



## **WGI WINDS CONTEST RULES 2015**

**WGI discourages independent ensembles from utilizing membership composed of any high school students who were previously enrolled in an active high school program and have not yet graduated.**

**WGI also discourages independent ensembles from utilizing membership who have outstanding monies owed to a previous ensemble.**

**All performers at a WGI event will be required to wear protective footwear while outside the performance area.**

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### **ELIGIBILITY**

- 1.1 Marching wind ensembles in the Independent Class may compete with performers of any age.
- 1.2 All performers of any marching wind ensemble competing in the Scholastic Class must be approved for participation by the principal of the sponsoring school. Each scholastic marching wind ensemble shall submit a WGI Scholastic Eligibility Certification Form signed by the authorizing school principal or administrator listing all approved participants of that school's marching wind ensemble. The WGI Scholastic Eligibility Certification Form must be filed with the WGI office by each scholastic marching wind ensemble.
  - 1.2.1 Marching wind ensembles may combine students from multiple schools within their district provided the marching wind ensemble competes under the name of a single school or the school district name. Marching wind ensembles may not combine names or use any other fictional name.
  - 1.2.2 The WGI Scholastic Eligibility Certification form must be signed by each principal of the schools involved.
  - 1.2.3 A letter from the District Superintendent that allows combining students from multiple schools within the district must be provided to the satisfaction of WGI.
- 1.3 Marching wind ensembles must have a minimum of ten (10) members on the floor of competition at any time including the student conductor (optional).
- 1.4 Marching wind ensembles may use one optional student conductor positioned in the competition area.

***PENALTY: Disqualification – any marching wind ensemble violating any requirements in the ELIGIBILITY section shall be disqualified from that contest and must forfeit any scores, placements or awards***

## COMPETITION AREA

- 2.1 For the purpose of interpretation, the “competition area” shall measure a minimum of sixty feet by ninety feet (60’ x 90’) and does not include entry ramps, hallways, bleachers or seating area. Marching wind ensembles are permitted to utilize the entire designated competition area for their performance. All performers must be in the designated competition area when performance time begins. Depending on the performance venue, WGI will authorize additional competition area space whenever possible and include that information in the diagram (footprint) to be made available to all competing marching wind ensembles to identify the competition area. While the competition area will be increased whenever possible, all marching wind ensembles must be prepared to perform within a minimum sixty foot by ninety foot (60’ x 90’) competition area.
- 2.2 All WGI contest sites must have a minimum of seventy feet by one hundred feet (70’ x 100’) to accommodate a “safety zone” of five (5) feet from any spectator seating. If no spectators are seated on the sides, then the safety zone may be measured from the left and right walls of the competition area. This will ensure the minimum sixty-foot by ninety-foot (60’ x 90’) competition area within the minimum seventy feet by one hundred feet (70’ x 100’) of the contest site.
- 2.3 Once performance timing begins, no performer may enter the safety zone. All equipment and props (including all sound equipment) must be grounded within the competition area except during setup and teardown. No props or equipment may be staged within the safety zone and no choreography outside the competition area, including the safety zone, is allowed.
- 2.4 The front boundary line shall be considered to extend the full width of the competition area and shall be clearly marked at a minimum of five (5’) feet from the first row of spectator seating.  
***PENALTY: One-tenth of a point (0.1) penalty shall be assessed for each member for each boundary violation of the competition area***
- 2.5 The center of the front boundary line shall be marked by a six (6”) inch taped line at the front and back of the competition area. The outer edges of the competition area shall also be marked by six (6”) inch-taped lines at the corners to designate the safety zone.
- 2.6 All floor coverings (tarps) must fit in the designated competition area at each particular contest site and cannot enter the safety zone.
- 2.7 110-volt grounded power sources shall be available at the front and back of the centerline of the competition area. Marching wind ensembles must provide their own extension cords. Power specifications will be available on the competition area footprint for each event.
- 2.8 Power sources must be dedicated for marching wind ensembles’ use only and have no other electrical devices using these designated power sources.

## SCORING

- 3.1 The elements in Winds to be judged are:
  - 3.1.1 Music Analysis = Thirty percent (30%), one judge  
*Composition = Fifteen percent (15%)*  
*Achievement = Fifteen percent (15%)*
  - 3.1.2 Visual Analysis = Thirty percent (30%), one judge  
*Composition = Fifteen percent (15%)*  
*Achievement = Fifteen percent (15%)*

- 3.1.3 Overall Effect = Forty percent (40%), one judge  
*Repertoire Effectiveness = Twenty percent (20%)*  
*Communication Effectiveness = Twenty percent (20%)*
- 3.1.4 Timing and Penalties = Penalties assessed per rules
- 3.2 The Music Analysis judge will be positioned lower in the stands and may be moved by the Chief Judge in order to better appraise the individuals within the ensemble. The Overall Effect and Visual Analysis judges will be positioned higher in the audience viewing area. The Timing and Penalty judge will be positioned in the competition area.

