



MISSION STATEMENT

TriState Marching Arts is an organization that serves to educate and support indoor performing units. Member units of the circuit are from scholastic and independent groups in the Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia region. The organization is dedicated to providing performance opportunities to all interested units.

WE SEEK:

To foster positive experiences for all who participate, by promoting education, creativity and freedom of expression through the unification of pageantry and the performing arts.

1- Organizational Structure and Administrative Duties

The administration of the Circuit shall be vested in a Board of Directors and the Executive Director, appointed by the Board of Directors.

1-1 Board of Directors:

1-1.1 The Board of Directors will be composed of a five-member Executive Board and an elevenmember Board of Representatives.

The Executive Board will consist of –
Executive Director
President
Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary

The Board of Representatives will consist of – Scholastic
Representatives (2)
Independent Representatives (2)
Percussion Representatives (2)
At-large Representatives (4)
Education Director

1-1.2 The Executive Board shall be elected from the current season board members prior to the general spring meeting.

1-1.3 A board member can be elected to the Executive Board without being present at the meeting as long as they accept the nomination.

1-1.4 The full membership will elect the Board of Representatives at the annual spring meeting.

1-1.5 For any member to run for the Board of Representatives, copies of a resume stating experience and intent or an in-person presentation must be available to the full membership at the annual meeting.



1-2 Advisory Board:

- 1-2.1 The Advisory Board to the TriState Marching Arts will be comprised of the Board of Directors and all class medalists at Circuit Championships from the previous year.
- 1-2.2 The advisory board would meet prior to the spring general membership meeting to discuss the past season in order to communicate with their representatives. This would help streamline related proposals for the general meeting as well as allowing TMA Guard, Percussion & Winds Representatives an opportunity to speak firsthand with the top directors in the circuit.

1-3 Duties of the Board of Directors

- 1-3.1 Executive Director- the Executive Director will plan, direct and review the total activities and operations of the TriState Marching Arts. With approval of the Board of Directors, the Executive Director may appoint staff to assist in any areas of support.
- 1-3.2 President- the President will preside at all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors. The President will call the regular meetings and special meetings of the organization. The President may hold the office of a separate administrative position.
- 1-3.3 Vice President- the Vice President will perform all duties of the President in case of absence or disability of the President. The Vice President may hold the office of a separate administrative position.
- 1-3.4 Secretary- the Secretary will keep minutes of all meetings of the general membership and the meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary may hold the office of a separate administrative position.
- 1-3.5 Treasurer- the Treasurer will assume responsibility for all funds and financial records of the organization. The Treasurer will issue financial reports at the meetings of the general membership and of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer may hold the office of a separate administrative position.
- 1-3.6 The Scholastic, Independent and Percussion Representatives will be affiliated with a unit in their classification. These representatives will assist the Executive Director in making sure all units in their classification are compliant with all entry and championship eligibility policies.
- 1-3.7 The At-Large Representatives are not required to be affiliated with a specific unit. These representatives may be individuals who have a background in the pageantry arts, but they are not currently working with one specific unit.
- 1-3.8 Education Director- The Education Director will be responsible for organizing and planning all educational activities and materials for the circuit. The Education Director will work closely with the Education Director of the Judges Association to plan activities for circumstances where color guards and adjudicators may interact.
- 1-3.9 Task Force Committee-The Task Force Committee will consist of two members of the Board of Directors. The Task Force will reside in all judges' reviews to represent the membership to ensure a fair and reasonable result. The Task Force will carry out any other related duties deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.



2 Board Meetings and Policy Appeals Process

2-1 A general membership meeting will be held once a year on the last Sunday in April.

This will be the forum for:

- Election of the Board of Representatives
- Amendments to the Bylaws
- Reports from the Board
- Proposals for show sponsorship
- Other new business

2-2 The Board of Directors will meet prior to or following the general membership meeting.

This will be the forum for:

- Election of the Executive Board of Directors
- New projects
- Budget for the following year
- Reports from the WGI Board Meeting Contest
- Calendar
- Contract with the judges' association
- New business
- Goals and objectives

2-3 In the fall of each year, prior to November 30, the Board of Directors will meet.

