



# Northern California Band Association Winterguard Rules & Regulations

Updated Winter 2020  
M. Mills – VP of Winter Activities

## **APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**

1. The Winter Activities Application will be posted on the NCBA Website on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Entry Fees
  - a. The fee for regular season shows is \$85.00 per unit.
  - b. The fee for Championships is \$110.00 per unit.
  - c. Applications will not be processed until NCBA is in receipt of a competing unit's entry fee payment.
3. Late Fees
  - a. Applications received/postmarked after January 1<sup>st</sup> will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee.
  - b. Applications received/postmarked after February 1<sup>st</sup> will be subject to a \$50.00 late fee.
  - c. Application received/postmarked after March 1<sup>st</sup> must be approved by the VP of Winter Activities and will be subject to a \$75.00 late fee.
  - d. Late applications will not be processed until late fees are paid.
4. Refunds
  - a. Performing units will only receive a refund if they submit the Request for Refund Form via email to the VP of Winter Activities 14 days or more prior to the event in which they are requesting a refund.
  - b. There will be no refunds on late fees.
5. Order of Performance in each Division
  - a. To the best of each show host's ability, scheduling will be based on either the postmark date that payment is received via US Mail or the timestamp of payment received via PayPal, with the earliest postmarks/timestamps going on last in their division.

## **CLASSIFICATIONS:**

1. At the beginning of each season, performing units will select the classification in which they wish to compete in. Judges – in consultation with the VP of Winter Activities, Head Judge, and Colorguard Committee – may recommend that unit be moved up or down. The VP of Winter Activities will make the final decision.
  - a. Performing units will be classified based on the Winterguard Class Descriptions.
  - b. A performing unit will be required to move up divisions if the VP of Winter Activities determines they should move up.
  - c. A performing unit can make the decision to stay in a higher division even if VP of Winter Activities determines they should move to a lower division.
  - d. The Vallejo and Woodcreek competitions will be the final weekend for classification changes to be recommended to the VP of Winter Activities.
    - i. The exception to this rule would be if a performing unit competes for the first time after the Vallejo and Woodcreek competition weekend. In that instance, if the performing unit

is scheduled to attend additional shows, they can be recommended moved up or down if it is deemed necessary.

2. Performing units can appeal a recommendation to move divisions in writing to the Colorguard Committee. The Colorguard Committee – in consultation with the VP of Winter Activities, Head Judge from the contest, and judges from the contest – will make a decision after reviewing the show. The VP of Winter Activities will make the final decision.
3. Junior High School/Middle School – Students in these guards will be enrolled in grades 6-9.
  - a. **NOVICE:** The typical group in this class would have limited rehearsal time, limited staffing and/or young/growing instructors. This area is where the beginning student will be nurtured and developed with the very beginning skills and qualities as their standard.
    - i. Fundamentals are primary goal.
    - ii. Proper training and development are vital.
    - iii. Group identity/style at a basic level.
    - iv. Logic in programs allows high achievement of basic skills.
  - b. **ADVANCED:** The typical group in this class might have moderate rehearsal time, limited staffing and/or growing instructors. Advanced class performers and/or staff have had some experience and now know basic fundamentals covered in the Novice class.
    - i. Vocabularies show more dimensionality/phrase sharing.
    - ii. Moments of dynamic efforts are introduced.
    - iii. Style and Identity beginning to evolve.
    - iv. Performers are challenged, yet nurtured, with focus on individual technical growth and success.
    - v. Logic in programs allows high achievement of basic skills.
    - vi. Technique in all areas should be established above the JH/MS Novice class level.
  - c. **SCHOLASTIC:** The typical group in this class has ample rehearsal time and an experienced staff/director. Scholastic class performers are proficient beyond advanced fundamentals and will therefore be challenged with advanced vocabularies of dynamic efforts throughout.
    - i. Style and identity have evolved, and program design is noted for artistic merit.
    - ii. Focus remains on developing individual training that will assure each student's technical growth and success, and showcases individual performers outside ensemble efforts to reflect musical nuance.
    - iii. Clear concepts and logic in programs allow the performers to reach high achievement.
    - iv. Technique in all areas should be established above the JH/MS Advanced class level.
4. High School – Students in these guards will be enrolled in grades 9-12.
  - a. **NOVICE:** Novice class guards are the youngest or least experienced. The typical group in this class would have limited rehearsal time, limited staffing and/or young/growing instructors. Vocabularies are at an introductory level with fundamentals as their primary goal.
    - i. Novice class guards are encouraged to develop their training programs and members in very basic movement, equipment, and performance skills.
    - ii. The prime purpose is to develop individual training that will assure each student's technical growth.

