

MEPA ANNUAL MEETING
June 13th, 2026
Miamisburg, OH
PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION
DRAFT VERSION v5.15.26



PRELIMINARY NOTES:

In the 2026 update to the R&P, Elementary Guard **Independent** Class availability should have been struck following a review by the Executive Board.

Pursuant to Policy 4.13, all independent groups will be required to submit their proof of insurance to the MEPA Director of Operations.

Membership Fees & Ticket Prices are set by the MEPA Board and are up for review in the current off season.

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE BEGIN ON NEXT PAGE.
CURRENT RULES & POLICIES FOLLOW THEREAFTER.

4.0 Membership, Fees, & Insurance

Division: All Divisions

Proposal

Amend Policy 4.4 "Any member group must compete in at least one contest during one of the first three weekends of the season." to say "Any Guard group must compete in at least one contest during one of the first three weekends of the season, and any Percussion/Winds group must compete in at least one contest during weekends two and three of the season."

-Matt Hahn, MEPA VP Percussion & Winds

Rationale: This adjustment allows for a more strategic approach to event planning regarding membership numbers and judge fees. Week 1 shows are typically not attended very well by percussion groups, but the circuit still provides full panels for that week. By eliminating Wk1 shows for Percussion/Winds, we can be more efficient and targeted with scheduling as well as cutting some costs that won't hinder the overall experience for Percussion/Winds groups.

Financial Impact: This adjustment will save the circuit the cost of Percussion/Winds judges fees and travel for one week.

11.0 Circuit Championships

Division: All Divisions

Proposal

Recognize groups who have been reclassified at circuit championships.

-Kyleigh Ryan, Versailles HS Guard

Rationale: Students love this activity, and I believe we should be making this the best experience for them as possible. When groups are reclassified, students often feel nervous and excited. However, they often go from top of the prior class to middle or the bottom half of their new class. This often makes our students feel as if they are not 'as good' anymore, even though as directors we do our best to explain how much of an honor this truly is. By adding recognition to them at circuit championships, we are showing how awesome they have been, while also giving them something physical to recognize this major accomplishment.

Financial Impact: The cost of a few additional plaques, and groups worth of medals (if opting into both).



RULES & POLICIES MANUAL

2026

Published 8/27/2025

1.0 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 The following definitions shall apply to this Policy Manual:
- MEPA - The Mid East Performance Association.
 - WGI - Winter Guard International.
 - Board of Directors - The elected officials as stated in the MEPA Bylaws.
 - Contest Administrator - The person assigned to enforce all MEPA rules at a given event.
 - Group/Ensemble - A color guard, percussion, or winds ensemble competing in MEPA.
 - Show Host - The organization sponsoring a MEPA sanctioned contest.
 - Circuit Championships - The final event in the MEPA competitive season.
 - Bylaws - The official governing documents of MEPA.
 - Divisions - MEPA has three divisions: Percussion Division, Color Guard Division, and Winds Division.

2.0 AFFILIATION

- 2.1 Through a general membership vote, MEPA has adopted most WGI rules and policies regarding competitive procedures. MEPA will also continue to adopt future WGI-approved rule changes assuming it does not conflict with existing MEPA rules or is subject to a proposal at the Annual MEPA Circuit Meeting. Anything not found in this manual is addressed in the WGI Rulebooks. In order to have a clear understanding of the activity and rules associated with it, all group directors must annually read the WGI Color Guard, Percussion, and/or Winds Manual as applicable. The current season WGI Policies and Rulebook is publicly available on the WGI Website in each Division's Resource Area, as well as the Resource Area of MEPA's website. If any clarification is needed, the group director is encouraged to contact their assigned MEPA Division Board Representative or Division Education Director.

