

In affiliation with the
Northern California Band Association



In partnership with
Winter Guard International



Winter Guard Rules & Regulations

Updated Winter 2023
M. Mills – VP of Winter Activities

WGI Rules

As a WGI Circuit Partner, NCBA follows the WGI Color Guard Ensemble Rules and utilizes the WGI adjudication sheets. For your convenience, the WGI Color Guard Contest rules are linked [here](#), and the WGI adjudication sheets are linked [here](#). Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these documents. For a more detailed overview of the WGI system, it may be helpful for you to review the WGI Adjudicator Manual which is linked [here](#).

Please note: All students that attend a school which competes in NCBA should participate in their school's competing ensemble and are strongly discouraged from leaving their school to join an independent ensemble.

NCBA Specific Rules, Policies, and Procedures

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The Winter Activities Application will be posted on the NCBA Website on November 1st.

1. Entry Fees
 - a. The fee for regular season shows is \$100.00 per unit.
 - b. The fee for Championships is \$130.00 per unit.
 - c. Applications will not be processed until NCBA is in receipt of a competing unit's entry fee payment.
2. Late Fees

- a. Applications received/postmarked after January 1st will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee.
 - b. Applications received/postmarked after February 1st will be subject to a \$50.00 late fee.
 - c. Applications received/postmarked after March 1st 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.
3. 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.
4. Order of Performance in each Division
- a. To the best of NCBA'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. Both Scholastic and Independent groups are eligible to compete in NCBA.
2. NCBA will offer sub-classes within the Scholastic Regional A and Scholastic A classes. These sub-classes divide the larger classes to provide a more equitable distribution of groups at a similar developmental level. See Table 1.
 - a. A middle school entry can choose to compete in a higher class. For example, if a middle school is more competitive in Regional A, they can elect to move up to that class. Units can choose to perform in Exhibition Only.
3. Units that choose to perform in Exhibition Only will place themselves in the class they feel is most appropriate.
 - a. Units that choose to perform in Exhibition Only have three options.
 - i. Perform without receiving judges' comments or scores.
 - ii. Receive judges' comments only.
 - iii. Receive judges' comments and scores; however, the scores will not be published.
 - b. There will be no minimum performance time or authorized equipment time penalties for groups that perform in Exhibition Only; however, units that perform in Exhibition Only will be required to adhere to the internal time and maximum performance time.
4. 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 Color Guard Committee – may recommend that a 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 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 the VP of Winter Activities determines they should move to a lower division.
 - d. The second weekend in March 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 second weekend in March. 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.
5. Performing units can appeal a recommendation to move divisions in writing to the Color Guard Committee. The Color Guard Committee – in consultation with the VP of Winter Activities, Chief 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.
6. Please refer to the WGI Adjudicator Manual for class descriptions. For clarification, the Regional AA class will consist of groups which fall between the bottom and middle of the Regional A class description, and the Regional A class will consist of groups which fall between the middle and top of the Regional A class descriptions. Similarly, the National AA class will consist of groups which fall between the bottom and middle of the National A class description, and the National A class will consist of groups which fall between the middle and top of the A class descriptions.

Table 1

WGI Classification	NCBA Scholastic Sub-Classes	Independent Classes
Regional A	Middle School	none
Regional A	Regional AAA Regional AA Regional A	Regional A
National A	National AAA National AA National A	National A
Open	Open	Open
World	World	World

ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. To be eligible for the title of “Association Champion” in the middle school classification, units must compete in a minimum of 2 NCBA Winter Activities contests.
2. To be eligible for the title of “Association Champion”, scholastic and independent units must compete in a minimum of 3 NCBA Winter Activities contests. Performing in exhibition at a home show does not count toward this minimum.
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 2nd 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.
5. To be eligible for the title of “Association Champion”, colorguard units must submit a video evaluation which will be due the last Saturday in January. There is no minimum time requirement, and the submissions will be free of charge.
6. NOTE: Beginning WINTER 2024, to be eligible for the title of “Association Champion” in the middle school classification, units must compete in a minimum of 3 Winter Activities contests. Beginning WINTER 2024, to be eligible for the title of “Association Champion” scholastic and independent units must compete in a minimum of 4 Winter Activities contests. Participation in any WGI regional or competing at a home show will count toward the minimum requirement.

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.
 - 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. Competing units must follow the designated T&P line.

TIME LIMITATIONS

Classification	Interval Time	Minimum Performance Time	Maximum Performance Time	Authorized Equipment Time
Scholastic World	10	4	7.5	3.5
Scholastic Open	9	4	6.5	3.5
Scholastic National A [A - AA - AAA]	8	4	5.5	3.5
Scholastic Regional A [A - AA - AAA]	7	3	4.5	3.0
Middle School	7	2	3	1.5

The times indicated in RED are changes specific to the middle school classes for NCBA. All other times are aligned with WGI times.

SOUND SYSTEM

1. Performing units will submit their music digitally during the registration process.

- a. Updated music submissions should be emailed to NCBA-Admin@ncbaonline.net at least a week in advance.
 - b. To avoid skipping the first couple of seconds when files are opened and played, NCBA recommends that music files have a few seconds of blank audio before their music.
2. The hosting school will provide an adequate sound system and individual to operate the sound system.
 3. An optional sound check may take place before the start of the contest or during scheduled breaks.

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.
 - b. A Personnel Request Form must be submitted for consideration and approved by the VP of Winter Activities before a non-enrolled student can perform with a unit.

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.

ADJUDICATION

1. One judge will be designated as the Chief Judge.
 - a. The Chief Judge will act on behalf of the Association to answer any questions that should arise.
 - b. The Chief Judge at each event will be assigned by the VP of Judges and VP of Winter Activities.
 - c. The decision of the Chief Judge will be final.
2. 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 be trained by NCBA and to use the

association's summary and recap sheets. Tabulators will organize, label, and upload digital commentary.

3. No judge will judge for more than 2 hours without at least a 15-minute minimum break.
4. Championships will use a single panel of judges for all events.

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.