## **EQUIPMENT & INSTRUMENTATION**

- 4.1 For the protection of wooden competition floors, all equipment must be properly taped or otherwise be prepared to assure that damage to the floors will not occur. Inspection will occur at all contests. Any damage to the floor that may occur (dragging timpani, wheels on carts locking, etc.), will be the responsibility of the ensembles and is subject to penalty.  
***PENALTY: One-tenth of a point (0.1) penalty to Disqualification at the discretion of the Timing and Penalty judge.***
- 4.2 Definitions of authorized equipment:
  - 4.2.1 Instruments typically utilized and recognized as part of a band or orchestra, including electronic instruments, are allowed.
  - 4.2.2 Marching wind ensembles may manipulate their soundboard by using a remote-controlled wireless device through a self-supplied wireless network. WGI will provide an area in or near the upstairs judging area for one designated staff member to adjust the mix using wireless technology. The soundboard must remain in the competition area. A performer in the competition area must control all lighting.
  - 4.2.3 Marching wind ensembles may use any electrical device within their program deemed safe by the Contest Administrator. The Contest Administrator has the ultimate decision regarding safety of any device in consultation with the Director of Winds and/or Executive Director. Ensembles should consult with the Director of Winds prior to using any equipment not specifically defined in these rules. Ensemble will assume any liability for issues arising out of the use of said electrical devices.
  - 4.2.4 Battery operated devices using common off-the-shelf flashlight batteries (AA, AAA, AAAA, C, D, N, 9V and button cells) are allowed. Devices using dry-cell secondary "rechargeable batteries", including cell phones, cameras, MP3 players and computers are also allowed. Car and/or truck batteries are not permitted.
- 4.3 Definitions of prohibited equipment:
  - 4.3.1 No pyrotechnics, discharge of arms, pressurized canisters, dangerous materials, flammable liquids or gas will be permitted in or around the competition area. Smoke machines and/or compressed air apparatuses will not be permitted.
  - 4.3.2 Gasoline, electric or manual powered generators will not be allowed.
  - 4.3.3 Use of lasers and flashcubes (electrical and chemical) will not be permitted.
  - 4.3.4 Use of live animals is not permitted.
  - 4.3.5 Use of powder, dirt or any other substance that lingers in the competition area past the interval time of the marching wind ensemble shall be strictly prohibited.

4.3.6 Use of helium, including helium-filled balloons, shall be strictly prohibited.

4.3.7 No motorized vehicles will be allowed except for motorized wheelchairs used by disabled performers.

***PENALTY: Ten point (10.0) penalty to Disqualification for use of any prohibited equipment***

## **TIMING**

5.1 Marching wind ensembles will be scheduled at ten (10) minute intervals and must perform a minimum of four (4) minutes with a maximum of seven (7) minutes.

5.2 Interval time will include entrance, setup, performance, exit and removal of all performers, props, floors and equipment. Interval time will end by clearing the vertical or horizontal centerline at the conclusion of performance.

5.3 Each marching wind ensemble, with all competing performers, shall remain in the competition area and be judged in all captions for a minimum of four (4) minutes.

5.4 The end of the maximum performance time is at the obvious conclusion of the show. All captions will be judged until the obvious conclusion of the show.

5.5 Marching wind ensembles cannot be required to perform before the time set in the most recent contest schedule.

***PENALTY: Five-hundredths of a point (.05) penalty per second for any timing violation***

5.6 Any marching wind ensemble unable to make their scheduled performance time will be rescheduled to perform during the next most logical performance slot in their class. Schedule adjustments will be made at the discretion of the Contest Administrator.

***PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty for each class interval time of delay.***

## **ENTRY**

6.1 All performers must enter the competition area through the designated entry door, tunnel or ramp. Prior to the actual start of the performance time, marching wind ensemble may utilize the competition area for setup and pre-show preparations.

***PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty per performer for failing to use designated entry door, tunnel or ramp***

6.2 All props must be able to fit through designated entry door, tunnel or ramp. No timing exceptions will be made for oversized props. Props will not be allowed in the competition area before the ensemble's performance time.

