

M A C

Musical Arts Conference

2008 Winter Guard Manual

www.musicalartsconference.org

CHANGES FOR 2008 Winter Season

Addition of the National Scholastic A Class

MAC has added a class called Scholastic National A (SNA). This class will use WGI sheets for Scholastic A and will contain units who compete in more than one WGI event in the Scholastic A class. Units in this class can only be moved up if moved by WGI.

Please note the dates required for payment of dues to be included in the draw listed below and the change in point allocation for the championship seeding.

Mission Statement

It shall be the philosophy of Musical Arts Conference to encourage and provide a positive and educational experience to all participants. The conference will address these needs through the procedures it implements regarding competition.

The Musical Arts Conference (M.A.C) is a coalition of Music Educators that have formed a non-profit organization, in order to create a professional and educational outlet for high school ensembles to compete in. All rules, regulations and by-laws are created and maintained by the certified educators, which make up this unique organization. All M.A.C members will be eligible to participate in marching band, winter guard, winter percussion, jazz ensemble, and concert band competitions. It is our goal to give every high school performer the opportunity to perform in a professional atmosphere, and be evaluated by the most qualified adjudicators available.

Membership and Dues

1. All secondary schools and independent units are eligible for participation in any MAC sponsored winter guard activity.
2. The winter sign up sheet will be considered an application for membership. The unit director and principal's signature need to be on the form if applicable.
3. Dues are to be paid by the third show, including evaluation shows.
4. Independent units are required to perform in one sanctioned show before they qualify for championships.
5. MAC show hosts are required to participate in five events throughout the season.
6. Scholastic units, who are not hosts, are required to participate in three events to qualify for championships.
7. Only members in good standing have a vote in general meetings.

Member Participation Requirements

1. If a unit has secondary school members, that secondary school must be comprised of members who are full time students and enrolled within the school they represent.
2. The maximum participation age for independent units is twenty-two as of the date of winter championships.
3. No performer will be allowed to participate in more than one color guard. The maximum number of performers will not be more than thirty. Units will be required to provide a roster at the beginning of each color guard season.
4. The minimum number of performers will not be less than five.
5. Only eligible performers who meet the age requirements will be allowed within the performance area during the performance.

Unit Director

1. Unit directors will be held responsible for any and all actions made by any members of their unit. This responsibility is extended to the staff, floor crew, and performers and parent groups.
2. Unit directors will maintain safety for their performers as well as any and all students within the MAC organization.
3. There is to be no contact between any director, or their delegated staff and the adjudication panel before any winter guard critique.
4. All units must complete the tape review sheet before entering critique.
5. For independent units, a unit director is viewed as the person making decisions on behalf of the unit on a day to day basis. This person is to be listed on the registration form.
6. For scholastic units, a unit director is the band director of that school district and the recognized educator by that district board of education. MAC does recognize not all band directors attend each activity with their units and often times a head staff person will be appointed a color guard director. It is important to recognize that only the band director has the ultimate decision power for a scholastic unit.

Show Sponsorship

In order to host a MAC sanctioned show, the applicant must:

1. Be a member in good standing for at least one winter season prior to the date requested, for independent units.
2. Of participated in fall season championships of the season prior to the date requested, for scholastic units.
3. The MAC executive board may honor special show requests in a rare occurrence if the show enhances the general membership experience.
4. Be willing to meet the minimum insurance requirements.
5. Fill out a registration form listed on the website, which includes your principal's signature if applicable.
6. All MAC contest sponsors will present tangible, high quality and lasting awards for all of the performing organizations in each class.
7. All MAC sponsors will provide an adequate facility. Please see the Host Guidebook for reference.

8. All MAC sponsors are required to provide floor plans to be placed on the website one week prior to their event.
9. All MAC sponsors are required to have a high quality D.J. like sound system with speakers placed at the rear of the performance area. The system must be able to accept Cassette Tape, CD or MP3 players.
10. All MAC sponsors will make the sound table available 30 minutes before the show and during intermission for sound checks. No dance music will be played during intermission.
11. The competition floor is to be used for performance only. The floor should remain clear during non-performing times.

