WGI COLOR GUARD CONTEST RULES
2027

WGI discourages independent groups from utilizing high school students who were previously enrolled in an active high school program and have not yet graduated.

WGI also discourages independent groups from utilizing participants who have outstanding monies owed to a previous group.

WGI strongly recommends that participating groups and their adult supervisors use the utmost caution and forethought in planning and use of props that might place participants (and others) in potential danger during assembly or use.

WGI strongly recommends that all participants wear protective footwear while outside the performance area.

1.0 ELIGIBILITY

1.1 Independent A Class color guards from the United States composed of participants not over 22 years of age as of 12:01 a.m. on April 1, 2027, shall be permitted to compete in contests governed by WGI. Any participant who has reached 23 years of age as of that date is ineligible.

1.2 Independent Open Class color guards from the United States may utilize participants not over 25 years of age as of 12:01 a.m. on April 1, 2027. Any participant who has reached 26 years of age as of that date is ineligible.

1.3 Independent World Class color guards may compete with participants of any age.

1.4 Each competing group appearing in a WGI contest shall be prepared to show proof of age for any participant upon request. International independent color guards are not bound by any age limit except for U.S. citizens performing with that group. U.S. citizens performing with an international group may not exceed the age allowed for that classification.

1.4.1 U.S. Military veterans may be granted one (1) year of eligibility immediately following their end of active service. To qualify, individual must have enlisted prior to their 19th birthday, served for no less than four (4) years, and must have been honorably discharged or medically separated. Veteran must submit a copy of their discharge papers and separation documents to WGI prior to December 1 to qualify.

1.5 All participants of any competing group in any scholastic class must have approval for participation in any WGI-sanctioned event by the administration of the sponsoring school(s) or educational institution.

1.5.1 Types of groups in the Scholastic classes are defined as follows:

Single School. A competing group whose total membership are students from the same school, schools that feed directly into that school, or home-schooled students that reside within the school district boundaries. The group shall submit the Single School

Participating Master Group Agreement signed by the authorizing school principal or administrator and file with the WGI office.

Combined Schools. The purpose of the combined schools policy is to encourage participation from scholastic groups that may have limited resources while keeping the integrity of the scholastic classes intact. Combining schools for the purpose of competitive advantage is contrary to this policy and will not be approved.

A competing group in any scholastic class may apply for approval to combine students from multiple schools within a school district under the following guidelines:

- Groups applying to combine students from multiple schools within a school district must apply for approval by December 1.
- Groups combining students from multiple schools within a school district may not have another group in the same division (Color Guard, Percussion, or Winds) participating locally with a Circuit Partner or WGI.
- Only one (1) group, competitive or otherwise, can result from the combining of schools.
- If a school has a marching band program, the school is not eligible to combine with another school.
- There can be no auditions for any kind to determine participation in a combined school program.
- Groups utilizing students from parochial, vocational, or charter schools must apply for approval under combined school guidelines.
- If approved, combined school groups may be required to compete using a school district name.
- All approved combined school groups shall submit the Combined Schools Participating Group Master Agreement signed by the district superintendent and file with the WGI office.
- WGI will have the final determination on whether a competing group will be permitted to combine students from multiple schools. If the application for combined schools is denied, the group has the option to either not include students from other schools or compete in an independent class.

1.6 Competing groups may not have fewer than five (5) participants nor more than fifty (50) in the competition area at any time.

1.7 No participant shall compete in more than one competing group at the same contest.

1.8 Competing groups are required to compete in the same classification at WGI events as they do in their local circuit, provided that the local circuit utilizes the WGI scoring system. The classification is determined based on the judging sheets used for local adjudication, regardless of the classification itself.

PENALTY: Disqualification - Any competing group violating any requirement in the Eligibility section shall be disqualified from that contest and must forfeit any scores, placements, or awards.

2.0 COMPETITION AREA

2.1 The "competition area" shall measure a minimum of sixty feet by ninety feet (90' x 60') and does not include entry ramps, hallways, bleachers, or seating areas. Competing groups are permitted to utilize the entire designated competition area for their performance. All participants must be

in the designated competition area when performance time begins. Depending on the performance venue, WGI will authorize additional competition area space whenever possible and include that information in the diagram (footprint) available to all competing groups to identify the competition area. No competition area may exceed the maximum size of the competition area (106' x 78') offered at the world championships. Although the competition area will be increased whenever possible, all competing groups must be prepared to perform within the minimum sixty-foot by ninety-foot (90' x 60') area.

