

**Winds Advisory Board  
June 6-7, 2025  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
Proposals for Consideration**



**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Proposal #1**

**If there are an A class Prelims and Semis held on Saturday of championships, then the order of classes for finals will go Open, A, World**

*Submitted by Jonathan Schnicke, LSM West (WIA)*

**Rationale:** For the A classes, they have a late night load and drive from Kentucky back to Dayton, then an early morning wake up, check out of hotel and arrival at the lot. This allows the A class groups a little opportunity for rest and their drivers to log a few more hours of sleep before travel home.

**Financial Impact:** 0

**Proposal #2**

**(A) - Provide a minimum interval time between performances that are held on different days of 16 hours - EX. - If group A performs at 10PM on Saturday, then they shall not perform on Sunday prior to 2PM.**

**- or -**

**(B) - Adjust the Saturday schedule at World Championships to the following:**

- A Class Prelims**
- Open Class Prelims**
- A Class Semis**
- World Class Prelims**

*Submitted by James Mills, Obsidian Winds (WIA)*

**Rationale:** During the 2025 WGI championships, all groups were given at least 2 performance opportunities with A class finalists groups given an incredible 3 performances. While this is a fantastic approach to appropriately celebrate each group's perseverance and accomplishments leading up to world championships, it did create a bit of stress for the finalists A class ensembles regarding member experience. Some groups had just over 12 hours between their semi-finals and finals performances.

This time included loading, departing to housing, eating, meeting, sleeping, cleaning housing site, eating again, departing, unloading, etc. This placed a tremendous stress on the membership and students, with our membership exit interviews indicating the lack of time between those two performances was among the least enjoyable experiences of their world championships weekend. This is concerning since the members are the lifeblood of our organizations and their experiences directly impact how our organizations and the activity in general grows.

Successful and sustainable A class groups are critical to the long term success growth of our activity. This proposal helps our groups by guaranteeing additional time without introducing hardships to other classes, reducing performance opportunities, or adding costs.

**Financial Impact:** None

### **Proposal #3**

**Attempt to offer the same temperature, humidity, light, and wind conditions between both warm up tents.**

*Submitted by Wesley Pendergrass, Vaquero Winds (WIW)*

**Rationale:** It is important that winds groups are given equal opportunity for similar championship performances in terms of warmup spaces.

An open sided tent without power was warm-up B and a close sided tent with power, lights, and adjustable thermal conditions was warm-up A.

The intent of this proposal is not to require an upgrade to the warm-up B space, but to insure preparation of the warm-up A space to reflect the condition of the other.

Tuning is a cornerstone of WGI-Winds adjudication and the current circumstances do not create an equal playing field for units.

**Financial Impact:** None. This proposal is not intended to upgrade any spaces, just to make sure that the spaces offered are the same through preparation by contest staff.

## **ADJUDICATION**

### **Proposal #4**

**Recombine the A and Open/World Scoring Sheets in Music Analysis and Visual Analysis in the 2026 WGI Winds Adjudication Manual and Rulebook.**

*Submitted by Stephen Alia, Horizon Winds (WIW)*

**Rationale:** When the Winds Advisory Board passed the proposal in 2024 to change the way A class scores in MA and VA were tabulated, the MA and VA sheets were inadvertently separated from those for Open / World Class. The information on the A and Open/World versions of each of these sheets is identical, except for the class-specific descriptors in the Boxes on the back.

This caused confusion for adjudicators and participants.

These sheets should be recombined so that there is only one MA sheet and one VA sheet as it existed before the 2025 release of the Winds Adjudication Manual and Rulebook.

On the back of the sheet, in the top box, it should read:

A Class - Basic Concepts; Open Class - Intermediate Concepts; World Class - Advanced Concepts.

in the bottom box, it should read:

A Class - Basic Skills; Open Class - Intermediate Skills; World Class - Advanced Skills.

This mirrors what still exists on the Overall Effect sheet.

**Financial Impact:** Very little (a gain for WGI since there would be 4 less pages in the manual)

## **Proposal #5**

Define class expectations/criteria as the following:

### **A Class:**

**Tone & Blend** - Generally solid; ensemble balance over individual brilliance

**Rhythm & Accuracy** - Reliable on basic rhythms; occasional small ensemble lapses

**Musical Repertoire** - Accessible ranges and technical demands

**Visual Vocabulary** - Primarily march-based, simple sets, basic choreography

**Body Technique** - Basic carriage; some posture/weight shifts

**Consistency** - Movement often pauses for playing

**Music vs. Movement** - Often segmented ("we play, then we move"); basic staging cues

**Ensemble Cohesion** - Focus is stronger on appearing "together" than inter-caption cohesion

### **Open Class:**

**Tone & Blend** - Improved focus on section balance and individual core tone; emerging soloist and feature moments

**Rhythm & Accuracy** - Handles moderate subdivision and syncopation; fewer ensemble lapses

**Musical Repertoire** - Wider ranges, technical passages, faster tempos

**Visual Vocabulary** - Mix of march, simple dance steps, varied lines/forms

**Body Technique** - Developing carriage, shape awareness, clean weight transfers

**Consistency** - Frequently moves while playing, fewer "static" moments

**Music vs. Movement** - Growing layering of music and movement, some moments fully integrated, some still segmented

**Ensemble Cohesion** - Sections interact musically and visually; design supports musical intent

### **World Class:**

**Tone & Blend** - Consistency refined, solos and section features are fully musical; dynamic nuance

**Rhythm & Accuracy** - Confident with complex rhythms, meters, and modulations

**Musical Repertoire** - Capable of handling higher velocity, extended techniques, musical risk-taking

**Visual Vocabulary** - Fully layered movement and choreography (dance, props if used), couples forms, levels, layering

**Body Technique** - Advanced dance quality, seamless weight shifts, dynamic body expression

**Consistency** - Music and movement are frequently simultaneous and uninterrupted

**Music vs. Movement** - Intrinsically fused - movement choices amplify musical structure at every moment

**Ensemble Cohesion** - All elements (music, body, staging, props) function as one organism, design and achievement are inseparable.

*Submitted by Zack Novicki, LSM Winds (WIW)*

**Rationale:** The intent of this proposal is to provide a stepping-off point for discussions regarding class expectations. The Winds Administrators and Winds Steering Committee will use information from these discussions when conducting reclassification reviews.

**Financial Impact:** None

## **Proposal #6**

Replace the current language in 9.3 Winds Classification Review from the WGI Policy Manual.

Current language:

### **9.3 Winds Classification Review**

A classification review may be instituted at any Regional if the Director of Winds feels such an action is appropriate.

**A group may be reclassified to any class.**

**The Director of Winds will send written notification of any Winds group under review.**

**Reclassification may be done between regional contests up to and including World Championships. A Winds group may be asked to produce a current performance video for evaluation within seven (7) days.**

**A decision will be made within ten (10) days and Director of Winds will notify the group under review of the result.**

**A Winds group may then appeal reclassification with the Director of Winds and Steering Committee and receive a final decision within ten (10) days.**

**Reclassification may occur between Prelims and Finals at any event if the Director of Winds is present and feels such action is warranted.**

**Proposed replacement:**

### **9.3 Winds Classification Review**

**All Winds group are subject to review for potential improper classification at any point in the WGI Regional season.**

**Groups will be reviewed based on the professional opinion of the Director of Winds, Winds Chief Judge, Winds Education Coordinator, and/or the working Chief Judge at any WGI Regional event that the unit may be improperly classified.**

**The Director of Winds will send written notification to any Winds group under review, at which point the group must submit a current overview-level performance video for evaluation within 72 hours of the request.**

**Failure to provide the review video within the 72-hour time frame will result in immediate reclassification of the group to the next highest class of competition.**

**Initial reclassification reviews will be done by the Winds Education Coordinator, Winds Chief Judge, and Director of Winds. These will be independent evaluations without consultation with one another. If there is a majority decision (at least 2 of 3) to reclassify, it would immediately be referred to the full Winds Steering Committee for final review.**

**If a majority of the Steering Committee members vote to reclassify, the group is reclassified. There will be no further appeals after the secondary review.**

**The full review process and final decision will be made and the group will be notified of the result by the Director of Winds within ten (10 ) days of the submission of the review video.**

**Units reclassified to a new class will go on first at their next Regional, if applicable, if that schedule has been published. If performance times have not been published, the unit will be included in the draw for performance order.**

**Units reclassified to a new class will be included in the World Championships draw for performance order, if applicable.**

**Along with this, the following would be added:**

### **3.35 - Duties and Responsibilities (of the Director of Winds):**

**Initiate and coordinate Winds Classification Reviews and conduct initial reclassification reviews.**

**3.45 - Duties and Responsibilities (of the Winds Chief Judge) AND 3.55 - Duties and Responsibilities (of the Winds Education Coordinator):**

**Initiate Winds Classification Reviews and conduct initial reclassification reviews.**

*Submitted by Stephen Alia, Horizon Winds (WIW)*

**Rationale:** The current language in 9.3 is non-specific and relies only on the opinion of the Director of Winds for reclassification decisions, which could result in arbitrary class changes. In addition, it only includes the Winds Steering Committee in the event of an appeal. However, in 3.22 the responsibilities of the Steering Committee include “serv[ing] as re-classification committee per guidelines set in Policy Manual.” The new procedure, which mirrors much of the process for the Color Guard division, is more specifically stated and allows for multiple steps that ensure fair and equitable due process.

**Financial Impact:** None

## **RULES**

### **Proposal #7**

**Adjust 4.2.3:**

**Current:** Any sound generating source, computer, synthesizer, etc. must be located in the competition area. This equipment must be run by a performing member of the group who is in the competition area. In Independent Class, a titled staff member may run the soundboard since there are no age restrictions.

**New:** Any sound generating source, computer, synthesizer, etc. must be located in the competition area. This equipment must be run by a performing member of the group who is in the competition area. The show's soundtrack can be started remotely via remote-controlled wireless device through a self-supplied wireless network mentioned in 4.2.2. In Independent Class, a titled staff member may run the soundboard since there are no age restrictions.

*Submitted by AJ Helfen, Valhalla Winds (WIO)*

**Rationale:** Remove the necessity to add a buffer to the track to allow for the intro announcement or for a member to return to their starting position from starting the track at the soundboard. This could help smaller groups with setup.

**Financial Impact:** None