

TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION By-Laws

ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP

- I. The membership will consist of Scholastic and Independent colorguard units and Individuals to include all adjudicators.
 - a. Scholastic membership is defined as: Students or members enrolled in the same school.
 - b. The feeder school may perform with or without its parent high school.
 - c. This applies to sixth, seventh, and eighth grade only.

- II. Independent membership is defined as: Any unit whose students or members are not from the same school. This is the only distinction from the scholastic division Independent units compete amongst themselves.
 - a. Independent A and Open units are composed of members not over twenty-two (22) years of age so of the date of the Winterguard International World Class Championships.
 - b. Independent Senior and World units have no age limit.

- III. Adjudicators are also those members who are a part of the Judges Association, which is part of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION.

- IV. Membership fees will be collected by the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION.
 - a. Scholastic and Independent units will pay a yearly fee per competitive organization. The yearly fee will be set by the Executive Board of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION each year.
 - b. A cancellation fee of \$100.00 will be assessed to any competing unit who does not withdraw from any contest within the 14 days (2 weeks) prior to their participation on the contest date.
 - i. Continued performance opportunities of any kind will not be allowed to until the assessed fee is paid in full to the contest host of the show which the competing unit did not attend or give proper notice.
 - ii. In addition, units may not add to any contest any later than 14 days (2 weeks) of the scheduled contest.
 - c. Associate members will pay a yearly fee to be set by the Executive Board.

- V. Conflict of Interest
 - a. Interested Person—Any director, executive board member, or member of a committee, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.
 - b. Financial Interest -- A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family.
 - i. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which the Association has a transaction or arrangement
 - ii. A compensation arrangement with the Association or with any entity or individual with which the Organization has a transaction or arrangement, or
 - iii. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which the Association is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.
 - c. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial.
 - d. Procedures
 - i. Duty to disclose
 1. In connection with any actual or possible conflict of interest, an interested person must disclose the existence of the financial interest and be given the opportunity to disclose all material facts to the

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directors and members of committees with governing board-delegated powers considering the proposed transaction or arrangement.

- ii. Determining whether conflict of interest exists
 1. After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists
- iii. Procedures for addressing conflict of interest
 1. An interested person may make a presentation at the board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest
 2. The president shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement
 3. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether the Organization can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest
 4. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in the Organization's best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.
- iv. Violations of conflict of interest policy
 1. If the executive board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.
 2. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.
- v. Records of proceedings-- The minutes of the board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:
 1. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.
 2. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.

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3. Compensation

- a. A voting member of the board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Association for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- b. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Association for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member's compensation.
- c. No voting member of the board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from the Association, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

ARTICLE II – OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

- I. The following officers shall be duly elected by the members of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION:
 - a. **Office of President** and duties are as follows: The President shall be a member of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION. He or she will preside over all meetings, oversee all decisions pertaining to the Circuit, oversee all financial matters related to the circuit, and monitor the assigned duties of the other officers. He or she will be responsible for coordinating all support including but not limited to sound technician, tabulator, etc. for contests.
 - b. **Office of Vice-President of Colorguard** and duties are as follows: The Vice-President of Colorguard shall be a member of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION. He or she will preside if the President is unable and will assist the President with the administration of the circuit. The Vice-President will oversee securing a panel of qualified and impartial judges for the circuit championships. He or she will generate and distribute all contest schedules. The Vice-President will maintain an average of all scores (guard and percussion) throughout the season for the purpose of the championship contest scheduling. He or she will serve as a liaison for the colorguard membership.
 - c. **Office Vice-President of Percussion** and duties are as follows: The Vice President of Percussion shall be a member of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION. He or she shall handle and oversee all details pertaining to the percussion portion of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION. He or she will oversee unit review, judging panels, and serve as a liaison for the percussion membership. He or she will be responsible for enforcing the no-show fee for units that fail to withdraw within the set time frame within the by-laws. He or she will also be responsible for communicating with the treasurer to facilitate collection of fees and dispersal to the contest host.
 - d. **Office of Vice-President of Winds** and duties are as follows: The Vice President of Winds shall be a member of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION. He or she shall handle and oversee all details pertaining to the Winds portion of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGAURD ASSOCAITION. He or she will oversee unit review, judging panels, and serve as a liaison for the winds membership. The Vice President of Winds will maintain an average of all winds scores throughout the season for the purpose of the championship contest scheduling. He or she will be responsible for enforcing the no-show fee for units that fail to withdraw within the set time frame within the by-laws.