2.2 All WGI contest sites must have a minimum of seventy feet by one hundred feet (100' x 70') to ensure the necessary space for a "safety zone" of five (5) feet from any spectator seating, and the minimum sixty-foot by ninety-foot (90' x 60') competition area within the site.

2.3 Once performance timing begins, no participant may enter the safety zone. Equipment and props may be placed into safety zones but not extend more than five (5') feet beyond the designated competition area. No choreography outside the competition area, including the safety zone, is allowed.

PENALTY: One-tenth of a point (0.1) penalty per participant for each violation of the safety zone.

2.4 The front boundary line shall be considered to extend the full width of the competition area and shall be clearly marked at a minimum of five (5') feet from the first row of spectator seating.

PENALTY: One-tenth of a point (0.1) penalty for each participant or piece of equipment in violation of the competition area boundary.

2.5 The center of the front boundary line shall be marked by a six-inch (6") taped line at the front and back of the competition area. The outer edges of the competition area shall also be marked by six-inch (6") taped lines at the corners to designate the safety zone.

2.6 All floor coverings (tarps) must fit in the designated competition area and may not enter the safety zone or cover the front boundary line.

PENALTY: One-point (1.0) penalty for each infraction of the floor covering (tarp) entering the safety zone or covering the front boundary line.

2.7 120-volt grounded power sources shall be available at the front and back of the center line of the competition area and will be the only power sources available for use. Competing groups may not plug into any wall outlet in the competition area and must provide extension cords.

2.8 Power sources must be dedicated for competing group use only and have no other electrical devices using these designated power sources.

2.9 All contests must utilize a high-quality sound system with the capability to use external devices such as MP3 players and/or iPods.

3.0 SCORING

3.1 The elements to be judged are:

3.1.1 Individual Analysis Equipment = Twenty (20) points, one judge

Vocabulary = Ten (10) points (A Classes = Seven (7) points)

Excellence = Ten (10) points (A Classes = Thirteen (13) points)

3.1.2 Individual Analysis Movement = Twenty (20) points, one judge

Vocabulary = Ten (10) points (A Classes = Seven (7) points)

Excellence = Ten (10) points (A Classes = Thirteen (13) points)

3.1.3 Design Analysis = Twenty (20) points, one judge

Composition = Ten (10) points

Excellence = Ten (10) points

3.1.4 General Effect = Twenty (20) points, two judges

Composition = Ten (10) points

Excellence = Ten (10) points

3.1.5 Timing and Penalties = Penalties assessed per rules

3.2 All judges except for the Timing and Penalty Judge will be positioned in the audience viewing area.

4.0 EQUIPMENT

4.1 For the protection of the contest site, especially wooden competition floors and easements, competing groups must properly prepare all equipment and props to ensure that damage to the facilities will not occur. All equipment will be subject to inspection. Any damage to the contest site (wheels on carts locking, improperly prepared equipment, etc.) that may arise will be the responsibility of the competing group.

PENALTY: One point (1.0) penalty per piece of improperly prepared equipment and/or prop.

4.2 Definitions of authorized equipment and use:

4.2.1 Flags are defined as any material attached to a pike, pole, rod or staff other than an authorized weapon and used as a flag, with a minimum size of eight inches by twelve inches (8" x 12"). National colors must be at least three feet by five feet (3' x 5'). Flagpoles must be at least twenty-four inches (24") in length. (Curved and straight poles are acceptable; however, complete circles, squares, etc. to which material is attached are not flags. Material attached to chains, ropes or hoses are not considered flags.) The intent of this definition is to utilize a flag as a flag and not as a scenic element or a prop.

4.2.2 Rifles are defined as devices with the outward appearance influenced by a rifle. Rifles must be at least twenty-four inches (24") in length.

4.2.3 Sabres/swords are defined as those weapons that are a curved blade (sabre) or a straight blade (sword) and may be constructed of wood, plastic, metal or any other suitable material. Simulated sabers/swords must have either a hand guard or a hilt and must be at least twenty-four inches (24") in length.

4.2.4 Authorized equipment may be modified by the addition of visual items, however, attaching a flag, rifle or sabre/sword to a prop does not make the prop a flag, rifle or sabre/sword – it is still a prop. Timing and Penalty Judge have the right to inspect and challenge competing groups for authorized equipment either before or after the maximum performance time with permission of the Contest Administrator.

