory standard. WGI does not assume any responsibility or liability for a group's overnight accommodations. Regardless of the design of the accommodation, the WGI Participant Protection guidance of interactions being observable and interruptible should still be followed. **Best Practices for Overnight Accommodations include:**

#### 1 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR STAFF MEMBERS:

- Separate the sleeping spaces for minors and adults (floors, rooms, etc.);
- Separate genders in sleeping spaces with consideration for trans and gender non-conforming members;
- Avoid sharing beds, couches, and air mattresses with participants regardless of age or gender;
- Should a group require a meeting, use a public meeting space and ensure other adults or performers are present;
- Do not use private hotel rooms to conduct meetings.



- Putting at least three participants in a hotel room is recommended to allow behavior to be observable and interruptible.

- When using a gym or shared space for floor sleeping, participants should be separated into sections by age and gender. In these cases, staff or chaperones can be in the same space as monitors but should keep the principles of observable and interruptible interactions applied.



#### 2 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS:



- Show support and encouragement.
- Show respect and dignity.
- Show respect for boundaries.
- Show respect for privacy.
- Show respect for personal space.
- Show respect for personal belongings.
- Show respect for personal information.
- Show respect for personal relationships.
- Show respect for personal choices.
- Show respect for personal opinions.
- Show respect for personal feelings.
- Show respect for personal needs.
- Show respect for personal wants.
- Show respect for personal desires.
- Show respect for personal dreams.
- Show respect for personal hopes.
- Show respect for personal fears.
- Show respect for personal strengths.
- Show respect for personal weaknesses.
- Show respect for personal talents.
- Show respect for personal abilities.
- Show respect for personal skills.
- Show respect for personal knowledge.
- Show respect for personal experience.
- Show respect for personal wisdom.
- Show respect for personal insight.
- Show respect for personal intuition.
- Show respect for personal gut feelings.
- Show respect for personal instincts.
- Show respect for personal impulses.
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- Show respect for personal impulses.

### GUIDANCE FOR NAVIGATING ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIPS

WGI has a clear policy outlining fraternization, stating that establishing relationships beyond a professional relationship is strongly discouraged. This includes either short or long-term romantic and intimate relationships between staff and minor performers. Additionally, any of these relationships between staff and minor performers are strictly prohibited. Groups may discuss their specific positions and expectations regarding romantic and/or intimate relationships. Conversations should be had among staff members with other staff members and among performers with other performers. This guide should serve as a tool to help ensemble members navigate that discussion and ensure that personal relationships enhance, rather than detract from, the creative and collaborative energy of our community.

#### Fraternization Policy

WGI maintains a strong position on fraternization between all parties. Fraternization means any close personal relationship that goes beyond a professional working relationship and can include romantic or intimate relationships, excessive socializing, and favoritism. Examples include:

- ✗ Sexual or romantic relationships between staff and minor participants are prohibited.
- ✗ Any relationship that puts any party at risk of harm is prohibited.
- ✗ Establishing a new sexual or romantic relationship between staff/volunteers and adult participants while working with the same group is prohibited.
- ⊖ Establishing a new sexual or romantic relationship between any party where there is or a perceived power imbalance is strongly discouraged.
- ⊖ Fraternization between participants and minor participants is strongly discouraged.
- ! Already-existing relationships between staff and participants are not encouraged but are not forbidden. These relationships must be managed to address potential conflicts or power imbalances.



## BEST PRACTICES - BODY INCLUSIVE COSTUMING

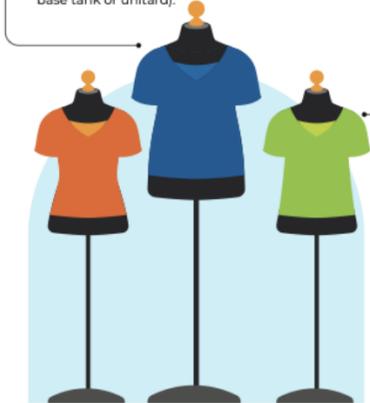


Balancing artistic integrity with performer comfort and equity requires thoughtful, proactive decision-making. One of the most critical considerations, however, is ensuring that costumes reflect body inclusivity, so all performers feel seen, respected, and empowered to deliver their best on stage. Costumes should never be a source of shame, restriction, or marginalization. Instead, they can be tools to celebrate the diverse body types that make up any ensemble.

The following considerations offer a framework for making costume decisions that prioritize inclusivity while still honoring the visual goals of a production. These recommendations aim to help creative teams promote dignity, safety, and belonging for every performer, regardless of their size, shape, or physical ability.

#### DESIGN AESTHETICS

- Avoid body-specific silhouettes: Refrain from using cuts or styles that favor only thin or athletic body types (e.g., overly tight leotards, low-rise bottoms).
- Build optionality: Allow for variations in necklines, sleeve lengths, or torso coverage so performers can feel confident and comfortable.
- Use layered or mix-and-match pieces: Enable visual uniformity while giving performers control over how much skin is shown (e.g., crop top over a base tank or unitard).