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He or she will also be responsible for communicating with the treasurer to facilitate collection of fees and dispersal to the contest host.

- e. **Office of Treasurer** and duties are as follows: The Treasurer shall be a member of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION. He or she shall have charge of and control of and be responsible for all funds of the circuit. The Treasurer will collect all circuit membership fees, keep an accurate record of all financial transactions including receipts and expenditures and will provide a written financial statement at all general and executive board meetings and at other times as requested by the president. He or she will oversee the collection of fees and all gate personnel at the championships contest(s).
 - f. **Office of Secretary** and duties are as follows: The Secretary shall be a member of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION. He or she shall keep minutes of all meetings, see that all notices are given, and be custodian of the Circuit records. He or she will coordinate a volunteer organization to work with the circuit at various shows.
 - g. **Office of Parliamentarian** and duties are as follows: The Parliamentarian shall be a member of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION. He or she shall advise the presiding officer of all matters of parliamentary procedure. The Parliamentarian shall keep a current Constitution and By-Laws and shall review these with the executive board at each change in board administration. The parliamentarian shall be responsible for making sure that all rules and regulations are followed by the membership.
 - h. **Office of Historian** and duties are as follows: The Historian shall be a member of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION. He or she shall keep a written and photographic record of each season. The Historian will be responsible for coordinating the program for the circuit championships to include ad sales. He or she will be responsible for managing all aspects of marketing for the circuit.
 - i. All circuit officers will be responsible for the management and efficient running of all circuit shows through a visible presence in and around the competition areas.
- II. The following officers shall be appointed by the President with approval of the executive board.
- a. **Office of Contest Director** and duties are as follows: the Contest Director will handle all details and phases of running contests sanctioned by the Circuit. The Contest Director will be responsible to the Circuit Membership through the President and shall be governed by the Rules and Regulations of the Circuit, and as a staff officer, will receive orders from them in the form of changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. The Contest Director will be responsible for the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION owned items and insure they are present and in working order at all contests. He or she will work with the timing and penalty judge to ensure the smooth flow of the contest. The Contest Director shall be financially compensated in an amount established annually by the executive board.
 - b. **Office of Chief Judge (CGCJ and PCJ)** and duties are as follows: The CGCJ/PCJ will oversee logistical aspects of the judges association. This includes sending informational newsletters, assigning adjudicators for contests and making necessary travel arrangements for adjudicators. The CGCJ/PCJ will keep a copy of the current circuit by-laws and the current WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL Rulebook and make them available at all TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION contests. The CGCJ/PCJ will be responsible for insuring that all adjudicators are aware of TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION's professional expectations throughout the season and shall be charged with reporting any violations of rules or ethics to the executive board. CGCJ/PCJ shall be financially compensated in an amount established annually by the executive board.

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- c. **Office of Education Director (Colorguard and Percussion)** and duties are as follows: COLORGUARD EDUCATION DIRECTOR: Section/contract: The functions of the color guard education director shall be performed on a two year contract basis by an individual nominated by the general membership and approved by the executive board.
- i. Path of responsibility: The color guard education director is responsible to the executive board.
 - ii. Purpose: Coordinate the development and dissemination of the mission statement, vision, core values and overall philosophy of the circuit to unit directors, band directors, participants, and the educational community. D. Duties and responsibilities:
 - iii. Educational outreach
 - iv. Coordinate color guard instructional outreach programs via the web, printed materials, and local circuit clinics including but not limited to mentoring programs available to all members.
 - v. Events and products
 - vi. Maintain ongoing communication with the executive board, chief judge and the TECA community to assure coordination of all areas of joint responsibility ii.
 - vii. Participate in all committee meetings and provide necessary support and follow up
 - viii. Maintain positive working relationships within the instructor and judging community
- d. **Office of Webmaster** and duties are as follows: The Webmaster shall maintain all aspects of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION website including correspondence with the web hosting company and presenting the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION treasurer with all necessary receipts and invoices for payment of said services. He or she with the assistance of the executive board shall maintain the site with the most current information regarding meeting dates/times, contest information and packets, schedules and scores. He or she will oversee the registration process for all circuit units. The Webmaster will maintain an email listing of all circuit members in order to provide notices of important updates to the website. The webmaster shall be financially compensated in an amount annually established by the executive board.