6.3 Any marching wind ensemble creating a delay in the schedule will be subject to penalty.

***PENALTY: Five-hundredths of a point (0.05) penalty per second of delay up to 10 points.***

6.4 The marching wind ensemble will line up at a ready line to be designated by the Contest Administrator to enter the competition area.

6.5 Authorized equipment and/or props may be placed anywhere in the competition area by marching wind ensemble performers or anyone prior to the start of the performance. Any non-performers involved in set up must exit the competition area prior to the start of performance time.

***PENALTY: One tenth of a point (0.1) penalty for each non-performer failing to exit competition area prior to performance time***

- 6.6 Marching wind ensembles may include a playing entrance as part of the performance following introduction.
- 6.7 Timing for the “maximum performance time” will begin with the first step of body movement, first move of equipment, or the first note of music whichever comes first after the announcement ends. Judging will also begin at this time.
- 6.8 Once the performance begins, performers must remain in the designated competition area for the entire performance.

***PENALTY: Five tenths of a point (0.5) penalty for each performer failing to remain in competition area for the entire performance***

- 6.9 The front boundary line is inviolate at all times except for performers involved in entrance set up or tear down at the end of the performance. Boundary line violations (including first aid cases) do not constitute permanently leaving the floor. No penalties shall be assessed for broken sticks, mallets, or hardware falling over the front boundary accidentally.

***PENALTY: One-tenth of a point (0.1) penalty for each member per front boundary violation***

- 6.10 Floor coverings (tarps) may not cover the front boundary line at any time.

***PENALTY: Two point (2.0) penalty***

## **EXIT**

- 7.1 Exit may be over any line at the conclusion of the performance.
- 7.2 All performers must exit the competition area through the designated exit door, tunnel or ramp.
- PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty per performer for failing to use designated exit door, tunnel or ramp***
- 7.3 All personnel, equipment and/or props must clear the vertical or horizontal centerline at the conclusion of interval time. The timing line shall be for visual use by the Timing and Penalties judge and not designated by tape.
- 7.4 For purposes of timing, equipment and props are considered removed when they cross the vertical or horizontal centerline. After crossing the timing line, all equipment and/or props must continue to make forward progress out of the competition area in a timely manner or receive a penalty at the discretion of the Timing and Penalty judge.
- PENALTY: Half of one tenth of a point (.05) penalty per second***
- 7.5 There will be no flying of tarps (also know as “ballooning”) to clear floor at the conclusion of an ensemble’s performance.

***PENALTY: Disqualification***

## **PENALTIES**

- 8.1 Timing and Penalty judges will assess all penalties for infractions that take place in the competition area. Contest Administrators may not waive competition area penalties. An

ensemble has a right to challenge any penalty in consultation with the Chief Judge but any final decision regarding penalties will remain with the Timing and Penalty Judge.

- 8.2 Any marching wind ensemble violating any rule or part of a rule, breaching standard contest etiquette, or failing to comply with directions from contest personnel for which no specific penalty is provided, shall be penalized for each such violation, not less than 0.1 point up to disqualification at the discretion of the Chief Judge, Contest Administrator, Director of Winds or Executive Director.
- 8.3 All timing penalties shall be .05 points per second. All boundary penalties shall be 0.1 points per offense.
- 8.4 During a performance, adult or non-performing student personnel may not coach, cue, etc., any performers or control any wireless lighting events outside the competition area.

***PENALTY: One tenth of a point (0.1) to disqualification at the discretion of the Timing and Penalties judge.***

## **Announcement Procedure**

- Prior to the ensemble entering the floor to setup, the Timing and Penalty judge will announce the start of the interval time. During this time, music will be played through the PA system.
- As the ensemble is setting up, the Timing and Penalty judge will periodically announce the setup time to the director. The Timing and Penalty judge will also monitor the judges to be sure they are ready for the start of the performance. During this time, music will be played through the PA system.
- If at any time the judges are not ready, the interval time will be suspended and the Timing and Penalty judge will notify the ensemble of the suspension of the interval time.
- If the ensemble has any pre-show music, the house music will be faded out at the start of the pre-show music.
- When the ensemble is ready, the director will notify the Timing and Penalty judge and he/she will cue the announcer. The music will be faded out and the announcer will say: *"Please welcome from (city and state/country), (name of ensemble). (Pause) Performing their program (program title), WGI Sport of the Arts is proud to present (name of ensemble)."*
- At the conclusion of the performance, the announcer will say, *"(Name of ensemble) from (city and state/country), under the direction of (director's name)."* Music will fade in as the ensemble leaves the floor. WGI announcer will make no other announcements.
- Ensembles must plan on this announcement as part of their interval time.