Any questions on eligibility for authorized equipment should be submitted for approval by the Director of Color Guard.

4.3 Definitions of other allowed equipment:

4.3.1 Any remote-controlled prop or sound equipment provided by the group may be operated or controlled using a remote-controlled wireless device through a self-supplied network.

WGI will provide an area in the stands with a direct line of sight to the competition area for one (1) designated staff member to adjust the mix or control any device using wireless technology. The soundboard/controlled device must remain in the competition area.

4.3.2 Participants playing musical instruments or singing using a 115/120-volt power source provided to allow amplification is permitted in the competition area.

4.3.3 Participating groups may use any electrical device within their program deemed safe by the Contest Administrator. The Contest Administrator has the ultimate decision regarding safety of any electrical device in consultation with the Director of Color Guard. Groups should consult with the Director of Color Guard prior to using any equipment not specifically defined in these rules. Competing group will assume any liability for issues arising out of use of said electrical devices.

4.3.4 Battery operated devices using common off the shelf flashlight batteries (AA, AAA, AAAA, C, D, N, 9V, button cells) and dry-cell secondary "rechargeable batteries" including cell phones, cameras, MP3 players and computers are allowed. Sealed, spill-proof maintenance-free lead-acid batteries such as gel cell, sealed lead-acid (SLA), valve regulated sealed lead-acid (VRLA), and absorbed glass mat (AGM) batteries are also permitted.

4.4 The following items are prohibited in the competition area:

4.4.1 Pyrotechnics, discharge of arms, pressurized canisters, dry ice, smoke machines, compressed air apparatuses, dangerous materials, and/or flammable liquids or gases will not be permitted in or around the competition area.

4.4.2 Gasoline or manual-powered generators.

4.4.3 Live animals.

4.4.4 Powder, dirt, or any other substance that lingers in the competition area past the interval time.

4.4.5 Helium, including helium-filled balloons.

4.4.6 Motorized vehicles such as golf carts, tractors, all-terrain vehicles, etc. Motorized wheelchairs for participants with disabilities will be allowed.

4.4.7 Objects that may break or leave shards of glass in the competition area. Mirrors must be made of acrylic and cannot contain glass. Any light bulbs used must be shatter-resistant and safety-coated.

4.4.8 Drones or any remote-controlled airborne devices.

4.4.9 Hover boards.

4.4.10 Signal jamming devices including, but not limited to, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and cellular devices.

4.4.11 Special effect lighting without prior approval from the Director of Color Guard. The use of strobe lights requires a warning to the audience by the competing group prior to the performance.

4.4.12 Any use of the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) or Emergency Alert System (EAS) common audio attention signal (illegal under FCC regulations).

WGI shall have the final authority to prohibit the use of any item if it determines that the item poses an unreasonable or unacceptable risk of injury or harm to participants, others, or the venue and its property.

Directors are encouraged to contact the Director of Color Guard to inquire about the use of specific items or materials when the permissibility of an item under this section or at a particular contest venue may be in question.

PENALTY: Five-point (5.0) penalty up to Disqualification for use of any prohibited items.

4.5 The following safety guidelines apply to the construction, transport, and use of any prop or structure at any WGI event or facility. They apply to all participants, adult supervisors, volunteers, or parents involved in moving or assembling these items. These guidelines are in effect during a group's entire time in the competition area, including setup and removal.

4.5.1 No participant may be positioned on any part of a prop, structure, or podium where their lowest point of contact (e.g., feet, hands) is more than four feet (4') above the competition floor unless appropriate safety railing, a safety harness, or protective padding is in place around the prop, structure, or podium to prevent injury.

- Safety railing is a barrier at least forty-two inches (42") high at all points and surrounding the participant a minimum of 50%.
- Safety harness is a system designed to restrain a participant and prevent or arrest a fall at least three feet (3') before contact with the competition floor.
- Protective padding is a compressed foam padding (gymnastic mat type) or other suitable material that measures at least two (2") in thickness.

4.5.2 If a participant is positioned on any part of a prop, structure, or podium with their lowest point of contact (e.g., feet, hands) are more than four feet (4') above the competition floor, the following applies:

- When in motion: The participant must actively use the appropriate safety railing or be secured with a harness for the entire duration the prop, structure, or podium is in motion.
- When stationary with a safety railing: The participant is not required to actively use the safety railing.
- When stationary without a safety railing: The participant must be secured with a safety harness.

