

Color Guard Class Definitions – 2017

SCHOLASTIC CLASSES

CADET– Any unit in which every member is an 8th grader or younger. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL “Regional A Class” criteria.

NOVICE - All members may or may not attend the same school or feeder school. A unit may compete for a maximum of one year in this classification. A unit must petition the review committee for permission to remain in the class after the one-year period. **Only one one-year petition may be granted to any unit.** Equipment and movement will focus on the training and achievement of the most SIMPLE BEGINNING SKILLS. Recognize which principles are essential at a beginning level and train for the excellent demonstration of these skills. The purpose of this class is to help the performers grow in the very elementary principles and efforts in handling equipment and movement. Many may use props, small swing flags or other pieces of equipment, which can be handled through full arm rotation. Always support proper training and development on whatever piece of equipment or movement choice the unit displays. In the Design Analysis caption compositional qualities should include logic and presentation with good connections and flow from one single idea to the next. Obvious melodic line reflections will be the choice for most groups in reflecting musical structure. Focus on the correctness of the basics of composition. At pulse, in-step and consistent step offs and builds to new sets will be the priorities. In General Effect, design and performance skills will be at a beginning level. As beginners, single efforts and simple responsibilities will occur. The concept of layered skills will probably not exist. Shows will likely “set, move and spin”, presenting one skill at a time. Effect will be generated largely through precision and timing. Achievement of simple beginning skills is the main focus of this class. Units competing in the classification will be judged using the WGI “Regional A Class” criteria.

SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL AA - All members attend the same school or feeder school. This class is designed for units that may have new performers but no longer qualify as a first-year unit. Groups who may have had some exposure, but limited training should declare this class. Equipment and movement will focus on the training and achievement of the most SIMPLE BEGINNING SKILLS. Recognize which principles are essential at a beginning level and train for the excellent demonstration of these skills. The purpose of this class is to help the performers grow in the very elementary principles and efforts in handling equipment and movement. Many may use props, small swing flags or other pieces of equipment, which can be handled through full arm rotation. Always support proper training and development on whatever piece of equipment or movement choice the unit displays. In the Design Analysis caption compositional qualities should include logic and presentation with good connections and flow from one single idea to the next. Obvious melodic line reflections will be the choice for most groups in reflecting musical structure. Focus on the correctness of the basics of composition. At pulse, in-step and consistent step offs and builds to new sets will be the priorities. In General Effect, design and performance skills will be at a beginning level. As beginners, single efforts and simple responsibilities will occur. The concept of layered skills will probably not exist. Shows will likely “set, move and spin”, presenting one skill at a time. Effect will be generated largely through precision and timing. Achievement of simple beginning skills is the main focus of this class. Units competing in the classification will be judged using the WGI “Regional A Class” criteria.

SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL A - All members attend the same school or feeder school. This class is designed for units that may have new performers, but may also include a majority of returning performers who have had some previous exposure to dance and/or color guard. For a competitive unit which is not ready for the demands of the A Class sheet. Equipment and movement will focus on the training and achievement of the basic skills. Tosses use a limited variety of release and catch points and typically take place from a stationary position. Weapons will usually toss no higher than a triple. Dimensionality is limited and phrases are often very short (16 to 24 counts) with much built in recovery time. Movement is mostly demonstrated by moving from place to place with a good range of gestural qualities being demonstrated. There is usage of simple turns and leaps and performers occasionally explore level changes around the body. Performers should demonstrate good examples of body awareness (posture, line, shape, weight) with very little change in dynamic qualities. Ensemble Analysis will display a beginning level of artistic effort that focuses on clear staging of the elements, logical progression of ideas (horizontal orchestration) and the basic use of the design elements. The triad is never completely used with elements most often being presented singularly and occasionally presented two at a time. In General Effect, the concept and intent should be clear, consistent and moderately developed. Ideas should move successfully from one to another and the intent of the concept is not totally dependent on the role of the performers. Performer role, character and emotional development is evident but at a basic level with minimal changes. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "Regional A Class" criteria.

SCHOLASTIC A - All Members attend the same school or feeder school. This class is for a moderately competitive scholastic unit, which is not ready for the demands of Open or World Class. Guards in this area are at a level where members and staff have a complete understanding of the basic principles of performance and design. Units here may also occasionally explore more intermediate concepts that encourage performers and designers to broaden their skills. There is moderate rehearsal opportunity and funding to develop this level of competitive program. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WGI "A Class" criteria and will be encouraged to maximize the achievement of these criteria. Units registered for more than one national/regional level WGI events during the competitive season are not eligible to participate in this class.

SCHOLASTIC NATIONAL A – Units that will compete at multiple WGI events in the current competitive season, such as regionals or championships, must compete in this class. The only exception will be in the instance where additional groups from the same school (such as a 'JV' or 'B' groups) who choose to compete at a WGI Regional in the Regional A Class, would not be bound to compete in SNA. Units may also choose to compete in this classification even if they do not compete at national level WGI events. This classification's criterion is the same as the Scholastic A Class.

SCHOLASTIC OPEN - All Members attend the same school or feeder school. Open class is for a highly competitive unit which is too advanced to find competition in Class A, but is not ready for the demands of World Class. Guards in this area have a greater experience level. Guards will be challenged to broaden their design and performance skills. Designers and instructors will be challenged to expand their programming, creative and instructional techniques.

SCHOLASTIC WORLD - For the most highly developed scholastic programs. The designation World Class indicates the unit is competitive on the national level. This is an area where innovation and setting standards is the goal. This category is open to a guard with the membership talent, design and

instructional staff and budget to place their performers at this challenging level to stimulate their growth and development through World class competition. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL “World Class” criteria.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL COLOR GUARDS WHO COMPETE IN WGI MUST DO SO IN THE SAME CLASSIFICATION IN WHICH THEY COMPETE LOCALLY.

INDEPENDENT CLASSES

INDEPENDENT REGIONAL A– All members do not attend the same school or feeder school. Performance criteria for this class are identical to the Scholastic Regional A classification

INDEPENDENT A - Every member does not attend the same school. For a competitive independent unit which is not ready for the demands of Open or World Class. Guards in this class are at a level where their members may be young or less experienced in their equipment and movement skills. In this category, guards will be encouraged to demonstrate skills in movement and equipment handling. Designers should present imaginative shows with sound and logical designs setting achievable standards for their performers. Members may not be over 22 years of age as of the date of the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL national competition. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL “A Class” criteria.

INDEPENDENT OPEN - Every member does not attend the same school. Open class is for a highly competitive unit which is too advanced to find competition in Class A, but is not ready for the demands of World Class. Guards in this area have a greater experience level. Guards will be challenged to broaden their design and performance skills. Designers and instructors will be challenged to expand their programming, creative and instructional techniques. Members may not be over 22 years of age as of the date of the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL national competition. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL “Open Class” criteria.

INDEPENDENT WORLD - Every member does not attend the same school. There is no age limit to this classification. For the most highly developed independent programs. The designation World Class indicates the unit is competitive on the national level. This is an area where innovation and setting standards is the goal. This category is open to a guard with the membership talent, design and instructional staff and budget to place their performers at this challenging level to stimulate their growth and development through World class competition. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL “World Class” criteria.

