

Hello everyone,

This week we have officially crossed the season's midpoint - hard to believe!

As we forge ahead into the second half of the season, teams are shifting their focus towards local and WGI Championships. For us, that requires a shift in our focus as well. Shows are complete, but perhaps not fully detailed. Performers are beginning to refine their choreography and starting to realize performance and technical dynamics. The vision of designers and crafters is coming into view.

For us, that means really digging into the class standard differentiators that help separate the tightening neighborhoods. Nuances and details in choreography, staging and transitions, and performer communication begin to magnify the subtle but important differences between close competitors. Going into contests with clarity on these differentiators becomes more important than ever in order for us to sort out highly competitive groups. And the clarity of articulating these differences in our files is critical, as the teams will take this information and work hard to respond in the weeks that remain.

One of our strengths as a community is the diversity of experience we bring to our judging. You are valued and you are enough! We want to see your view of the achievement by the teams of their unique challenges through you and your caption lens. Please trust yourself; put your comments and scores down; then don't discuss your decisions with anyone. If you have questions or wonderings, please ask your lead judge. At breaks, don't discuss the teams or your decisions. Trust yourself and be fresh for the next competition.

In many of the classes, teams are approaching or meeting Box 5 criteria. Remember that the top of Box 4 and the entry into Box 5 are the same criteria: *all/all for Box 4 and some/some for Box 5*. There is no "hard line" to cross into Box 5. You may see one subcaption meet that criteria and not the other. Be considerate and conscious of your moving into Box 5.

Thanks for all that you do and please reach out with any questions.

Sam & William