4.5.3 If a participant is positioned on any part of a prop, structure, or podium with their lowest point of contact less than four feet (4') above the competition floor, no safety railing, harness, or padding is required-regardless of whether the prop, structure, or podium is stationary or in motion.

4.5.4 A participant performing a lift or stunt-either on the ground or atop any prop, structure, or podium-may not raise another participant more than four feet (4') above the competition floor unless protective padding, trained spotters, or other adequate safety precautions are in place.

4.5.5 Participants may not jump or leap from any prop, structure, or podium that is more than four feet (4') above the competition floor unless protective padding or other adequate safety precautions are in place.

4.5.6 Participants may not be positioned on any part of a prop or structure where their lowest point of contact is more than twenty feet (20') above the competition floor.

4.5.7 When a participant is getting on, off, or atop a prop or structure with wheels of any height, wheel locks/brakes must be engaged to restrict movement while the prop/structure is stationary. This requirement does not apply to grounded drum set or timpani carts in the front ensemble.

WGI shall have the final authority to prohibit the use of any prop, or structure, or require additional safety measures if it determines that the item poses an unreasonable or unacceptable risk of injury or harm to participants, others, or to the venue and its property.

Directors are encouraged to contact the Director of Color Guard to inquire about the use of a particular prop when its permissibility under this section or at a specific contest venue may be in question.

PENALTY: Two-point (2.0) penalty to Disqualification at the discretion of the Contest Administrator, including, but not limited to, prohibition of the use of the prop or structure.

5.0 TIMING

5.1 Competing groups will be timed to compete at intervals according to class.

Class	Interval Time	Minimum Performance Time	Maximum Performance Time	Authorized Equipment Time
World	10 minutes	4 minutes	7.5 minutes	3.5 minutes
Open	9 minutes	4 minutes	6.5 minutes	3.5 minutes
A Class	8 minutes	4 minutes	5.5 minutes	3.5 minutes
Regional A	7 minutes	3 minutes	4.5 minutes	3.0 minutes

5.1.1 Regional A color guards reclassified to A Class during the season will be afforded an exemption from A Class timing requirements for the remainder of the competitive season.

5.2 Interval time will include entrance, setup, performance, exit, and removal of all participants, props, floors, and equipment from the competition area. Interval time will begin when the Timing and Penalty Judge signals the group to start the interval time and conclude when the group clears the vertical or horizontal centerline after the performance. The group must continue to make a deliberate and obvious exit from the competition area and not impede the entrance of the next competing group.

5.3 Each competing group, with all participants, shall remain in the competition area and be judged in all captions for the minimum time defined in Rule 5.1.

5.4 Timing for the "maximum performance time" will begin with the first step or body movement, the first move of equipment, or the first note of music, whichever comes first after the group's announcement, and end at the obvious conclusion of the performance. All captions will be judged until the obvious conclusion of the performance.

PENALTY: One-tenth of a point (0.1) for each three (3) seconds or fraction thereof for any timing violation

5.5 Competing groups cannot be required to perform before the time set in the published Preliminaries schedule. WGI may adjust the published schedule for Finals at the discretion of the Contest Administrator. If a schedule change occurs, competing groups will be notified by the official communication method designated by WGI.

5.6 Should any competing group find themselves unable to perform at their scheduled time, they will be rescheduled to perform during the next most suitable performance slot in their class. The Contest Administrator will make the necessary schedule adjustments.

PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty for each class interval time of delay or part thereof up to the conclusion of the class and/or contest.

5.7 Each competing group must accumulate a minimum of three and one half (3.5) minutes of authorized equipment time during their performance except for Regional A classes where the minimum is three (3) minutes. Authorized equipment may be flags, rifles, or sabres/swords.

5.7.1 Authorized equipment must be in contact with a performer to be considered for accumulating authorized equipment time.

5.7.2 A participant is considered visible as determined by the Timing and Penalty Judge viewing from the front sideline.

6.0 ENTRY

6.1 All participants must enter the competition area through the designated entry door, tunnel, or ramp. Prior to the start of performance time, the competing group may utilize the entire competition area for setup and pre-show preparations.

PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty per participant for failing to use the designated entry door, tunnel, or ramp

6.2 All props must fit through a standard-size double door with the center bar removed. No exceptions will be made for oversized props regarding timing. Props are not permitted in the competition area before the performing group's scheduled time.

6.3 Any competing group creating a delay in the schedule will be subject to penalty.

PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty for each class interval time of delay or part thereof up to the conclusion of the class and/or contest up to a maximum of ten (10) points.