3.0 GOVERNANCE

- 3.1 The MEPA Bylaws are the association's primary governance document.
- 3.2 This manual does not set policy but instead, reports it. This manual is a guide for directors and should not be seen as a complete report of all policies on file. Readers are advised to read and have a complete understanding of MEPA Bylaws and WGI policies before reading this manual.
- 3.3 All items are taken from the MEPA bylaws, WGI policy manual, or minutes of past board of directors or circuit membership meetings.
- 3.4 Changes to this manual may be made at the discretion of the board of directors by majority vote or in the form of a motion made at circuit meetings but this manual cannot override MEPA Bylaws.

4.0 MEMBERSHIP, FEES, & INSURANCE

- 4.1 Any color guard, percussion, or winds group may request MEPA membership providing they meet all WGI and MEPA requirements for competitive performance.
- 4.2 Membership is established by registering in CompetitionSuite typically in September, paying applicable fees and previous years' penalties, if applicable. Membership is not granted until all of these requirements are met.
- 4.3 Membership is for one year. Groups must reapply each year. Combined schools must requalify each year.
- 4.4 Any member group must compete in at least one contest during one of the first three weekends of the season.
- 4.5 Non-members (Guests) may enter a maximum of 2 shows.
- 4.6 Fee structure is established by the MEPA Board of Directors prior to each competitive season.
 - 4.6.1 Fees for 2026
 - \$600 Group Member Fee
 - \$100 Championships Fee (Members)
 - \$100 Guest Fee per non-Collegiate Arena Show
 - \$200 Guest Fee per Collegiate Arena (Regular Season and/or Championships)
 - \$275 PLUS Pass, seven additional staff badges good at all contests
- 4.7 MEPA does not issue refunds on dues or fees.
- 4.8 All fees will be announced on the official MEPA website and/or in CompetitionSuite, as well as this manual.
- 4.9 Sometimes, in order to make schedules in a timely fashion, groups are placed on performance schedules before they have paid penalties. Groups will not be allowed to perform until the fees are paid. Placement on the schedule does not constitute receipt of payment.
- 4.10 All fees can be paid for by check, money order, online payment system, or cash. The issuance of a purchase order is not considered as payment until the check is received by the MEPA office. Any group paying by online payment system will be charged an additional service fee to cover fees/costs. Contact MEPA for more information on our online payment system.
- 4.11 If membership dues for Member Groups are not received in the MEPA office by January 1 a late fee will be assessed and their membership deleted from CompetitionSuite. Please note that the postmark date is not used by MEPA as payment date.
- 4.12 All Groups must have on file a Release of Liability form. This is done electronically prior to the season and no group is permitted to perform until this form is on file. This form can be found on the MEPA website.
- 4.13 All independent groups must submit proof of insurance.

5.0 GROUP MEMBER RESTRICTIONS

- 5.1 All competing groups in The Mid East Performance Association must abide by WGI rules and regulations concerning the eligibility of performing members.
- 5.2 MEPA aligns itself with the position that "WGI discourages independent groups from utilizing high school students who were previously enrolled in an active high school program and have not yet graduated."

6.0 MEETINGS

- 6.1 MEPA Bylaws require a full membership meeting between April and July.
- 6.2 The MEPA full membership meeting is open to all members in good standing. All member groups are highly encouraged to attend the meeting. A member is defined as anybody attending at least three regular season shows.
- 6.3 The MEPA Board of Directors meet at times dictated by the board and are open only to elected board members.
- 6.4 Each group receives one vote regardless of the amount of group representatives present at the full membership meeting.
- 6.5 Only an authorized representative of a group may have voting privileges. Authorized representatives are established in the group's CompetitionSuite profile (must be listed as an Administrator or Staff) and may not be changed once voting begins at the Annual Meeting.
- 6.6 A person may only vote on an issue a maximum of 2 times regardless of the number of performing group affiliations or status as a member of the Board of Directors.
- 6.7 MEPA members can submit a proposal at the yearly membership meeting without being present, however, an authorized representative must be present to vote. Proposals must be submitted/published one week prior to the meeting.