III. Nominations and Elections of Officers

- a. Nominations of officers will be at the general spring meeting held in May. The officers shall be elected by affirmative majority vote of all regular members present and voting at the fall meeting held in August. Voting will be in person at the fall meeting. Voting will be by ballot, unless there is only one nominee for office, when election by acclamation shall be permitted. The nominee receiving the most votes shall be the one elected to that office. Each unit will be allowed one vote only.
- b. The term of office of all elected officers shall be two (2) years, with the stipulation that the President, Vice President of Percussion, Treasurer, and Historian be elected in odd numbered years. The Vice-President of Colorguard, Secretary, and Parliamentarian shall be elected in even numbered years.
- c. The non-elected position of Contest Director, Chief Judges, Education Director, and Webmaster will be appointed by the President in the even number years.
- d. If an office becomes vacant, the President will, with the affirmative majority approval of the Executive Board, appoint an active member to that office for the remainder of the unexpired elective term.

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ARTICLE III – ADMINISTRATION

- I. The circuit administration shall be vested in the President who is responsible for carrying out the day to day business of the circuit in accordance with the wishes of the circuit membership.
- II. Executive Board
 - a. The Executive Board shall consist of the elected officers of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION.
 - b. The Executive Board shall formulate plans and establish the policies for the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION. The general management, direction, and control of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION's affairs and funds are vested in the Executive Board.
 - c. Only the elected officers of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION are authorized to vote on actions before the Executive Board.
 - d. All appointed officers are non-voting members of the Executive Board. They serve in an advisory capacity only.
 - e. Resignation of an Executive Board member shall be submitted in writing to the President prior to the time of resignation. The succession of officers will be voted upon by the Executive Board.
- III. Working Board
 - a. The working board shall act to carry out circuit business between membership meetings or to assist the President in his duties and serve the executive board in an advisory capacity. They shall not replace the elected executive board nor shall they overturn any decision made by the executive board.
 - b. Each competitive class shall have a representative on the working board.
 - i. Representatives shall take their place on the board by winning their class in the circuit championships held annually.
 1. In the event that a representative's seat becomes vacant, the runner-up fills the representative position. Absence from a meeting is grounds for replacement with the runner-up.
 2. Placement on the working board is effective immediately upon the conclusion of championships.

ARTICLE IV – ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. The following order of business shall be followed at all Executive Board and general membership meetings:
 - a. Call to order by the presiding officer.
 - b. Roll call of members.
 - c. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting by the Secretary.
 - d. Report from the Treasurer.
 - e. Report from any committees.
 - f. President's report.
 - g. Disposal of unfinished business.
 - h. Disposal of any new business.
 - i. Director's comments.
 - j. Special announcements.
 - k. Adjournment by the presiding officer.

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ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

- I. Regular general membership meetings of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION shall be held in the spring at the conclusion of the contest season in April or May and in the fall prior to the beginning of school. THIS MEETING SHALL NOT CONFLICT WITH ANY WGI EVENT.
- II. Special meetings of the general membership may be called any time upon the request of the President for the purpose of transacting the necessary business before it. To call a special meeting, a majority of the Executive Board members must concur and grant approval.
- III. An affirmative majority vote of all active members present and voting will be necessary to transact any business, approve any actions, or decide any issues at any regular or special meeting.
- IV. The Executive Board shall meet at a time and place determined by the President prior to the regularly scheduled meeting. The President may call a special meeting of the Executive Board when deemed necessary, provided at least two (2) days notice is given prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE VI-CLASSIFICATION