- iii. Have logical programs that will allow the performers to reach high achievement.
  - iv. This class offers these beginning students an opportunity to take appropriate steps and receive full reward as they evolve toward the levels of Intermediate, Advanced, Scholastic & Open Class competition.
- b. **INTERMEDIATE:** The typical group in this class would have limited rehearsal time, limited staffing and/or growing instructors. Intermediate class performers and/or staffs have had some experience and now know basic fundamentals covered in the Novice class.
- i. Vocabularies show more dimensionality/phrase sharing.
  - ii. Moments of dynamic efforts are introduced.
  - iii. Style and Identity beginning to evolve.
  - iv. Performers are challenged yet nurtured, with focus on individual technical growth and success.
  - v. Logic in programs allows high achievement of basic skills.
  - vi. Technique in all areas should be established above the HS Novice class level.
- c. **ADVANCED:** The typical group in this class might have moderate rehearsal time or limited staffing, but has a designated instructor with experience. Advanced class performers will therefore be challenged at an accelerated rate beyond the basic fundamentals. Their vocabularies may still be at an intermediate level but dynamic efforts are more consistent throughout.
- i. Style and identity are evolving and are noted for artistic merit.
  - ii. The focus remains on developing individual training that will assure each student's technical growth and success, and allows individual performers to be occasionally featured outside ensemble efforts to reflect musical nuance.
  - iii. Clear concepts and logic in programs allow the performers to reach high achievement.
  - iv. Technique in all areas should be established above the Intermediate class level.
- d. **SCHOLASTIC:** The typical group in this class has ample rehearsal time and an experienced staff/director. Scholastic class performers are proficient beyond intermediate fundamentals and will therefore be challenged with advanced vocabularies of dynamic efforts throughout.
- i. Style and identity have evolved and the program design is noted for artistic merit.
  - ii. Focus remains on developing individual training that will assure each student's technical growth and success, and often showcases individual performers outside ensemble efforts to reflect musical nuance.
  - iii. Clear concepts and logic in programs allow the performers to reach high achievement.
  - iv. Technique in all areas should be established above the Advanced class level.
- e. **OPEN:** The typical group in this class has ample rehearsal time and an experienced staff/director. Open class performers have mastered advanced fundamental skills and therefore will be able to achieve advanced vocabularies of dynamic blends of movement and equipment upon form.
- i. Style and identity have evolved and the program design is noted for strong and sophisticated artistic merit.
  - ii. Individual training assures each student's technical growth and success, and frequently showcases individual performers outside ensemble efforts to reflect musical nuance.
  - iii. Sophisticated concepts and clear logic in programs allow the performers to continue to

- reach high achievement.
  - iv. Skills in performing advanced choreography in an artistic venue.
  - v. Technique in all areas should be established above the Scholastic class.
5. Exhibition – Performing units who do not wish to compete can choose to perform in exhibition only. These units will have the option of being evaluated by the adjudication panel.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS:**

1. To be eligible for the title of “Association Champion”, middle schools must compete in a minimum of 2 NCBA Winter Activities contests.
2. To be eligible for the title of “Association Champion”, high schools must compete in a minimum of 3 NCBA Winter Activities contests.
  - a. Reno Winter Show/Clinic will count as a contest McQueen HS & Spanish Springs HS.
3. Should a performing unit who is not eligible for the title earn the highest score, the eligible guard with the next highest score will become the “Association Champion”, while the guard who is ineligible for the title of “Association Champion” will receive the 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy.
4. If a competing unit does not meet the minimum number of shows because an event was canceled, the eligibility requirement will be waived. However, before waiving the eligibility requirement, competing units will be encouraged to transfer to a different show.

**ELIGIBILITY TO HOST A SHOW**

1. Show hosts must attend a minimum of three competitions, not including their own show, during the winter season.
  - a. Each competitive group (percussion and guard) must meet the requirements listed above.
  - b. Show hosts that do not meet the eligibility requirements will have their show pulled the next year. The vacant weekend will be open for other schools to apply to host.
2. Schools interested in hosting a winter competition for NCBA should fill out the online application.
  - a. After a review of all applications and evaluation of show host criteria, the Board will determine which school is best suited to host a winter event.
3. Contest hosts may be placed on probationary status or have their shows pulled for a poorly run show.