7.0 CONTEST POLICY

- 7.1 The MEPA Board of Directors and/or Director of Operations will award the right to host MEPA sanctioned contests based on the following board approved criteria:
 - (a) Completion of the online form – The online form must be submitted along with all accompanying materials on or before the posted deadline. No late requests will be reviewed unless the Board of Directors votes to make an exception.
 - (b) Regional and calendar distribution – It is a prime consideration of the Board of Officers to provide a schedule in which contest sites are fairly distributed throughout the circuit boundaries to provide reasonable opportunities for all groups to meet their minimum show requirements without undue travel.
 - (c) Show Hosting History – The Board of Officers will consider previous show hosting performance. Prior show hosting experience does not guarantee a show will be awarded over a group with no hosting history.
 - (d) MEPA member groups will be given preference for being show hosts.
- 7.2 A Site Selection Committee will be responsible for the selection of appropriate contest venues. This committee will consist of the Director of Operations, President, Vice Presidents, and two other board representatives. The committee should be made of at least two representatives from color guard, percussion, and winds. While it is permissible for primary affiliations to exist, only one person on the committee may be affiliated with a school wishing to host a show. The president will chair the committee and may make substitutions to fulfill the stipulations of rule 7.2.
- 7.3 All Show Hosts must agree with and sign the "Show Host Contract." Signing stipulates that the host will fulfill the obligations as outlined by the contract.
- 7.4 All Show Host must provide a signed copy of the show contract, proof of site liability insurance, a copy of the signed facility request from a district administrator, and the show hosting deposit. These items must be submitted prior to the deadline stated on the contract or a late fee of \$200 will be assigned to the host and their eligibility to host the following year placed in question.
- 7.5 Show host is responsible for paying a predetermined fee based on the number of performing groups in their show.
- 7.6 All payments must be made prior to the end of the contest day.
- 7.8 The maximum contest day on Saturday competitions will be 9am-9pm. On Sunday, the maximum will be 9am-4pm. Exceptions may be made for large, regional competitions such as the Nutter Center show or circuit championships. Contests shall take place only on Saturday and Sunday.

- 7.9 All MEPA contests will conclude with an awards presentation (known as the “retreat”). At MEPA-sanctioned contests, the retreat will consist of captains only. At the Circuit Championships, the retreat will be “full-group” with all performing members participating. If necessary, due to time or site capacity concerns, one or more “mid-show” retreats will be scheduled to present awards for those classes that have competed. Any non-adjudicated awards (school/host awards) will happen prior to the official retreat/score announcement.

Contest Registration

- 7.10 Groups may register for shows upon receipt of payment.
- 7.11 Groups may add or drop a show up to 21 calendar days prior to the show date. After that, the show is closed and changes cannot be made without the permission of the President or Director of Operations. The president is advised to only make exceptions in extraordinary circumstances. Groups who withdraw from a contest after the 21-day period are subject to the no show penalty and a \$150 per show cancellation fee which must be paid before their next performance.
- 7.12 A group may not switch to or from Competition and/or Exhibition after the Monday prior to a contest.

Sound Checks

- 7.13 Sound checks may be done on breaks or before the show. This is left to the discretion of the Sound Engineer and Contest Administrator. Sound checks are to test that an MP3 player works with the MEPA sound equipment, audio levels, and not to adjust or test speed of playback.
- 7.14 All music is played at a pre-set decibel level. For the safety of all spectators and performers, this level will be maintained throughout the group’s performance at the discretion of the MEPA Sound Engineer.
- 7.15 A 10-foot radius around the sound table shall be deemed a “quiet zone”.