- I. **Colorguard units** will be organizations ranging in size from five (5) through thirty (30) performing members. A unit will declare their class on the membership application. A unit may move up a class no later than 14 calendar days before the Circuit Championships. The unit director must put this in writing to the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION President. A unit may not move down a class once they have performed within a specific classification.
 - a. The following unit classification descriptions are merely that; descriptions of what units in that class will typically be attempting and achieving. These descriptions are in no way meant to limit or restrict creativity of the designer or achievement of the performer. Instead they are meant to serve as general guidelines for the instructor when making the decision as to what classification to place his/her unit during the contest season. It is expected that there will be some overlap of classes in terms of what is being attempted and what is being achieved. Often units at the top of one class will demonstrate some qualities on the next class. However if a unit is demonstrating a majority of the criteria for a particular class, then they should be competing in that class. Directors and designers should pay close attention to the criteria when creating the program and classifying the unit.
 - b. Any Regional A unit who attends a WGI event and makes finals, may not compete locally in any class lower than Scholastic Regional A.
 - c. Any Scholastic A unit that attends a WGI event and makes finals must compete locally in Scholastic National A.
 - i. **CADET CLASS** – 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.
 - ii. **NOVICE CLASS** - 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

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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.

- iii. **SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL AA** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. This class is designed for second year 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.
- iv. **SCHOLASTIC REGIONAL A CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. 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.

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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 WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL "Regional A Class" criteria.

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

- vi. **SCHOLASTIC A CLASS** - 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.

- vii. **SCHOLASTIC NATIONAL A CLASS** – 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.

- viii. **INDEPENDENT A CLASS** - 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.

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- ix. **SCHOLASTIC OPEN CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For a highly competitive unit which is too advanced to find any competition in the Scholastic A classes, but is not ready for the demands of Scholastic World Class. Guards in this area have a greater experience level. Both staff and performers have the talent to grow beyond the basics, exploring a higher level of design and performance techniques. There is sufficient rehearsal opportunity and funding to develop this level of competitive program to benefit the students and broaden their performance skills. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL "Open Class" criteria.
 - x. **INDEPENDENT OPEN CLASS** - 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.
 - xi. **SCHOLASTIC WORLD CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For the most highly developed high school programs. The designation World Class indicates the unit is competitive on the national level. This is the most advanced level of scholastic competition for guards with the student talent, design, staff, rehearsal time and budget capabilities to produce challenging and creative programs. Students here will be challenged to expand their technical and performance base to achieve their fullest potential within programs that utilize advanced concepts of design. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL "World Class" criteria.
 - xii. **INDEPENDENT WORLD CLASS** - 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.
- II. **Percussion units** will be organizations with no less than six (6) performing members. A unit will declare their class on the membership application. A unit may move up a class no later than 14 calendar days before the Circuit Championships. The unit director must put this in writing to the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION President. A unit may not move down a class once they have performed within a specific classification.
- a. The following unit classification descriptions are merely that; descriptions of what units in that class will typically be attempting and achieving. These descriptions are in no way meant to limit or restrict creativity of the designer or achievement of the performer. Instead they are meant to serve as general guidelines for the instructor when making the decision as to what classification to place his/her unit during the contest season. It is

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expected that there will be some overlap of classes in terms of what is being attempted and what is being achieved. Often units at the top of one class will demonstrate some qualities on the next class. However if a unit is demonstrating a majority of the criteria for a particular class, then they should be competing in that class. Directors and designers should pay close attention to the criteria when creating the program and classifying the unit.