This will be the forum for:

- Confirmation of the contest calendar
- Reports
- New business

2-4 Voting Privileges

2-4.1 Each member unit in good standing by the time of the meeting shall have one vote.

2-4.2 A delegate may represent only one unit. Therefore, units may assign a voting delegate when they have multiple units. Multiple units must consist of different performing members.

2-4.3 All members of the Board of Directors have one vote whether they are connected with a unit or not.

2-4.4 The President will only vote in event of a tie.



2-5 Circuit Policy Appeals Process

- 2-5.1 In the event a unit director / representative wishes to file an appeal of circuit policy, they must formally write the President of the circuit. Forms may be available for some routine appeals, but a letter indicating the policy and reason for appeal may also be sufficient.
- 2-5.2 Appeals must indicate the extenuating circumstances prohibiting policy compliance so a situation can be properly assessed and a sound decision can be made that benefit all the stakeholders of the organization. The circuit wishes to be fair in all policing and processing of policy.

3 Unit Fees, Deadlines, and Eligibility

3-1 Fees

Early Registration	For All Classes
Base Membership without Championships	\$600
Base Membership with Championships	\$800
Late Registration (After December 31st)	For All Classes
Base Membership without Championships	\$700
Base Membership with Championships	\$900
Guest Unit (Regular Season Contest)	\$100
Exhibition Unit (Championships)	\$200 (limited availability)
ALL Entry Fees are non-refundable	

3-2 Fines

- 3-2.1 Late fees for membership start with payments made on or after January 1st.
- 3-2.2 All fines fees or bills of any kind due to the TMA must be paid in advance of participation in the TMA Championship competition.
- 3-2.3 Fines can only be waived by a vote of the TMA Executive Board.

3-3 Surety Bond

- 3-3.1 All member units must have a surety bond (\$50) on deposit in order to compete
- 3-3.2 Any member unit that withdraws from a contest within 14 days will forfeit their surety bond to TMA.
- 3-3.3 Units that fail to appear at contest for which they are scheduled will be required to forfeit the \$50 Surety Bond.



A new Surety Bond must be posted prior to their next competition.

If a unit chooses to not pay the Bond after missing a scheduled competition it will be placed on probation until the matter is resolved.

Missed contests due to severe weather and/or the decision by the School Corporation to not allow the unit to compete are exempt from this procedure. Verification must be presented to the TMA Executive Board by the building principal.

3-3.4 Surety Bonds for active member units are carried over from year to year. Surety bonds are refundable if a unit is not competing for one year. The unit must make a written request prior to the next competing season. If the surety bond isn't requested the unit will forfeit the bond to TMA.

3-4 Number of Performers

No guard may compete with less than five (5) or more than 30 members on the floor of competition at one time, except for World Guards.

World guards may compete with a maximum of 40 members.

Percussion lines must have at least six competing members

Marching Wind ensembles must have a minimum of ten members on the floor at any time including the student conductor.

3-5 Age of Performers

Color Guards, Wind units & Percussion lines must be composed of members not more than 22 years of age as of the date of the Winter Guard International Championships.

Independent Open Guard may be composed of members not more than 23 years of age. Each unit appearing at any TMA Contest must be prepared to prove all members' ages. (Birth certificates need to be shown if requested).

Independent World guards have no age restrictions.

3-6 Other Unit Qualifications

All WGI recognized classes must follow the WGI single and combined schools policy. Be prepared to show proof of enrollment, if requested.

Non-WGI classes including junior and festival classes do not need to follow this policy and may combine multiple middle school and elementary schools from the same school district.



Independent color guards may only use members of a high school if no current color guard at that high school exists or with written permission from the Director of the program.

No member can compete in more than one color guard at the same contest.

4 Classification of Units

All units must declare their classification on or before the date specified by TMA in mailings and web site announcements. Members are responsible for staying informed of deadlines and important circuit dates.

A unit must declare their classification at the beginning of the season with the option of switching classification once until February 15. After February 15, units wishing to move can only go up a class with the approval Review Board committee.