Staff Passes

- 7.16 To keep contest experiences consistent from site to site, MEPA follows WGI guidelines governing staff passes for contests. Please review WGI policies.
- 7.17 Full season passes are provided to the Board of Directors and one Director from each group.
- 7.17.1 One additional staff pass will be given to a group who attends the annual MEPA season kickoff event.
- 7.17.2 Revised for 2026 - Each registered group shall have the option to purchase a PLUS Pass for an additional fee. The PLUS Pass allows an additional seven (7) staff badges and must be purchased when registering for membership, contests, at the Annual Kickoff Meeting, or can be requested at any time by emailing the Director of Operations.
- 7.18 Any person found wearing a season pass that isn’t on the Board of Directors or affiliated with a group may cause a penalty to be assigned to that group.
- 7.19 Any group attempting to gain entry for non-paying staff will be subject to a penalty at the discretion of the Contest Administrator.
- 7.20 Show sites are required to follow MEPA/WGI rules governing staff passes. They are not permitted to change this rule without the permission of the MEPA President.

Scheduling

- 7.21 Performance order is determined in two parts. First, any group who registers and pays all dues and penalties prior to January 1 will be placed in a random draw for performance order. After that, the date that the registration is received in full or paid completed online is used to determine performance order. Please note that MEPA does not use postmark. Date received in the MEPA mailbox is used to assign order.
- 7.21.1 The order of divisions will change from week to week. Every effort will be made to ensure as equal of a distribution as possible between divisions for both late and early starts. Additionally, it will be at the Board’s discretion to create at least one show per season that allows the younger age groups the opportunity to perform later in the day for larger audiences. The performing order will be published on the website’s schedule.

- 7.21.2 The order of Elementary and Junior classes will be aligned so that they compete with those similarly to their age, not to their equipment/design classification.
- 7.21.3 Percussion Concert Open and Concert World classes will be scheduled to perform with their congruent marching classes.
- 7.22 For the random draw of a regular season contest, CompetitionSuite is used and determines the performance order for those groups who have registered and paid by January 1st.
- 7.23 For the second draw, groups are placed in reverse order determined by the date the complete application is received in the MEPA office. (The latest received application performs first).
- 7.24 Membership status has no bearing on performance order.
- 7.25 Performance order may be changed so that two groups from the same school do not perform within 30 minutes of each other with no group going on later than the original performance order procedure would dictate.
- 7.26 In the event that a show fills up prior to January 1, payment timestamped in CompetitionSuite will be used to determine eligibility to perform.
- 7.27 Once any contest has reached the time restraints, the contest will be closed to any further submissions.

Contest Season

- 7.28 The contest season will begin no earlier than January 1 and will extend no later than April 30.
- 7.29 Contest dates and show hosts will be decided by the Board of Directors. Show bids must be received by a date determined by the Board of Directors and announced through e-mail and the association website.
- 7.30 All member groups must compete in a minimum of 3 contests in order to qualify to compete in MEPA Championships. Attendance at a WGI show doesn't count toward the 3 required shows.

8.0 CONTEST PROCEDURES

- 8.1 Timing Penalties shall not be enforced in the first three weeks of the season. However, all other infractions or violations shall be enforced, including but not limited to: Boundary Infractions, Facility Damage, Failure to Follow Instructions of Event Officials and Staff, or infractions that place the performing members in danger as determined by the Timing and Penalties Judge.
- 8.2 Group Directors, staff, and parents are expected to conduct themselves in a way that makes them role models to the young people that they teach. Repeated infractions of WGI rule 8.2 may result in a review by the MEPA Board of Directors, up to and including removal from future competitions and a forfeiture of all paid dues and fees.

Critique

- 8.3 Groups should read the WGI manual for a complete explanation of the critique process.
- 8.4 Only competing groups may attend critique.
- 8.5 MEPA will utilize the critique sign up option through CompetitionSuite. If a group does not sign up prior to the deadline on CompetitionSuite, the group representative may ask to be seen after the groups who signed up, if time allows.
- 8.6 MEPA makes every effort to provide a critique at each event. Sometimes, due to show scheduling, travel arrangements, and other variables, critique cannot be offered. MEPA will post which judges are and are not available for critique as soon as possible.
- 8.7 As a general rule, Saturday shows will have a critique. Sunday shows will have a critique for the division performing first but not for the division performing second, unless time permits. Critique at Championships will be prioritized to groups who have entered into the WGI World Championships, and have signed up for critique in advance.
- 8.8 In order to participate in critique, a group is asked to listen to all judges' commentary prior to attending.
- 8.9 When possible, show hosts will provide an area for critique separate from the hospitality room.