**CONTEST AREA:**

1. The hosting school will provide an indoor facility with a 50’ x 74’ competition area.
  - a. The hosting school will provide a floor cover which will remain taped to the floor for the duration of the competition. If the hosting school does not have a floor cover, NCBA will provide one.
  - b. The competition area will be clearly marked with colored tape and orange cones.
  - c. Show hosts must notify competitors of the T&P line (horizontal or vertical) prior to the show. Competing units must fold their floors according to the T&P line at each show.
  - d. To assist with the flow of the show, hosts must choose just one T&P line and competing units must follow the designated T&P line.

2. The front boundary line is the only penalty line.
  - a. Reaching over the boundary line to pick up equipment is not an infraction unless the hand is grounded for support.

### **TIME LIMITATIONS:**

1. Junior High School/Middle School Novice and High School Novice
  - a. Minimum – 2 minutes
  - b. Maximum – 3 minutes
2. Junior High School/Middle School Advanced and Scholastic
  - a. Minimum – 2 minutes
  - b. Maximum – 5 ½ minutes
3. High School Intermediate, Advanced, Scholastic, Open
  - a. Minimum – 4 minutes
  - b. Maximum – 5 ½ minutes
4. The timing begins from the start of the music. In the case of performing units with no music, the timing begins with the first movement.
5. Timing ends with the obvious conclusion of the show.
6. All performing units will have a total of 10 minutes to set up, perform, and clear the floor.
  - a. The time for the 10-minute time slot will stop when all personnel – performers, instructors, support personnel – have crossed the mid-court line.

### **EQUIPMENT:**

1. Guard units must perform with one of or a combination of the following types of standard equipment:
  - a. Flag – 4-foot minimum length flag pole with at 48 square inches of fabric and a least 6 inches attached to the pole.
  - b. Rifle
  - c. Sabre
2. All equipment must have protection on each end to avoid damage to the gym floors. Judges may stop the competition and disqualify any unit who has equipment that may damage the hosting school's gym floor.
3. Standard Equipment Time
  - a. A guard unit must have at least one member performing with a piece of standard equipment for the minimum time listed below:
    - i. Middle School and High School Novice: minimum 1 ½ minutes
    - ii. High School Intermediate through Open: minimum 3 minutes
  - b. Definition of performing: moving through spatial changes with either the body, the equipment, or both.

### **SOUND SYSTEM:**

1. The contest host will provide a sound system which plays CDs.

2. The hosting school will provide an individual to operate the sound system.
3. Performing units are required to provide their music on a CD. It is recommended that each unit have multiple back-up CDs.
4. An optional sound check may take place before the start of the contest or during scheduled breaks.

### **LIVE MUSIC:**

1. Live music may be used as part of the performance; however, the musicians will not be considered as part of the guard for movement, equipment, and general effect scoring.
  - a. The number of musicians must be less than or equal to the number of performing guard members at all times during the performance.
  - b. No electronic instruments or amplification of any kind will be allowed during as part of the performance.
2. The music selection may be subject to comment; however, the music performance itself will not be judged.
3. Musicians will be included in the timing and boundary adjudication guidelines.

### **FOOTWEAR:**

1. Prior to the show, contest hosts have the option of specifying if boots or other hard-soled shoes need to be taped over before performing on their gym floor.
2. Guards who perform without shoes must provide their own floor.
3. Guards who perform on their own floor without shoes must enter the gym with their shoes on.
4. Guards who perform on their own floor without shoes do not have to wear shoes exiting the gym.
5. All unit representatives accepting awards must wear shoes during the awards ceremony.

### **PERSONNEL:**

1. All members of the competing unit must be enrolled at the school they perform with.
  - a. The VP of Winter Activities will consider exceptions to this rule on a case by case basis.
2. Non-performers – which include directors, instructors, support personnel, parents, or other students – may not enter the competition area while the unit is in competition.
3. Number of performers
  - a. Each guard unit must contain a minimum of five performing members.
  - b. There is no limit on the maximum number of performing members.