4-1 Guard Unit Classifications

SCHOLASTIC CLASSES

4-1.1 Junior Class (JC)

A Junior class will exist ONLY for Middle School programs.

Members must be in the 8th grade and below. Members are enrolled in the same Middle School or an elementary school that feeds directly into the middle school.

The emphasis of this class is introductory skills with a focus on training.

Evaluation will be on WGI Regional A sheet with Regional A timing guidelines.

4-1.2 Scholastic Regional A-2 (SRA-2)

This class is for the very inexperienced performers who are just entering the performance arena for the first time.

Show concept, equipment and movement skill are at an introductory level.

Emphasis is on training. The intent of this class is a starting point for a unit.

Evaluation will be on WGI Regional A sheet with Regional A timing guidelines.

4-1.3 Scholastic Regional A (SRA)

This class is for performers with beginning vocabulary and achievement skills that can progress beyond the introductory level.

Evaluation will be on WGI Regional A sheet with Regional A timing guidelines.



If a unit is promoted from SRA to SA-2, minimum equipment and performance will be waived for the remainder of the season.

4-1.4 A class

This class will be divided into 2 sections –

Scholastic A-2 (SA-2)

This class should have beginning vocabulary, program concept, and achievement levels and are ready to incorporate intermediate levels.

Evaluation will be on the WGI A class sheet with Class A timing guidelines

Scholastic A (SA)

This class is for units that do or could compete nationally.

The performers accomplish beginning vocabulary, programs, and achievement levels consistently and are ready to incorporate intermediate levels.

Evaluation will be on the WGI A class sheet with Class A timing guidelines

4-1.5 Scholastic Open (SO)

This class should have intermediate vocabulary, programs, and achievement levels and ready to incorporate advanced levels.

Evaluation will be on WGI Open class sheet with Open class timing guidelines

4-1.6 Scholastic World (SW)

This class incorporates advanced vocabulary, program concepts, and achievement levels. This is the highest level of competition.

Evaluation will be on WGI World class sheet with World Class timing guidelines

INDEPENDENT CLASSES

4-1.7 Independent Regional A (IRA).

This class is for the very inexperienced performers who are just entering the performance arena for the first time.

Show concept, equipment and movement skill are at an introductory level.



Emphasis is on training. The intent of this class is a starting point for a unit.

Evaluation will be on WGI Regional A sheet with Regional A timing guidelines.

4-1.8 Independent A (IA).

This class is for units that do or could compete nationally.

The performers accomplish beginning vocabulary, programs, and achievement levels consistently and are ready to incorporate intermediate levels.

Evaluation will be on the WGI A class sheet with Class A timing guidelines

4-1.9 Independent Open (IO)

This class should have intermediate vocabulary, programs, and achievement levels and ready to incorporate advanced levels.

Evaluation will be on WGI Open class sheet with Open class timing guidelines

4-1.10 Independent World (IW)

This class incorporates advanced vocabulary, program concepts, and achievement levels. This is the highest level of competition.

Evaluation will be on WGI World class sheet with World Class timing guidelines

Guard Timing Guidelines

<u>Class</u>	<u>Maximum Performance Time</u>	<u>Minimum Performance Time</u>	<u>Interval Time</u>	<u>Required Equipment Time</u>
<u>Junior</u>	<u>4.5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>SRA</u> <u>SRA-2</u> <u>IRA</u>	<u>4.5</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>SA</u> <u>SA-2</u> <u>IA</u>	<u>5.5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3.5</u>



<u>Open</u>	<u>6.5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>3.5</u>
<u>World</u>	<u>7.5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3.5</u>

4-2 Percussion Unit Classifications

Percussion lines will be allowed to compete from the first competitive weekend of the season

There are basically two types of percussion lines; scholastic and independent units.

They are divided into separate classes based on the abilities of the percussion lines.

SCHOLASTIC CLASSES

4-2.1 Marching B Class

This is a beginning level line with basic skills not competing on the National level. Strictly for novice type lines.

Performance and design skills are at the basic to fundamental level.