9.0 CANCELLATION PROCEDURES

- 9.1 Inclement weather is defined as any weather-related incident that has a significant impact on show operations.
- 9.2 The president, in consultation with the contest host, may cancel an event. In the event that the president is unavailable to make this decision, the Vice President of Color Guard or Vice President of Percussion and Winds may be charged with the decision.
- 9.3 If a weather situation does not cause a show to be cancelled, yet a school administrator does not allow a group to travel, the group must submit a letter from the school administrator stating the reason. The president must have the letter in his/her possession no more than 7 calendar days from the original show date. The group director must also send an e-mail to the MEPA Director of Operations at least one hour prior to the start of the show. If the group is not in compliance with either of these two rules, they will be charged the penalty for not performing at a scheduled show. The 3-show rule also remains in effect. If a group cancels due to weather, that group must perform at another show if needed to meet the 3-show rule. The President may make exceptions in rare circumstances on a case-by-case basis.
- 9.4 If MEPA cancels a show, all groups will be given credit for attending. They will not have to make up the show to meet the 3-show rule.
- 9.5 If a group would like to enter another show as a result of the original show being cancelled, they must notify the MEPA Director of Operations or President within 48 hours of the cancelled show. In order to enter an alternative show, there must be room in that alternative show to accommodate the group within the normal contest day.
- 9.6 If a group adds a show due to the cancellation of another show, they will perform first in their class. If more than one group in the same class adds the same show, they will be placed at the beginning of their class but in the order they would have performed in the cancelled show.
- 9.7 Any group performing during the weekend following a show that was cancelled due to inclement weather, should expect schedule changes. These changes will take place no later than Tuesday before the weekend.

10.0 CLASSIFICATION

- 10.1 The Group Director may choose the classification in which they will compete. Classification is based on the judging paradigm, not the age of the members.
- 10.2 Groups may choose to compete in different classes in different circuits.
- 10.3 Once a group declares a class, they may not change classes without the consent of the Circuit President.
- 10.4 Group classification shall be the responsibility of division vice presidents. Questions of classification may be addressed by a group director or the judge representative to the circuit vice presidents who will consult with the judges and the group director as needed prior to rendering a decision.
- 10.5 When a color guard competing in Regional A class wins that class at circuit championships, the group will be reclassified to the next higher class for the following season. The reclassified groups may appeal this reclassification to a review committee during February of the year they are reclassified.
- 10.6 MEPA's Color Guard division will use a set of review numbers to assist with the review and reclassification process. A group who hits or scores higher than the review number for that week will be automatically reviewed by the Review Committee. A group may be reviewed more than one time per season.
- 10.7 Should a group be recommended for review or hit the review numbers for that week, they must be notified in writing by the Vice President as soon as possible. The group director will be consulted during the review process by the Vice Presidents prior to a final decision being made. This allows the group to "plead their case," as part of the review process. Once a final ruling has been made, the Vice Presidents shall notify the group director in writing of the decision.
- 10.8 The ruling of the Vice President or Committee is final. There is no appeals process.
- 10.9 Any classification change carried out by WGI will also be followed by MEPA.