## **ENTERING AND EXITING:**

1. Prior to each show, the hosting school will provide each performing unit with a diagram of the competition area which outlines the entrance and exit plan.
  - a. Performing units are expected to follow the directions sent by the hosting school.
  - b. Performing units should be set to unfold their floor according to the directions sent by the hosting school.
2. Performing units will enter the competition area when directed to do so by the Timing and Penalties judge.
  - a. Performing units may be asked by the Timing and Penalties judge to enter the competition area up to the mid-court line prior to their performance.
  - b. The Timing and Penalty judge will start the clock if a performing member, staff, or support personnel crosses the mid-court line prior to being given a signal to start.

## **ADIUDICATION:**

1. All contests will utilize the most up-to-date approved score sheets provided by the NCBA.
2. NCBA will provide certified judges for each caption. Judges will judge for the entirety of a performing unit's show.
  - a. Timing and Penalty
  - b. Movement
  - c. Equipment
  - d. General Effect
3. One judge will be designated as the Head Judge.
  - a. The Head Judge will act on behalf of the Association to answer any questions that should arise.
  - b. The Head Judge will individual assigned as the Timing and Penalties Judge.
  - c. The decision of the Head Judge will be final.
4. The hosting school may request an association tabulator or hire their own. If the hosting school chooses to hire their own tabulator, they will be required to use the association's summary and recap sheets.
5. The hosting school may request an association Drop Box coordinator or hire their own.
6. Judges may not judge for more than 10 hours, including breaks, at a single contest.
7. No judge will judge for more than 2 hours without at least a 10-minuimum break.
8. The hosting school will provide the score sheets for each performing unit.
9. NCBA will provide caption adjudicators with digital recorders for taped commentary.
10. Timing and Penalty judges will provide their own stop watches.

## **PENALTIES:**

1. Under/Over -time – 0.1 point per 5 seconds or fraction thereof

2. Standard Equipment – 0.1 point per 5 seconds or fraction thereof
3. Ten Minute Time Slot – 0.1 point per 5 seconds or fraction thereof
4. Boundary – 0.1 point per offense, up to 2.0 points
5. Initiating Conversation with a Judge – 1.0 point
6. Personnel Violation – Disqualification
7. Non-Performer on the Floor – Disqualification
8. Violation of the American Flag Code – Disqualification
9. Dress Code Violation – Disqualification
10. Violation of Prohibited Activities – Disqualification
  - a. Live animals
  - b. Explosive devices
  - c. Blackout shows
  - d. Releasing lighter than air balloons
  - e. Flying of floors – Floors must remain at the waist level or lower.
11. Unprotected Equipment/Shoes – Disqualification
12. Performing with No Shoes without a Floor – Disqualification

**WAIVING A RULE IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES**

1. In extreme circumstances, any rule can be waived with approval from the VP of Winter Activities, the Head Judge, and an additional Board member.



Due to the lack of consistency that existed between penalty sheets, rules posted online, and rules carried by head judges, there was a need to update the Official Rules and Regulations which govern NCBA's Winter Activities.

This version of the NCBA Winterguard Rules and Regulations was updated by Marcus Mills – VP of Winter Activities.

The updated Rules and Regulations were approved by the NCBA Board of Directors on August 27, 2016.

|                         |       |                      |
|-------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| _____                   | _____ | Approved/Disapproved |
| Marcus Mills            | Date  |                      |
| VP of Winter Activities |       |                      |

|                            |       |                      |
|----------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| _____                      | _____ | Approved/Disapproved |
| Marcus Mills               | Date  |                      |
| Colorguard Caption Manager |       |                      |

|                           |       |                      |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| _____                     | _____ | Approved/Disapproved |
| Bob Moorefield            | Date  |                      |
| VP of Judges – Head Judge |       |                      |

|                 |       |                      |
|-----------------|-------|----------------------|
| _____           | _____ | Approved/Disapproved |
| Mario Sebastian | Date  |                      |
| President       |       |                      |

**CHANGES** - January 2018 – effective Winter 2019

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| OLD RULE | NEW RULE |
|----------|----------|