Three solid backdrops allowed (one on back sideline, one on each side of the floor). Each backdrop must be one piece. These cannot be moved once show starts.

No tarps or floor draping allowed. Only items specific to helping set positions, such as cones, will be allowed on the floor.

4-2.2 Marching A2 Class- uses the same criteria for Scholastic A Class

Ensembles are the younger less developed performers.

Performance and design skills are at the basic to intermediate level.

Performers exhibit intermediate to moderate skills.

Design is at the fundamental to intermediate level

4-2.3 Marching A Class – uses the same criteria for Scholastic A Class

Ensembles are the younger intermediate developed performers.

Performance and design skills are at the intermediate or moderately advanced level.

Design is geared to develop the maximum performance level of the performers.



Visual design is of the moderate level.

4-2.4 Marching Open Class – uses the same criteria for Scholastic Open Class

This is an intermediate level of performers and skills.

Students explore new challenges through performance and learn more complex skills as the season progresses.

Design is moderately advanced, emphasizing advanced performance skills.

Visual design and presentation may not yet be at the world level.

4-2.5 Marching World Class – uses the same criteria for Scholastic World Class

This class demonstrates a high degree of physical development with all the performers contributing a high level of performance skills.

Standards of excellence are at the highest level or potential for the highest level. These programs are unique, innovative and are trendsetters.

4-2.6 Concert Class – for A, Open and World classes

This class is for those scholastic percussion groups through the 12th grade that wish to concentrate on concert literature, using the above guidelines for class criteria.

Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature.

This is not a marching class. Movement will be permitted only when performers change equipment or to allow for better presentation of the musical performance.

INDEPENDENT CLASSES

4-2.7 Marching A Class – uses the same criteria for Scholastic A Class

4-2.8 Marching Open Class – uses the same criteria for Scholastic Open Class

4-2.9 Marching World Class – uses the same criteria for Scholastic World Class

4-2.10 Concert Class – This class is for those independent units who wish to concentrate on concert literature. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert style literature.

This is not a marching class.



Percussion Timing Guidelines

<u>Class</u>	<u>Maximum Performance Time</u>	<u>Minimum Performance Time</u>	<u>Interval Time</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>A-2</u> <u>A</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Open</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>World</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>

4-3 Winds Unit Classifications

There are basically two types of winds units; scholastic and independent units.

They are divided into separate classes based on the abilities of the winds unit.

SCHOLASTIC CLASSES

4-3.1 A Class

Ensembles are the younger intermediate developed performers.

Performance and design skills are at the intermediate or moderately advanced level.

Design is geared to develop the maximum performance level of the performers.

Visual design is of the moderate level.

4-3.2 Open Class

This is an intermediate level of performers and skills.

Students explore new challenges through performance and learn more complex skills as the season progresses.

Design is moderately advanced, emphasizing advanced performance skills.

Visual design and presentation may not yet be at the world level.



4-3.3 World Class

This class demonstrates a high degree of physical development with all the performers contributing a high level of performance skills.

Standards of excellence are at the highest level or potential for the highest level. These programs are unique, innovative and are trendsetters.

INDEPENDENT CLASSES

4-3.4 A Class – uses the same criteria for Scholastic A Class

4-3.5 Open Class – uses the same criteria for Scholastic Open Class

4-3.6 World Class – uses the same criteria for Scholastic World Class

Winds Timing Guidelines

Class	Maximum Performance Time	Minimum Performance Time	Interval Time
A	6	4	14
Open	7	4	10
World	8	4	11

5 Contest Information

Members are responsible for staying informed of deadlines and important circuit dates

5-1 Festival Class, Guests, Non-Members, and Exhibition Units

5-1.1 Festival Class:

Any unit that does not wish to select a class or receive commentary/scores.

All festival class units regardless of regular or championship show will perform at the end of the day. Festival Class units will not receive commentary or scores.

5-1.2 Guest Units:

Any unit that is not a full member of the circuit and wishes to perform during the regular season

Any Guest unit wishing to participate in a regular season contest will be included in the competition portion of the event for their division including, the random draw, judge commentary and scores.