- i. **SCHOLASTIC MARCHING WORLD CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. Ensembles demonstrate a high degree of physical development. All the performers contribute to the consistent high levels of performance being demonstrated. World Class ensembles are trendsetters in the indoor percussion activity. Programs are unique and innovative and these components are important at this level. Some very sophisticated challenges will be placed on the performers. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL "World Class" criteria.
- ii. **SCHOLASTIC MARCHING OPEN CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. Ensembles have some experience in the indoor percussion arena. Open Class ensembles typically have many staff members, some of which may specialize in teaching specific segments of the ensemble. Open Class ensembles have several members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing and movement. Here is where the intermediate student explores new challenges through performance and realizes a greater sense of achievement as each more complex skill is learned. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL "Open Class" criteria.
- iii. **SCHOLASTIC MARCHING A CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. Ensembles may have some members with indoor percussion experience but possibly not all. A Class ensembles typically have more instructors and have members, which have some intermediate level skills, but are not quite ready for the demands of Open class. These lines may have some means of rehearsal facilities and manage to rehearse on a fairly regular basis. Here is where the beginning to intermediate student starts to broaden their range of performance and skills. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL "A Class" criteria.
- iv. **SCHOLASTIC MARCHING AA CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. Ensembles are the younger less developed participants. 'AA' class ensembles have one instructor who may not be a percussionist, have members which percussion is not their primary instrument, and have little or no experience on these instruments. Battery members may not have marched in the fall during marching band. Flam passages (other than isolated flam attacks), open diddle passages, and fast open stroke rolls will be considered as basic 'A' class skills, not beginner, 'A' class skills. These units may have limited use of facilities to rehearse. This is where the beginner student discovers the joy of performing and realizes the sense of achievement as each skill is learned. Units in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL 'A' class criteria. Scores should relate and be compared to the 'A' class lines for the purpose of reviews and promotions.

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- v. **SCHOLASTIC MARCHING CADET CLASS** – Units in which all members are in the 8th grade or younger. These units will be judged using the SCHOLASTIC MARCHING AA CLASS criteria.
- vi. **SCHOLASTIC CONCERT WORLD CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For those scholastic percussion sections who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature. Ensembles utilizing marching battery equipment will be included in the appropriate Scholastic Marching classification. Ensemble instrumentation will define entry into this classification. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or allow for better presentation of musical performance only. (No guard auxiliary members allowed) One non-student conductor is allowed in the concert classes only. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only. Performers in World class are experienced and fully trained. Trend setting programs and performance levels are often displayed.
- vii. **SCHOLASTIC CONCERT OPEN CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For those scholastic percussion sections who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature. Ensembles utilizing marching battery equipment will be included in the appropriate Scholastic Marching classification. Ensemble instrumentation will define entry into this classification. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or allow for better presentation of musical performance only. (No guard auxiliary members allowed) One non-student conductor is allowed in the concert classes only. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only. Open class ensembles have several members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing.
- viii. **SCHOLASTIC CONCERT A CLASS** - All members attend the same school or feeder school. For those scholastic percussion sections who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature. Ensembles utilizing marching battery equipment will be included in the appropriate Scholastic Marching classification. Ensemble instrumentation will define entry into this classification. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or allow for better presentation of musical performance only. (No guard auxiliary members allowed) One non-student conductor is allowed in the concert classes only. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only. A class members have a majority of members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing.
- ix. **SCHOLASTIC CONCERT CADET CLASS** – Units in which all members are in the 8th grade or younger. Units competing in this class will be judges using the SCHOLASTIC CONCERT A CLASS criteria.
- x. **INDEPENDENT MARCHING CLASS** – For percussion units who wish to combine the elements of percussion and marching but do not fall into the definition of a

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scholastic unit. The age limit is 14-21. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL "A Class" criteria.

- III. **Winds Units** will be units comprised of at least 10 performers and may include an optional student conductor. Winds units will perform using instruments typically utilized and recognized as part of a band or orchestra, including electronic instruments.
 - a. **SCHOLASTIC A CLASS** – All performers attend the same school or feeder school. Units competing in this classification will be judged using the WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL "A Class" criteria.
 - b. **INDEPENDENT A CLASS** – Every member does not attend the same school. 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.