Judge Coordinator

1. The coordinator is responsible for setting up the judge's panel for every show.
2. The coordinator is responsible for overseeing critique.
3. The coordinator is responsible to attend at least sixty percent of the color guard shows.
4. The coordinator will ensure the ethical adjudication of all units.
5. The coordinator will view as many units as possible during the show.
6. The coordinator will meet with staff's of units on 'Review Status.'
7. The coordinator will review any tapes presented by the unit director for inappropriate language, and review tapes that are not deemed constructive.
8. The coordinator will respond to the complaint made by the units within four business days.
9. The coordinator will be responsible for informing units when they are being promoted, as well as discuss the rationale behind promotion.
10. The coordinator will insure adjudicators are not participating in any inappropriate actions at the show.
11. The coordinator will insure all units use properly covered equipment for the safety of the performer and the condition of the facility.
12. The coordinator will assess penalties for any rule violations at their discretion.
13. The coordinator will assess penalties for any violations of the T&P sheet.

Judge Conduct

1. No judge may perform in a MAC unit
2. No judge may work as a consultant for a MAC unit
3. No judge may be dressed in any competing units logo
4. No judge may be involved in any personal relationship (family member, husband, wife, child or significant other) with a unit in the contest he/she is adjudicating.
5. No judge may show interest or preference toward any unit based on previous affiliation of any kind.

Winter Guard Coordinator

1. The coordinator will over see each winter contest.
2. Inspect the facility before the show to insure a smooth event.
3. Insure all tabulations have been completed correctly.
4. Will work with the promotion committee when a unit is up for review status.

Executive Coordinator

1. Will oversee the activities and responsibilities of the judge coordinator and the winter guard coordinator.
2. Will be responsible for promoting the circuit.
3. Will answer to the executive board of MAC, and all directors, as to the condition of the winter guard season in every aspect.
4. Will post the schedule for each show on the Monday before the event it scheduled to take place.
5. Will ensure a quality venue and positive experience for every unit including fair and equitable practice time and location.

Classes of Competition

MAC believes in following the national standard set by WGI and will mirror their classes of competition for those units who compete nationally. MAC is also a local organization and we have made accommodations to those units not wishing to compete in WGI.

If you are performing in more than one WGI event during the season it is required that your class in MAC be the same as WGI.

<u>Scholastic</u>		<u>Independent</u>
World *		World *
Open *		Open *
Scholastic A / NSA*		Independent A *
AA		AA
AAA		AAA
Middle School		Junior
Junior		

* - Per WGI Guidelines and Criteria

Definition of Classes

Junior (JR)

100% of the membership should be under middle school age.

Middle School (MS)

100% of the membership should be in middle school.

AAA

Minimum 50% to 99.9% of the membership should be in middle school.

AA

100% of the membership should be of high school age.

Scholastic A

Refer to WGI Criteria as defined in the 2008 Rules Manual.

Scholastic NATIONAL A

Refer to WGI Criteria as defined for SA in 2008 Rules Manual.

Open

Refer to WGI Criteria as defined in the 2008 Rules Manual.

World

Refer to WGI Criteria as defined in the 2008 Rules Manual.

General Rules and Statements

1. A unit will be classified after the second evaluation show based on the rosters submitted. Units are asked to attend one or both of the evaluation shows. Rosters must be submitted by January 15th.
2. Any MAC host must attend one or both of the evaluation shows in the beginning of the season.
3. A color guard wishing to compete in championships must be in competition by the fifth week of the season.
4. MAC championships will be held one week prior to WGI World Championships
5. Promotion from class to class will be decided by the 'bump up' scale as defined in this document. The bump up scores will be used as a means to review guards and, where possible, promote guards to the next class. To remain true to WGI, bump up's will only be used for the local classes.
6. It is vital that each unit director has their unit placed in the proper class. Misclassification will have dramatic effects on scoring and placement. MAC will do it's best to make sure this does not happen and will take steps through bump-ups to guarantee it.
7. Units may promote themselves if they so desire.
8. Once a unit has been promoted to the next class, they will be refused the right to move back a class.
9. No unit may be promoted after the ninth (Norwalk) week of competition.
10. Units will be promoted based solely on the score they have achieved in any contest.

Promotion

MAC will not promote any color guards (whether Independent or Scholastic) from A class to Open class, or Open class to World class. By definition, guards who compete in these particular classes are nationally competitive units. We will defer the classification of these units to Winter Guard International. Any promotions awarded by WGI at its various regional contests, will be automatically recognized within our circuit and the guard will be expected to compete in their new class at their next MAC appearance. WGI has placed no deadline for promotions from A to Open and Open to World for the 2008 season. If WGI changes a guard's classification in A, Open, or World at any time during the season, MAC will immediately recognize that change as well. Promotion will only occur from AAA to AA and from AA to Scholastic A. A guard may choose to move from SA to SNA at any time during the promotion period.