Guest units may participate in only 2 shows per season. This may be 2 regular season shows or one regular season show and championships (assuming availability in the Championship schedule).

5-1.3 Non-Member Units

Non-member units are limited to the discretion of the Executive Director and the TriState Executive Board members.

These units must follow the same guidelines as the appropriate division.

Any non-member unit wishing to perform at any of the Championships events will be considered an Exhibition Unit.

5-1.4 Exhibition Units:

Any unit that is not a full member of the circuit and wishes to perform at any of the Championship events is considered an Exhibition Unit.

Exhibition units pay fees, as do all other units.

Exhibition units will perform first at championships in their respective class.

A random draw will be used for more than one unit.

If an Exhibition Unit wishes to receive commentary based on their classification, TMA will provide a full panel for commentary.

5-2 Unit Contest Selection

5-2.1 The deadline for committing to contest entries each season is determined by the Executive Board and announced at the fall meeting.

5-2.2 The TriState Marching Arts Office will send an email once contests and sites have been posted on the website.

5-2.3 All entries can be made after payment has been received and as soon as possible to allow show sponsors to plan for the contest, based on the number of units scheduled to attend.

5-2.4 The entry deadline for a contest is three weeks prior to the show date.

Late entries are assessed a \$30 additional fee to be paid prior to show date, which will be dedicated to the scholarship fund.

No entries will be accepted after noon 14 days prior to the contest



5-2.5 You will receive information about the show that you have entered a week prior to the contest.

5-3 Performance Order and Scheduling

5-3.1 Order of appearance at each regular season show for member units is done by a random draw, within their respective class.

Units are drawn a random number based on the date of unit entry postmark.

Unit entries with fees received prior to the December 31st deadline will be placed in the first draw.

Unit entries received after December 31st will not be eligible for the random draw and will be scheduled first in their competitive class.

Performance order will be set for all shows.

5-3.2 Any movement between classes the unit will be slotted according to the performance number rather than being slotted first because of a class change.

5-3.3 For all classes at all regular season shows, when a class has 10 or more units competing in a class, the class will be divided into two rounds according to the units draw number.

See section 7 for Championship performance order rules.

5-3.4 One show a season, the Junior Class performances will be moved to right before the morning awards.

Show to be determined by the Executive Director

5-4 Show Day Unit Check-In

5-4.1 Upon arrival at a contest, unit directors or representatives are to immediately report to unit Check-In.

At unit Check-In, the unit director or representative must provide their number of performing members at this time.

The number of performers that a unit director or representative provides at unit Check-In will be verified by the T&P judge on the performance floor.

If a discrepancy is found, it will be investigated and the unit could lose their surety bond.



5-4.2 At unit Check-In, the unit director or representative will declare how many staff member wristbands are needed. This must be done at unit Check-In.

(Maximum of up to eight (8) staff members will be admitted at check-in).

Each staff person must have a wristband for admittance.

Unit directors, at their first competition of the season, will receive 2 director/staff name badges per unit.

Badges are to be used for the entire season and will not be reissued if lost.

5-4.3 Unit directors must sign up each respective unit for critique at unit Check-In.

Critique will be held on a first come first serve basis at critique only for those who have signed up at unit Check-In.

5-4.4 All equipment and props are to be taken to their assigned area.

5-4.5 The contest sponsor will assign dressing rooms or hall space.

Units are to make sure to keep your equipment neat and organized in the room or hallway provided.

Neither the TriState Marching Arts nor the contest sponsor is responsible for items left in the rooms or hallway.

5-5 Equipment and Prop Regulations

The following regulations will be strictly enforced at all circuit contests.

There must be proper protective covering of all contest equipment and props so to avoid floor damage at competitive sites. All contest equipment, including footwear, will be inspected before a unit enters the contest area.

Any unit not adhering to the following regulations may be disqualified.

Any damage to the floor that may occur (dragging timpani, wheels on carts locking, etc.), will be the responsibility of the unit and is subject to penalty.

EXERCISE CAUTION BY PADDING ANYTHING THAT MIGHT CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE CONTEST FLOOR.