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Performance Length</u><br><br>Junior High School/Middle School and High School Novice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Minimum – 2 minutes</li> <li>b. Maximum – 5 ½ minutes</li> </ul><br><u>Standard Equipment</u><br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Middle School and High School Novice: minimum 1 ½ minutes</li> <li>b. High School Intermediate through Open: minimum 3 minutes</li> </ul> | <u>Performance Length</u><br><br>Junior High School/Middle School and High School Novice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Minimum – 2 minutes</li> <li>b. Maximum – 3 minutes</li> </ul><br><u>Standard Equipment</u><br><br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. All Middle School and High School Novice: minimum 1 ½ minutes</li> <li>b. High School Intermediate through Open: minimum 3 minutes</li> </ul> |
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**CHANGES - June 2018 – effective Winter 2019**

| OLD RULE                                                                                                                                                                                               | NEW RULE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Ability for the VP of Winter Activities to waive a rule in extreme circumstances</u><br><br>i.e. – Number of shows a school must attend to be eligible for the championship<br><br>No rule in place | <u>Ability for the VP of Winter Activities to waive a rule in extreme circumstances</u><br><br>In extreme circumstances, any rule can be waived with approval from the VP of Winter Activities, the Head Judge, and an additional Board member. |

The updated Rules and Regulations were approved by the NCBA Board of Directors on June 2, 2018.

|                                                      |               |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| _____<br>Marcus Mills<br>VP of Winter Activities     | _____<br>Date | Approved/Disapproved |
| _____<br>Marcus Mills<br>Colorguard Caption Manager  | _____<br>Date | Approved/Disapproved |
| _____<br>Bob Moorefield<br>VP of Judges – Head Judge | _____<br>Date | Approved/Disapproved |
| _____<br>Mario Sebastian<br>President                | _____<br>Date | Approved/Disapproved |

**CHANGES – January 2019, June 2019 – effective Winter 2020**

| OLD RULE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | NEW RULE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p data-bbox="110 138 748 170"><u>Notifying competitors of floor direction/T&amp;P line</u></p> <p data-bbox="110 212 315 243">No rule in place</p> <p data-bbox="110 569 256 600"><u>Reno Show</u></p> <p data-bbox="110 642 797 737">Reno Winter Show/Clinic was exhibition for McQueen HS &amp; Spanish Springs HS did not count as a contest.</p> <p data-bbox="110 783 553 814"><u>Eligibility due to show cancelation</u></p> <p data-bbox="110 856 477 888">No rule in place cancellation</p> | <p data-bbox="824 138 1463 170"><u>Notifying competitors of floor direction/T&amp;P line</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="922 212 1511 380">a. Show hosts must notify competitors of the T&amp;P line (horizontal or vertical) prior to the show. Competing units must fold their floors according to the T&amp;P line at each show.</li> <li data-bbox="922 390 1511 527">b. To assist with the flow of the show, hosts must choose just one T&amp;P line and competing units must follow the designated T&amp;P line.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="824 569 971 600"><u>Reno Show</u></p> <p data-bbox="824 642 1511 705">Reno Winter Show/Clinic will count as a contest McQueen HS &amp; Spanish Springs HS.</p> <p data-bbox="824 783 1268 814"><u>Eligibility due to show cancelation</u></p> <p data-bbox="824 856 1511 1062">If a competing unit does not meet the minimum number of shows because an event was canceled, the eligibility requirement will be waived. However, before waiving the eligibility requirement, competing units will be encouraged to transfer to a different show.</p> |

## CLARIFICATION

*The following rules on eligibility requirements have been in place for some time; however, they were not included in the official Winter Activities Rules.*

### **ELIGIBILITY TO HOST A SHOW**

1. Show hosts must attend a minimum of three competitions, not including their own show, during the winter season.
  - a. Each competitive group (percussion and guard) must meet the requirements listed above.
  - b. Show hosts that do not meet the eligibility requirements will have their show pulled the next year. The vacant weekend will be open for other schools to apply to host.
2. Schools interested in hosting a winter competition for NCBA should fill out the online application.
  - a. After a review of all applications and evaluation of show host criteria, the Board will determine which school is best suited to host a winter event.
3. Contest hosts may be placed on probationary status or have their shows pulled for a poorly run show.

The updated Rules and Regulations were approved by the NCBA Board of Directors at the June 2019 and January 2020 meetings.

|                                                     |               |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| _____<br>Marcus Mills<br>VP of Winter Activities    | _____<br>Date | Approved/Disapproved |
| _____<br>Marcus Mills<br>Colorguard Caption Manager | _____<br>Date | Approved/Disapproved |
| _____<br>Matt Mackey<br>VP of Judges                | _____<br>Date | Approved/Disapproved |
| _____<br>Mario Sebastian<br>President               | _____<br>Date | Approved/Disapproved |