Review Numbers for Color Guard (Jan 2025)

Novice

Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Wk7	Wk8	Wk9
71.0	72.5	74.0	75.5	77.0	78.5	80.0	81.5	83.0

Regional A

Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Wk7	Wk8	Wk9
71.0	72.5	74.0	75.5	77.0	78.5	80.0	81.5	83.0

Scholastic/Independent A

Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Wk7	Wk8	Wk9
71.0	72.5	74.0	75.5	77.0	78.5	80.0	81.5	83.0

National A

Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Wk7	Wk8	Wk9
71.0	72.5	74.0	75.5	77.0	78.5	80.0	81.5	83.0

Scholastic/Independent Open

Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Wk5	Wk6	Wk7	Wk8	Wk9
77.0	78.5	80	82	84	86	88	90	92

- 10.10 The Percussion and Winds Division groups who are believed to be misclassified will be individually noted by each judge at the contest that day for purposes of later discussion. This process will not be based on score, but rather the judge's impression and recommendation based on performer skill set, show design and classification criteria as a guide. Recommended groups will have their classification reviewed by the Reclassification Committee if they receive recommendations for review by 3 or 4 judges at an individual competition event. Groups that have been recommended for reclassification will be notified by 12:00pm on the Monday following the contest. The Reclassification committee must come to a majority decision by 11:59pm on the Tuesday following the judges' recommendations. The Reclassification Committee's decision will be final. The Reclassification Committee will be made up of the VP of Percussion/Winds, Education Director of Percussion/Winds, the Judge Administrator for that division, and two outside representatives from the Percussion/Winds activity (these representatives will be well known designer/directors/instructors, who have a vast knowledge of WGI/MEPA Classes).

10.10.1 Color Guard Reclassification Committee

- Heather Graham, MEPA Vice President of Color Guard
- Alex Holland, MEPA Education Director of Color Guard
- Keith Baker, MEPA Color Guard Judge Administrator

10.10.2 Percussion & Winds Reclassification Committee

- Matt Hahn, MEPA Vice President of Percussion & Winds
- Mike Maegly, MEPA Education Director of Percussion & Winds
- Michael Leitzke, MEPA Percussion Judge Administrator
- Up to two additional individuals as needed or desired.

- 10.11 All recognized WGI classes are utilized in MEPA competitions. All rules governing these classes are written in the WGI manual and are strictly adhered to by MEPA.
- 10.12 MEPA also employs an exhibition class allowing groups who do not wish to compete. These groups must designate a class and will be given judges' commentary but no scores. Exhibition groups will perform first in their respective class at regular season shows. Exhibition group's performance slot at Circuit Championships is left to the discretion of the MEPA Board of Directors.
- 10.13 MEPA also has a general class for groups who do not fit into a defined class. An application and board approval are required to perform in the general class.
- 10.14 MEPA recognizes additional classes not recognized by WGI:
- (a) **Percussion Scholastic Regional A** is one class lower than the Scholastic A class where beginner skills are employed. This class is an introductory class allowing groups to learn the basics of WGI and MEPA competition. It is expected that groups will be reclassified from this class as soon as skills beyond the beginner level are exhibited.
- (b) **Percussion Scholastic Junior** – for middle school/junior high school aged performers, up to grade 8 (unless your school has 9th graders in their MS/Jr. High). The minimum playing time is 3 minutes and the interval time is 8 minutes. Will use PSRA sheets, with the acknowledgement of the age range impacting feedback and tone of commentary.
- (c) **Color Guard Line Groups** (updated 9/15/2024) – is a MEPA specific class focused on the development of skills and techniques on flag and may include some body. It will give members a chance to develop confidence while performing in front of an audience as well as build stamina, carriage, poise and body lines while spinning equipment. This classification is a RATINGS ONLY class.
- Division I (Superior rating) 85-100
Division II (Excellent rating) 70-84.999
Division III (Good rating) 55-69.999
Division IV (Fair rating) 40-54.999
Division V (Poor rating) 0-39.999
- Ratings will be announced at awards and the directors will receive the score via CompetitionSuite. While we encourage groups to explore WGI standards, this is not a WGI class. This class allows for 4-50 members and a 5-minute interval time, with a 1.5-minute minimum performance time and a 3-minute maximum performance time. A total of 3 drill moves are allowed during the show, must include all members and may not be a progression/ripple. Movement is encouraged for the education process, but is not a requirement for this class. Immobile front and sideline markers are permitted, but no additional props/tarps allowed. Penalties will be assessed as follows:
- Use of props other than front and sideline markers will result in disqualification.
 - Any additional drill moves beyond the allowed 3 will result in a 15 point penalty and automatic review for novice class.
- Can be Elementary (grades up to 6th), Junior (grades up to 8th) or Senior (grades up to 12th). Members may perform in higher division but may not perform in a lower division (ie. 8th grader marching with a Senior line). Can be from the same school or independent.
- Additional Information for Line Groups located in APPENDIX A.
- (d) **Elementary Color Guard** – for elementary aged performers. Allowed 5-50 performers up to 6th grade, 6-minute interval, 4-minute maximum performance time, 1:30-minute minimum performance and equipment time, may be scholastic or independent.