PERMITTED EQUIPMENT AND PROPS



5-5.1 Footwear - All footwear must have a light (white, tan or clear) crepe rubberized bottom. Dance shoes are recommended.

It is also recommended that competition footwear not be worn outdoors between contests. The soles may pick up stones and gravel which could cause injury or floor damage. Check all soles before going to the inspection area. (Gym shoes, gymnastic and ballet slippers are exempt from this rule.)

5-5.2 Equipment - All equipment, rifles, flag poles, and sabers must be covered with synthetic crepe or foam. All saber tips must be padded and taped. Hand guards and top of the handle should be padded and taped.

5-5.3 Flag Poles - Good condition crutch tips or something similar will be required on the top and bottom of every working flag pole.

5-5.4 Props- All surfaces and edges of props should be designed not to intentionally inflict injury, damage school property while in use or transit, or damage the competition floor.

There should be an expectation that if a person were to run their hand along the prop or brush up against it, they would not be at risk of injury.

Anything affixed to a prop must be attached securely. If it is designed to be removed as part of the performance or transport, it must be secured when not in use.

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. Inspection will occur at the discretion of the contest staff.

5-5.5 Carts- All carts, including any percussion equipment with wheels and tarp carts, must be clean of debris and be freewheeling.

No props, instruments, or equipment are to be drug across the floor, including timpani.

5-5.6 Battery operated devices- Any device or prop 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.



5-5.7 Units 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.

Instruments typically utilized and recognized as part of a band or orchestra, including electronic instruments, are allowed.

Groups should consult with the Contest Administrator 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.

PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT AND PROPS

5-5.8 No pyrotechnics, discharge of arms, pressurized canisters, dangerous materials, flammable liquids or gas will be permitted in or around the competition area.

5-5.9 Smoke machines and/or compressed air apparatuses will not be permitted.

5-5.10 Gasoline, electric or manual powered generators will not be allowed.

5-5.11 Use of lasers and flashcubes (electrical and chemical) will not be permitted.

5-5.12 Use of live animals is not permitted.

5-5.13 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.

5-5.14 Use of helium, including helium-filled balloons, shall be strictly prohibited.

5-5.15 No motorized vehicles will be allowed except for motorized wheelchairs used by disabled performers.

5-5.16 Car and/or truck batteries are not permitted.

5-6 Music and Sound Equipment

5-6.1 Pre-recorded show music is to be uploaded to Competition Suite website by the unit's primary contact, or whomever is designated as the administrator, prior to the day of their scheduled event.

TMA's deadline for the music to be loaded to the Competition Suites website is Thursday at 5pm prior to Saturday's contest.

TMA will download your soundtrack from the Competition Suite website.



It is the units' responsibility to maintain a current soundtrack within the Competition Suite website.

TMA may allow the units to provide music on a CD or thumb/flash drive for a short adjustment period.

5-6.2 Directors/Staff are to bring a backup copy of your music to all contests.

5-6.3 If you are using any other type of equipment, MP3 player, iPod, iPhone etc. you must bring it and hook it into the TMA sound system.

TMA will not be responsible for the operation of your equipment.

5-6.4 There should be no more than a 15-second time lapse between when the CD starts and the music begins.

5-6.5 Current TMA Sound Equipment –

Laptop CD Player

Amp: Mackie 400 Watt 6 Channel Mixer Amplifier

Speakers: 4 Fender Speakers

Apple notebook for soundtrack playback

5-6.6 Winds and Percussion Units will have a designated area for Audio Engineers in the upper level somewhere toward the upstairs judges, possibly between the Effect and Music Judges.

This area will be marked off by the TMA staff prior to the start of the event.

5-6.7 Units may manipulate their soundboard by using a remote-controlled wireless device through a self-supplied wireless network in this area.

The soundboard must remain in the competition area.

5-6.8 A performer in the competition area must control all lighting.

5-7 Performance Area

5-7.1 For the purpose of interpretation, the "competition area" shall measure a minimum of sixty by ninety (60' x 90') feet and does not include entry ramps, hallways, nor any bleachers or seating area.