- IV. **Circuit Promotion Process:** The promotion process will promote units who have surpassed the criteria reference expected for their class at that point in the season. The purpose of the reclassification process is to ensure units with the same defined characteristics, as described in the Class Descriptors, are identified as competitors within the same classification. The process for determine classification is as follows:
 - a. A unit is considered submitted for reclassification/ promotion if:
 - i. The total gross score is 15% higher than the next highest score in the class, or
 - ii. At least 3 judges at the contest indicate that a unit should be reviewed as competing out of class.
 - b. The circuit will have two review committees: Color Guard and Percussion.
 - i. The Color Guard review committee will consist of the following: TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION President, Education Director, Colorguard Chief Judge, and the IA Caption Head.
 1. When the season begins, a unit can be requested for review if they are perceived to be in the wrong class. This review request can be made by the Chief Judge of the contest, a Working Board member, or the Education Director. A video recording of the unit will be made at a local contest and distributed to the committee within a very quick turnaround, usually within ten (10) days. The committee views the guard and considers the training and development level of the performers, the challenges they are achieving, and to a slightly lesser degree the quality and depth of the program. The students are the primary emphasis in considering any move. One of the things not considered is "who is on staff". The committee is charged with carrying in a good understanding of what the next class "norm" represents in order to have a barometer to measure whether or not the potential promotion will permit those students to achieve and be competitive. The decision is voted upon independently by each member and the Chief Judge then informs the guard of the decision. This process is usually completed within one week.
 - ii. The Percussion review committee will consist of the following: TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION President, Education Director, Percussion Chief Judge, and the Percussion Administrator.
 1. When the season begins, a unit can be requested for review if they are perceived to be in the wrong class. This review request can be made by the Percussion Administrator, Chief Judge of the contest, a Working Board member, or the Education Director. A video recording of the

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unit will be made at a local contest and distributed to the committee within a very quick turnaround, usually within ten (10) days. The committee views the guard and considers the training and development level of the performers, the challenges they are achieving, and to a slightly lesser degree the quality and depth of the program. The students are the primary emphasis in considering any move. One of the things not considered is "who is on staff". The committee is charged with carrying in a good understanding of what the next class "norm" represents in order to have a barometer to measure whether or not the potential promotion will permit those students to achieve and be competitive. The decision is voted upon independently by each member and the Percussion Administrator then informs the guard of the decision. This process is usually completed within one week.

- c. Circuit Promotion scores are set by the review committees. The scores will be published no later than the first contest of the season and will be added to the by-laws under this section.

TECA Guard Promotion Scores 2018

	Nov	RAA A	RA SNA
Week 1, Jan 20	62 (12.4)	67 (13.4)	72 (14.4)
Week 2, Jan 27	64 (12.8)	69 (13.8)	74 (14.8)
Week 3, Feb 3	66 (13.2)	71 (14.2)	76 (15.2)
Week 4, Feb 10	68 (13.6)	73 (14.6)	78 (15.6)
Week 5, Feb 24	72 (14.4)	77 (15.4)	82 (16.4)
Week 6, Mar 3	74 (14.8)	79 (15.8)	84 (16.8)
Week 7, Mar 10	76 (15.2)	81 (16.2)	86 (17.2)
Week 8, Mar 17	78 (15.4)	83 (16.4)	88 (17.6)
Week 9, Mar 24	80 (15.6)	85 (16.8)	90 (17.8)

Earning Promotion- Using the raw total score- at least three judges' scores, including at least one IA caption, must be at or above the caption breakdown number.

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TECA Percussion Promotion Scores 2018

	AA	A CADET	OPEN
Week 3, Jan 27	71 (14.4)	76 (15.4)	81 (16.4)
Week 4, Feb 3	73 (14.8)	78 (15.8)	83 (16.8)
Week 5, Feb 10	75 (15.2)	80 (16.2)	85 (17.2)
Week 6, Feb 24	77 (15.6)	82 (16.6)	87 (17.6)
Week 7, Mar 3	79 (16.0)	84 (17.0)	89 (18.0)
Week 8, Mar 10	81 (16.4)	83 (17.4)	91 (18.4)

A Marching Unit will only be promoted IF:

- 1) Unit Matches or Exceeds the total score for the weekend (Before Penalties).
- 2) Two out of the three working judges (Performance Analysis and Visual) assign a review score.
- 3) The "Review Committee" approves the promotion.