- (e) **Junior High Color Guard** – for middle school/junior high school aged performers. Allowed 5-50 performers up to 8th grade (unless your school has 9th graders in their MS/Jr High), uses WGI's SRA timing guidelines and judging sheets, may be scholastic or independent.
- (f) **Novice Class** - (updated 10/1/2024) – is a MEPA specific class focused on the development of skills, technique and beginning design. New judges sheets were created to reflect the intent and can be found on our website. This class will also give members and directors a great place to start with a new and developing program. This class is intended to be utilized for only 2 years and then the group will need to move up to the next class, however you can still be reviewed for reclassification during the season.

A Novice group may have some of these characteristics:

- A group in the beginning stages of development.
- A group that might not have a full time choreographer, or a group that has limited funds for equipment, uniforms and staff.
- A group that might have props and or a tarp.
- A group that wants to produce a show and work on design and skills.

Guidelines

- Students must all be enrolled in the same school district.
- Number of members: 5-50

Time: Interval time of 7 minutes, minimum performance time of 3 minutes, maximum performance time of 4.5 minutes. Equipment minimum time is 3 minutes.

- (g) **Scholastic National A Class** - Traditional Scholastic A Class, but competes in WGI contests.

11.0 CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 11.1 MEPA will hold a circuit championships event as the last competitive event of the competitive season.
 - 11.1.1 If Championships is a Prelims/Finals event, once a classification reaches 6 or more groups, MEPA will use the WGI percentages for their color guard regionals to determine the number of finalists. 100% of World, 75% of Open and 50% of all other classes will make it into finals.
- 11.2 Circuit Championships will be a one or two performance event, with MEPA handling logistics.
 - 11.2.1 Any Percussion class with 16 or more registered ensembles will have required Prelims & Finals performances. Performance is required to compete at Finals. Color Guard and Winds Finals Only.
- 11.3 The Board of Directors will choose a venue or venues which are of suitable size to host the event(s).
- 11.4 Warm Up areas shall not be in the same space as the performance arena (utilize McLin Gym space instead of behind the curtain in Nutter Center) unless the venue limits facility usage.
- 11.5 MEPA will sponsor circuit championships with proceeds going to MEPA.
- 11.6 Member Groups must fulfill all financial responsibilities and performance requirements to participate in the Circuit Championships. Member Groups may appeal to the Board of Directors to be allowed to compete in cases where these responsibilities and/or requirements are not met.
- 11.7 The MEPA Director of Operations will serve as contest chair for this event. They will oversee a series of committees to handle all aspects of circuit championships with the assistance and direction of the president.
- 11.8 Each board member will be assigned tasks relating to this event. The Vice Presidents are encouraged to ask MEPA members outside of the Board of Directors to assist in the event.
- 11.9 The order of performance will be determined by random draw. For Color Guard classes with seven or more groups, the approved MEPA method of seeding will be used as directed under 11.15. For Percussion, the groups who opt out of their class's non-required Prelims contest (Rule 11.2.1) will be seeded first in their class at Finals.
- 11.10 Trophies will be awarded at Circuit Championships for First, Second, and Third place in all competitive classes. Gold Medalist groups should receive additional awards such as a banner or flag. Finalist plaques will also be awarded to groups who do not place.