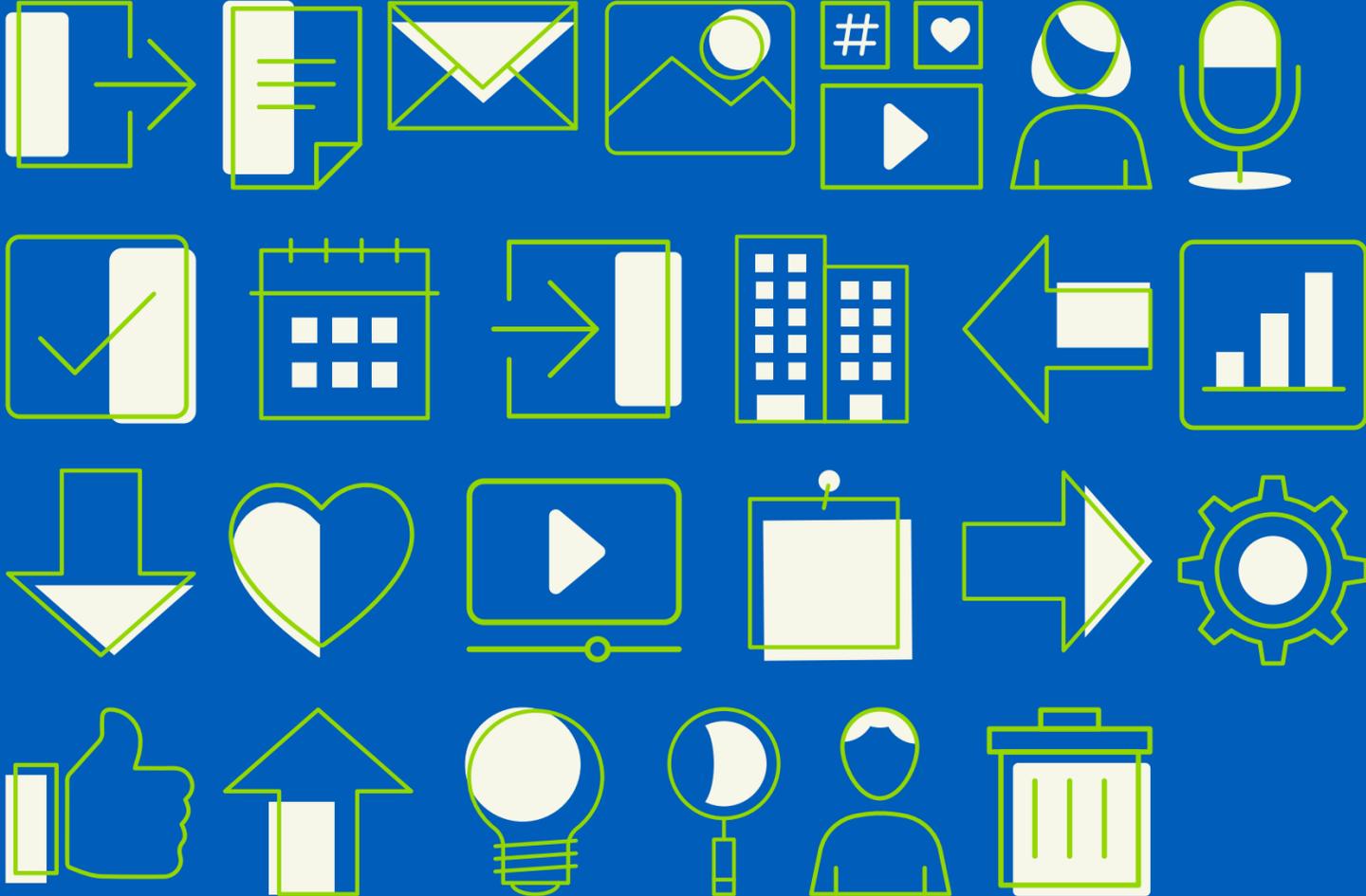
#### MATERIAL CHOICES

- Select breathable, forgiving fabrics: Choose materials that stretch, move with the body, and don't cling uncomfortably or become see-through under stage lights.
- Minimize restrictive elements: Avoid stiff boning, tight elastic bands, or binding closures that restrict movement or highlight specific body features unnecessarily.
- Ensure nude fabrics match skin tones: Avoid defaulting to one "nude" shade. Instead, offer a range of skin-tone-matching base fabrics and underlayers so all performers feel represented and dignified. This consideration should be made for gloves, as well.

#### BUDGETING & PLANNING

- Build inclusivity into the budget: Cost-effective doesn't mean exclusive. Factor in costs for larger sizes, optional base layers, and tailoring from the outset, which should not be passed onto the performers.
- Include tailoring and alterations in all estimates: Customization may be necessary for bodies of all sizes. Allocate funds for tailoring (not just for "outliers") to ensure every performer receives a costume that fits well and supports performance.
- Choose vendors who support inclusivity: Work with suppliers and costumers who specialize in extended sizing and flexible fits.

# More specific updates coming in the Division Meetings



# Thank you!

Feel free to find me if you have any questions.