5-7.2 The circuit provides a tarp for all contests. Tarp size is at least sixty by ninety (60' x 90') feet.

5-7.3 Ensembles may not use "floors" (tarps) larger than sixty by ninety (60' x 90') feet.

5-7.4 Ensembles are permitted to utilize the entire, designated competition area for their performance.



5-7.5 Performers must begin within the designated competition area.

5-7.6 There can be no choreography outside the competition area.

5-7.7 All props must be in the designated competition area.

5-8 Penalties

5-8.1 Should a unit director / representative wish to file a formal protest regarding penalties; the process is as follows:

Verbally notify the Contest Director. This will initiate a conference with unit director/representative, Contest Director, and Judge who issued the penalty to discuss penalty.

Due to contest logistics, the Contest Director may confer with the judge in question without the unit director/representative present if necessary,

or

Write a formal letter of protest to the President of Tristate and the unit director/representative will have the opportunity to present to the Executive Board and representative of the appropriate Judge's association.

5-9 Copyright

5-9.1 TriState Marching Arts (TMA) requires all participating groups to comply with copyright laws regarding performance and music licensing.

This includes the use of arrangements of copyrighted music and visual images; furthermore, it also includes other materials such as: the use of copyrighted audio, spoken text as well as the display of copyrighted words and images.

If copyright violation is found to exist disqualification may occur.

5-9.2 Due to copyright regulations, video tapping of unit performances is strictly prohibited.

TMA will not provide performance DVDs to any unit nor provide a video pass.

Units competing in TMA events take full responsibility for any copyright violations involving the video recording and sharing of their competition performance.

For additional resources on copyrights, please see the WGI manual for your division – color guard, percussion or winds.



5-10 Critique

5-10.1 Critique may occur at the discretion of the Contest Director.

5-10.2 The critique will start at a designated time as per the TMA contest schedule, or the conclusion of the competition, as determined by the Contest Director.

5-10.3 Recaps will be distributed to the unit representatives at the tabulation table.

5-10.4 If you are not present at the critique area when your name is called, you will go to the end of the list.

5-10.5 Unit critique sessions could last up to 20 minutes with no more than 5 minutes with each of the judges or group of judges.

5-10.6 A unit's entire staff may attend the critique with the judges only after the director/staff have listened to their judge's comments.

5-10.7 If percussion is on first, their critique will begin ½ hour after last line is on. It will be an "Open Critique", where members will be allowed to attend if the director allows.

Normal rules apply if percussion is on last.

5-11 Contest Restrictions

5-11.1 There is absolutely no cooking or smoking in any of the buildings.

5-11.2 Unit directors, representatives, parents or staff are not to consult judges at any time either before or during a contest.

Questions relating to the actual contest are directed to the Contest Director.

5-11.3 No one, other than the official contest personnel, will be allowed in the tabulating area.

6 Judges

The Tri-State Judges Association will adjudicate all TMA contests, until the Board of Directors deems replacement is necessary.

6-1 Judging Assignments

6-1.1 All judging panels will be decided, and controlled, solely by the Judge Coordinator

If issues arise concerning assignments, the Judge Coordinator should be notified and all input will be taken into consideration.



6-1.2 Any unit may request judges.

This written request should be given to the Judge Coordinator for consideration.

Once the request is filed, issues of availability, cost to the sponsor, and current assignments will be taken into account.

6-1.3 The Judge Coordinator will be required to bring in 2 (two) national caliber judges for colorguard (one upstairs and one downstairs) and 1 national caliber judge for percussion/winds per show.

It is also recommended for the Judge Coordinator to be able to release the judging schedule to TMA by September 1st so it can be made available prior to registration.

Any conflicts in achieving this will be submitted to the TMA Board President.

6-1.4 The amount of adjudicators for percussion will be determined by the amount of percussion units attending.

The Percussion Focus show and Championships will have a double panel assigned to these shows when 25 percussion units or more are scheduled at the respective event.

If there are one to five percussion lines, one judge will be utilized on PA (visual and GE will be covered by guard judges).