A Concert Unit will only be promoted IF:

- 1) Unit Matches or Exceeds the total score for the weekend (Before Penalties).
- 2) The "Review Committee" approves the promotion

- d. Units will be promoted to the next appropriate classification if:
 - i. The unit receives a gross score equal to or higher than the established promotion score for that weekend. For color guard, the unit must receive a promotion score from three of the five judges including at least one IA judge in addition to receiving a gross promotion score.
 - ii. The Review committee can determine a unit is exceeding the expectations of the unit's current classification
- e. A unit which feels a promotion was inappropriate must appeal the decision in writing within three calendar days of notification. Appeals must include supporting rational based on class definitions as outlined in the by-laws to justify reversing the promotion. The review committee will hear the appeal, vote, and return a decision with three days of the receipt of the appeal.
- f. Promotions are viable through the weekend of the Circuit Zone Championships.
- g. If a unit is promoted they will not be required to perform first nor will they be allowed to perform last in the new class. Unit reclassification due to promotion will be considered a lateral slide into the next class, i.e., if a unit's draw is fifth, they will maintain their relative draw position in the new class.
- h. The Review committees and class representatives will convene at the conclusion of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION season to determine if any units are ready to join the next higher classification. The units will be notified in writing that they are under review for promotion and will receive the decision of the committee prior to

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the circuit's fall meeting. The committee's decision can be appealed according to section III, d.

- i. The top three (3) units in any class at the circuit championships will be reviewed by the reviewed committee at their first show of the following year unless they move to a higher classification.

V. As TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION follows all UIL and TEA eligibility rules, a roster listing all eligible performing members in a unit must be turned in by each competing unit at their first performance of the season. This roster electronically filed by the unit director and must be updated as unit membership or eligibility changes.

VI. All other situations will be decided upon by the Executive Board on a case by case basis.

ARTICLE VII – CONTESTS

- I. For rules that the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION follows for the contest it sponsors, please see the current Winter Guard International Rule Book.
- II. Contest Sponsors (Hosts) will have certain responsibilities for the organization of the contest they are hosting.
 - a. Any unit which has held Circuit membership for one full year may apply to host a show. Applications must be submitted to the Board at or prior to the spring meeting.
 - b. Show sites will be discussed by the general membership and voted on by the Executive Board at the fall meeting. All show sponsor applicants must have a representative present at the fall meeting to be awarded a show.
 - i. Units awarded a regular season show will pay the circuit a \$250 hosting fee due and payable on or before the date of the host's show.
 - ii. A unit in violation of any portion of the contest host manual will be charged a fee of \$100 per violation. Any unit in violation will not be allowed to continue competing until the fee(s) are paid in full to the circuit.
 - c. Sponsors have all concession and program privileges.
 - i. At regular Circuit shows, the show sponsor will receive 100% of all admission fees.
 - ii. At Circuit Championships, the show sponsor will be compensated \$1000 and TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION will receive 100% of admission.
 1. If the show sponsor is a non-circuit member, the contract will be negotiated.
 - d. All pertinent information must be made available to the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION Webmaster at least five (5) weeks prior to the contest date. Included information will be:
 - i. Letter to directors/units
 - ii. Accurate maps/directions to the site
 - iii. Diagram of the facilities being used at the site
 - iv. Contest flow information
 1. Parking
 2. Check-In Procedures (morning and afternoon)
 3. Pre-Performance Procedures (prop storage, etc.)
 4. Performance Procedures (spiel sheets, entrance and exit flow, etc.)
 5. Post-performance procedures (including a "Colorguard Instructor's Evaluation Form")
 6. Award ceremony procedures