- 11.11 Championship medals will be awarded to each performing member of the groups that place first, second, and third in each class at Circuit Championships. The number of performers will be taken from the timing and penalties sheet. Up to seven (7) additional medals will be awarded to these groups for directors and support staff.
- 11.12 As circuit finances allow, MEPA will award up to four scholarships based on the approved scholarship application process. A committee chaired by a board of director member will review all applications and make recommendations to the president.
- 11.13 Performers who are engaging in their last year of eligibility with their group because of age restrictions or high school graduation will have their name read during the championship finals. Directors must submit the names of these performers to the designated circuit representative by the deadline communicated.
- 11.14 For Color Guard classes with 16 or more groups competing in a class, the class will be divided into two rounds. For a two-day championship format, there would be two rounds for prelims, and one round for finals with eliminations from prelims to finals using the current elimination process. In a one-day championship format, performance order will be determined from the current seeding process. In a two-day championship format, finals order will be based upon prelim scores in reverse order with the highest scoring group performing last.
- 11.15 **Seeding will only affect those color guard classes with 7 or more groups.** To determine the performance order for MEPA Championships, we will use your last score from a MEPA event. To this score, MEPA will add 1.5 points per week until the end of the competitive calendar. Once scores are adjusted, there will be a draw in groups of four. If the class is not divisible by four, groups of three or five will be used. Groups with identical scores will use a random draw within their identical scores.
- 11.15.1 If the class has six or fewer performing groups, there will be a random draw for performance order.
- 11.16 Winds Championship performances shall occur between Percussion A and Open Class performances.

12.0 HALL OF FAME

- 12.1 Passed in 2022 this award is used to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the circuit as a group director or staff member, parent volunteer, board member, MEPA staff, judge, etc.

APPENDIX A

MEPA Flag Line Additional Information

The Flag Line Class is a MEPA specific class focused on the development of skills and techniques on flag and may include some lower body. It will give members a chance to develop confidence while performing in front of an audience as well as build stamina, carriage, poise and body lines, while spinning equipment. This classification is a RATINGS ONLY class. While we encourage groups to explore WGI standards, this is not a WGI class.

A Flag Line may have some of these characteristics:

A group in the beginning stages of development.

A group that does not have a full time choreographer, or a group that has limited funds for equipment, uniforms and staff.

A group that has limited practice time, such as once a week in a hallway or cafeteria, and seldom in a gym.

A group that wants to perform during the winter to strengthen their fall season.

A group that has only performed during the fall and would like to explore our color guard circuit.

Guidelines

Grade Classification:

Elementary – Grades K-5

Junior High – Grades 6-8*

High School – Grade 9-12*

*Members may be placed in a higher classification, but may not perform in a lower classification. (ie. – 8th Graders joining a High School Flag Line).

Number of members: 4-50

Requirements

Flag:

Technique will be the focus in this class. Routines could include skills such as drop spins, flutters, figure eights, rows, tosses (flat, pop, 45, money) as examples. A Flag Line could incorporate body moves. No equipment solos should be present, unless it is the end of a flag ripple. If you include a dance section with no equipment, it will not be judged.

Body Movement:

Movement with your flag is encouraged and could include movements such as plie, tendu, chasse, coupe, arabesque, passe, releve and must be performed by the entire group.

Drill:

You can only complete 3 drill moves during your show. All drill movements should include all members and may not be a progression/ripple. Movement is encouraged for the education process, but is not a requirement for this class.

Props:

Immobile front and sideline markers are permitted, but no additional props/tarps allowed.

Time:

Interval time of 5 minutes, minimum performance time of 1.5 minutes, maximum performance time of 3 minutes.

Penalties:

Use of props other than front and sideline markers will result in disqualification.

Any additional drill moves beyond the allowed 3 will result in a 15 point penalty and automatic review for novice class.