

WGI WINDS CONTEST RULES

2015

WGI discourages independent groups 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 groups from utilizing membership who have outstanding monies owed to a previous group.

WGI strongly recommends that performing groups and their directors/staff use the utmost caution and forethought in planning and use of props that might place participants (and others) in potential danger during assembly or use.

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

ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 Marching winds groups in the Independent Class may compete with performers of any age.
- 1.2 All performers of any marching winds group competing in the Scholastic Class must be approved for participation by the principal of the sponsoring school. Each scholastic marching winds group shall submit a WGI Scholastic Eligibility Certification Form provided by WGI and signed by the authorizing school principal or administrator listing all approved participants of that school's marching winds group to the WGI office.
 - 1.2.1 Marching winds groups may combine students from multiple schools within their district provided the marching winds group competes under the name of a single school or the school district name. Marching winds groups may not combine names or use any other fictional name. Combined scholastic winds groups may only use students that are in their district and/or home-schooled students that would be zoned for those schools.
 - 1.2.2 The Scholastic Eligibility Certification form provided by WGI must be signed by each principal of the schools involved and filed with the WGI office.
 - 1.2.3 A letter on district letterhead from the district superintendent that allows combining students from multiple schools within the district must be filed with the WGI office. Content of letter will be provided by WGI.
- 1.3 Marching wind groups 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 groups may use one optional student conductor positioned in the competition area.
- 1.5 No marching winds group may use music on the "Restricted Music" list as published on the WGI website. Directors are responsible to verify music eligibility.

PENALTY: Disqualification – any marching winds group 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 winds groups 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 winds groups to identify the competition area. While the competition area will be increased whenever possible, all marching winds groups 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 groups 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 groups’ 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 group. 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 marching winds group 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 winds groups 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 winds groups 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. Groups should consult with the Director of Winds prior to using any equipment not specifically defined in these rules. Group 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 group 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

4.4 Props built and/or used, including drum major podiums, that measure over six feet (6') high and are used in such a way that result in a participant whose feet are more than six feet (6') above the competition area must have appropriate safety railings in place. Participants are prohibited from jumping or leaping off any prop that exceeds six feet (6') in height unless protective padding is in place or other adequate safety precautions are taken.

PENALTY: At the discretion of the Contest Administrator, including (but not limited to) prohibition of the use of the overheight/unsafe prop(s) or Disqualification.

TIMING

5.1 Marching winds groups will be timed to compete at intervals according to class.

Class	Interval Time	Minimum Performance Time	Maximum Performance Time
World Class	11 minutes	4 minutes	8 minutes
Open Class	10 minutes	4 minutes	7 minutes
A Class	9 minutes	4 minutes	6 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 group, 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 winds groups 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 winds group 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 winds group 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 group's performance time.

6.3 Any marching wind group 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 winds group 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 winds 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 winds groups 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 a group’s performance.

PENALTY: Disqualification

PENALTIES

- 8.1 Timing and Penalty judge(s) will assess all penalties for infractions that take place in the competition area. Contest Administrators may not waive competition area penalties. An group 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 winds group 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.

- 8.5 All programs, soundtracks, thematic and costuming choices must reflect the qualities that would be acceptable for performance at a scholastic venue or suitable for marketing to sponsors on a national level.

PENALTY: Denial of performance or possible disqualification as determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the Director of Winds.