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7. Critique procedures and location
 8. Host's contact information (office, cell, home, etc.)
 - e. Securing awards. Refer to Article IX – Awards
 - f. A Schedule of the day's events will be provided by TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION.
- III. Performance order will be determined in lottery fashion drawn by the executive board for each contest.
- IV. The Contest Director and the Contest Host will jointly address concerns for scheduling problems with the exception of the Circuit championships.
- V. A categorized performance order of units will be provided by the circuit.
 - a. The schedule will be strictly adhered to.
 - b. In the event of an emergency, rescheduled performances will be made at the discretion of the Contest Director, but rescheduling will not be guaranteed.
 - c. The contest host will have the performance order, determined by TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION, prior to the contest date.
- VI. A host may cancel the contest not less than ten (14) calendar days prior to the show date if the host feels there are not enough competing units to meet operating costs. A sponsor should consult with the Contest Coordinator before making the final decision.
- VII. All unit "no shows" must be reported to the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION Vice-President of Percussion within five (5) days after the contest (written or verbal is allowed) per Article 1, item IV, b.
- VIII. The Contest Director has the authority to assume the responsibility of Contest host at the discretion of the majority of the Executive Board present.
- IX. Contest hosts will determine admission fees for their individual contests throughout the season provided they do not exceed a maximum amount established by the executive board. The Texas Educational Colorguard Association will determine admission fees for the Circuit Championships Contests.
- X. The TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION Executive Board will determine the number of staff, directors and "student crew" members admitted to each contest including the circuit championships.
 - a. For the 2016 contest season, three (3) directors, ten (10) student crew members and two (2) bus/trailer drivers will be admitted to all shows.
 - i. TECA will provide badges for three (3) directors and two (2) bus/trailer drivers to each unit at their first show.

ARTICLE IX – AWARDS

- I. Awards for all TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION contests will be as follows.
 - a. All divisions will receive awards/trophies for the top three (3) placing.
 - i. All awards/trophies will be purchased at the contest sponsors' expense.
 - ii. Awards will meet the following minimum specifications:
 1. 3rd place- 11 inches in height
 2. 2nd place-13 inches in height
 3. 1st place- 15 inches in height

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- b. Announce participating units in performance order not placing during retreat before announcing the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place winner, in order to recognize participants' achievement.
- II. Awards for the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION Circuit Championship will be as follows
- a. All divisions will receive awards/trophies for the top three (3) places.
 - b. All Divisional Champions will receive a TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION Divisional State Championship Banner.
 - c. All Units will receive Bronze, Silver and Gold medals and be recognized as Bronze Medalists, Silver Medalists and Gold Medalists.

ARTICLE X – TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

- I. The TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION will sponsor a final show at the end of the indoor season; this contest will be known as the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION's Circuit Championships.
- a. The TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION championships will be held in a central location each season.
 - b. Special rules that govern the Circuit Championships.
 - i. All WINTERGUARD INTERNATIONAL and TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION rules apply to this contest.
 - ii. A unit must be a member of the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION and must meet score requirements established by the executive board. Actual calendar dates will be set every year by the TECA executive board and will be published within the by-laws document. Each COLORGUARD unit will be required to have a score in each of the three blocks of shows. WGI scores may be used for blocks B and C. Each PERCUSSION unit will be required to have a score in TWO of the three blocks of shows. WGI scores may be used for ONE SCORE FROM EITHER BLOCK B OR C.
 - iii. At least two (2) units need to be in a division to be a Divisional Champion. If there is only one unit in a division, then only a First Place award will be given.
 - iv. There may not be a video recording made by the TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION. If the circuit provides video recording, no one will be allowed to record any portion of this contest.
 - v. Performance order will be determined by the average of the two highest scores that each unit earns throughout the season.
 - vi. All guard classes with 20 or more entries will be split into rounds.
 - c. The TEXAS EDUCATIONAL COLORGUARD ASSOCIATION Executive Board will consider the best possible site for the Circuit Championships.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENTS

- I. Any proposed amendments to these By-Laws must be submitted to the President in writing and signed by at least two active members. The President shall announce the proposed amendment at a regularly scheduled meeting of the membership and the amendment will be voted upon at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the general membership.
- II. The By-Laws may be amended or altered by majority affirmative vote of all active members present and voting.

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ARTICLE XII – ADOPTION

These revised By-Laws shall become effective upon adoption by affirmative majority vote of all active members present and voting at the time of adoption.

August 6, 2017
Date Adopted

Nathan Flynt
President

Jeremy Contreras
Vice-President – Colorguard

Jacob Thompson
Vice-President – Percussion

Chad Dempsey
Vice-President – Winds