The various promotion numbers follow. Please note, just as the WGI Board of Directors have placed their trust in the curriculum and criteria of the tiered system when establishing various block and review numbers nationwide, our circuit does the same in the matters of classifying our guards in Class AA and AAA. The judge will never artificially generate a number for the purpose of classifying guards in certain classes. The criteria and its proper application should do so automatically.

Bump Up Scale for AA and AAA

Week	From AAA to AA	From AA to Scholastic A
1-Cheshire	52	64
2	54	66
3	56	66
4	58	68
5	60	70
6	62	72
7	64	74
8	66	76
9 - Norwalk	68	78

Critique

1. The judge coordinator will oversee critique.
2. The order of critique will be based on which out of state units have the furthest travel time. The furthest away, out of state, go first and then show order.
3. Absolutely no staff will be allowed into the critique until the judge coordinator calls them.
4. Staff will be allotted five minutes with the IA judges (equipment and movement) and another five minutes with the effect judges (general effect and ensemble).
5. Judges reserve the right not to participate in critique with any staff member who is acting in an unprofessional manner.
6. Staff will be prepared for critique including listening to all tapes. Preparing critique worksheet as requested by the judge coordinator.

Task Force

A task force will be created at the conclusion of each winter season and will consist of one representative from each class champion plus two other representatives chosen by the executive coordinator. The purpose of this group will be to improve the overall experience of the membership and make recommendations on how to improve MAC.

Order of Appearance

1. All entries must be received at the MAC PO the Saturday January 2nd to be considered in the initial draw for the season. Entries received after January 2nd will be placed on first in their class excluding championships.
2. All schedules will be placed on the website for directors.
3. The unit hosting the show can either go on last in exhibition or compete within their class and perform within the class time parameters.
4. The order of appearance for every MAC guard show except championships will be done by a random draw.
5. Only units that have appeared at a minimum of one show if independent and three shows if scholastic may compete in championships.
6. The host of championships will not be allowed to compete last in their class unless their score averages out that way.
7. The Championship Matrix will be used for determining the order of appearance for championships. The average of the three highest scores from the season will be added to the performance point total to come up with the ranking for performance order. The performance point scale is listed in this document. Defending champions have the choice of performing last in their class.

Performance Point Table

<i>Date</i>	<i>Week in Season</i>	<i>Performance Point Value</i>
January 5	14	13.00
January 12	12	11.00
January 19	10	9.00
January 26	8	8.00
February 2	7	7.00
February 9	6	6.50
February 16	6	5.00
March 1	5	4.50
March 8	4	3.00
March 15	3	2.50
March 29	1	1.50

This system was developed to encourage units to regularly attend shows and get the full educational value from their experience with MAC. Point values are highest on show dates that run opposite of WGI to encourage attendance and a heavier weight is placed on the first two events of the season.

Highest Three Scores Averaged + Performance Point Total = Raw Score
Highest raw score performs last in their class unless defending champion.

Evaluation Shows

Evaluation shows will be the first two dates of the season. Units attending championships are asked to attend at least one of the shows. MAC show hosts are required to attend at least one show. These shows will give the judging community a chance to view your show without the definition of a class as well as serve as a pressure free performance for the units. A regular critique will follow each of these shows. Scores will be given but not announced or recorded anywhere. These shows will give the unit a chance to properly classify themselves.

Authorized Timing

Each unit will be allowed a minimum and maximum performance times as defined below:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Maximum or Minimum</u>	<u>Time</u>
All Local Classes	Minimum	3 1/2 Minutes
	Maximum	5 1/2 Minutes
	Interval	8 Minutes
A Class	Minimum	4 Minutes
	Maximum	5 1/2 Minutes
	Interval	8 Minutes
Open	Minimum	4 Minutes
	Maximum	6 1/2 Minutes
	Interval	9 Minutes
World	Minimum	4 Minutes
	Maximum	7 1/2 Minutes
	Interval	10 Minutes

Staff Passes

1. Each unit will be provided thirteen passes for admittance to shows.
2. Units found duplicating passes will be subject to penalties.
3. Passes will be provided to the unit's director prior to their first performance.