6.4 The competing group will line up at a designated ready line to enter the competition area.

6.5 Competing groups are allowed to use music and/or recorded narration as part of their setup process through the house sound system after one (1) minute of interval time. If a group chooses to use music or recorded narration, they must communicate this to the Timing and Penalty Judge. The group is responsible for any music direction required at the sound table, which must be given in person.

PENALTY: Five tenths of a point (0.5) penalty for starting music or recorded narration before one (1) minute.

6.6 When the competing group first enters the competition area, an announcement of “Please welcome from (city, state, country), (name of competing group)” will be made. Once the director has cued the T&P judge for the second announcement, the announcer will say, "Performing their program (title), WGI Sport of the Arts is proud to present (name of competing group)". All competing groups are permitted to have this second announcement pre-recorded into their soundtrack but may not deviate from the wording of this announcement.

PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty for pre-recording not following the prescribed format.

6.7 Authorized equipment and props may be placed anywhere in the competition area by participants or anyone prior to the start of the performance. Any personnel not performing must exit the competition area and safety zones before the second announcement in Rule 6.6.

PENALTY: Two tenths of a point (0.2) for each individual in the competition area and safety zones after the conclusion of the second announcement.

6.8 Once the performance begins, participants must remain in the designated competition area until the obvious conclusion of the performance. Participants may not re-enter the competition area during the performance time once they have exited, until after the conclusion of the performance. Boundary line violations (including first aid cases) do not constitute leaving the competition area.

PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty for each participant failing to remain in the competition area for the designated time or returning after they have exited before the conclusion of the performance.

6.9 The front boundary line is always inviolate except for participants involved in entrance setup or teardown at the end of the performance.

PENALTY: One-tenth of a point (0.1) penalty for each participant for each front boundary violation.

7.0 EXIT

7.1 Exit may be over any line at the conclusion of the performance.

7.2 All participants must exit the competition area through the designated exit door, tunnel, or ramp.

PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty per participant for failing to use the designated exit door, tunnel, or ramp

7.3 All personnel, equipment, and props must clear the vertical or horizontal centerline at the conclusion of the interval time. The timing line shall be for visual use by the Timing and Penalty Judge and not designated by tape.

7.4 For purposes of timing, equipment and props are considered removed when they cross the vertical or horizontal centerline. After crossing the timing line, all equipment and props must continue to make prompt forward progress out of the competition area or receive a penalty at the discretion of the Timing and Penalty Judge.

PENALTY: One-tenth of a point (0.1) penalty for each 3 seconds or fraction thereof

7.5 There will be no flying of tarps (also known as "ballooning") to clear the floor at the conclusion of a competing group's performance.

PENALTY: Disqualification

8.0 PENALTIES

8.1 Timing and Penalty Judge will assess all penalties for infractions in the competition area. Contest Administrators may not waive competition area penalties. The judge must document the reason, approximate location, and time for any penalty during the interval time for the group.

It is always the responsibility of the group representative to identify penalties post-performance. If the group representative fails to initiate a penalty inquiry with the Contest Director within

fifteen (15) minutes of the penalty notification, the group will forfeit its right to any inquiry, and the penalty will be considered final and not subject to further review. The final two groups in any round or class must check in with the Timing and Penalty Judge while exiting the competition area, as final scores may be submitted before the full fifteen (15) minute inquiry period has elapsed.

If an inquiry is requested, the Contest Director will consult with the Timing and Penalty Judge to confirm the penalty details and respond to the group via text or arrange an in-person meeting, if necessary. No video recordings will be used during any inquiry. Once the inquiry is complete, the group representative will be notified via text of the final decision. The final determination on any penalty rests with the Timing and Penalty Judge.

8.2 Any competing group violating any rule or part of a rule, breaching standard contest etiquette or failing to comply with directions from contest personnel for which no specific penalty is provided, shall be penalized for each such violation, not less than 0.1 point up to disqualification at the discretion of the Lead Judge, Contest Administrator, or Director of Color Guard.

8.3 All programs, soundtracks, themes, and costuming must be appropriate for presentation in a scholastic venue and suitable for national marketing and sponsorship opportunities.

8.4 Competing groups using the flag of the United States should follow the U.S. Flag Code. Directors are encouraged to contact the Director of Color Guard for guidance prior to performance.

PENALTY: Denial of performance or possible disqualification as determined by the Director of Color Guard in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.