

Regarding Unit Classification

Dear Directors,

As we prepare for the upcoming season, we want to ensure that every ensemble has the most successful and educational competitive experience possible. To help achieve this, we are asking all percussion directors to review and confirm the classification of their ensembles before the season begins.

Classification Guidelines

- Classification is based primarily on skill sets, defined by the skills and abilities performers are asked to show and actually demonstrate. It reflects both what they do and how they do it—neither outweighs the other.
- Being good doesn't mean you're in the wrong class. Strong fundamentals are still fundamentals. Likewise, you don't need to be ready to win the next level before it's time to move up. Appropriate classification is not determined by competitive score or placement.
- The attributes used to determine the most appropriate classification are, in order: musical and visual skill sets, performer maturity, and production value.
- Ensembles that are misclassified seldom possess all the attributes of the next class up; if they did, they would already be placed in that class.
- Appropriate classification can change as an ensemble and its program develop throughout the season.
- External factors (including budget, staffing, program reputation, facility access, and outside consultants) should not influence classification decisions.

Considerations for Entering Your Group in the Correct Classification

- It ensures that each group is competing in a class that matches their current skills and show design.
- It allows your ensemble to perform in multiple shows within the correct class, preventing issues that arise when a group needs to be reclassified mid-season.
- It helps maintain fairness and consistency for all participating ensembles within the circuit.

If you are unsure which class best fits your program, please refer to our classification guidelines or reach out to the circuit staff for clarification. We are more than happy to assist you in determining the most appropriate placement based on your ensemble's experience level, show design, and educational goals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued dedication to providing high-quality performance opportunities for your students. We look forward to an excellent season.