If there are less than six moving lines, VIS will be supplied by an attending guard judge (i.e. – 4 moving lines, 2 concert lines, VIS judge comes from guard panel).

If there are six or more moving lines, a separate, percussion visual judge will be provided and will be available for percussion critique.

If the number of percussion units at a show is borderline to one of the boundaries, the Judge Coordinator would like to maintain the ability to negotiate with the organization to adjust the scale depending on the quality of lines at the show, guard judge availability, or other necessary factors.

6-2 Conflict and Complaint Process

6-2.1 Should a unit director / representative wish to file a formal protest concerning a particular judge, the process is as follows:

The instructor's critique sheet and the judge's commentary must be turned into the Contest Director or directly to the Judge Coordinator within one week of the contest date.

6-2.2 Upon receiving two formal complaints, from two different units, a review committee will be convened.



This committee will consist of the Judge Coordinator, Board of Directors Percussion Representative, and the Task Force Committee.

Action taken at the review may range from discussion at the review board with no additional action taken up to the removal of the judge from that particular class until adequate, additional education is completed

6-2.3 If a member of the review committee is the adjudicator of concern, another member from the Executive Board will replace the adjudicator.

If the unit director / representative filing the complaint is a Task Force Committee member, another member from the Executive Board will replace the adjudicator.

7 Championships

Deadline for entry to Championships –January 15

Circuit Championships will be a finals only event.

The first championship weekend would be for the guard classes of Scholastic Regional A-2, Scholastic Regional A, and Junior class only.

The second championship weekend would be an all-day event at one location for Guard Class Scholastic A-2 and all WGI recognized classes for Guard, all Percussion Division classes and all Winds Division classes.

The gold medalists from the first weekend championships (Junior, SRA-2, and SRA classes) would be given an opportunity to perform, if time permits.

7-1 Eligibility

7-1.1 Guard Units

Color guard Units must attend one of the first three competitive shows of the season in order to be eligible for championships.

The preview show, if offered, is not included as a competition, except for any World Class unit or Winds unit.

Color guard Units must also compete in two additional TMA Circuit sponsored contests during the season in order to be eligible for championships.

Color guard Units that attend a WGI Regional event may count one WGI Regional event as a TMA show in order to meet the 3 show requirement for championships.



Units wishing to use a WGI regional as part of the three-show requirement must provide proof of WGI registration to the TMA Executive Director by January 15th.

The unit's seeding for TMA Championships will be based only on TMA events attended per our normal seeding process. WGI Regional scores will not be used for a unit's seeding for TMA.

7-1.2 Percussion Units

Percussion units competing in WGI recognized classes are required to perform at two TMA Circuit sponsored events.

7-1.3 Winds Units

Winds Units (All Classes) must perform at two (2) TriState venues, which can include Preview Show, if offered.

7-2 Performance Order

7-2.1 Seeding-

Championships performance order will be based on a seeding process.

Each week of competition, units will receive a raw score.

A raw score is defined as your score achieved before penalties.

The raw score will then be given additional points based on the matrix listed below, resulting in an add-on score for that week.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9
9 Week Season	12	10.5	9	7.5	6	4.5	3	1.5	0
8 Week Season	10.5	9	7.5	6	4.5	3	1.5	0	

The unit's top 2 add-on scores from regular season competitions will be used to determine seeding.

An average of the unit's scores from the same competitive weekend (Saturday/Sunday) will be used to create a single score.

The two (or more) shows in one weekend could still be used to fulfill the unit's three-show requirements, but only a single, averaged score from the weekend would count towards championship seeding.



The formula is Highest add-on score (A) + Second highest add-on score (B) = A+B = the seeding score

The resulting rankings list will be used to assign units to their order of appearance at championships.

A comparison of the units' single, highest raw score will break any ties.

If the tie still exists, a representative of the board will flip a coin to break the tie.

7-2.2 Rounds-

If there are more than 8 units participating in a class at championships, the ranking list, created by the seeding process, will be used to determine which round the unit will be placed in.

They will be pulled into rounds based their ranking, splitting odd numbers and even numbers to separate rounds.

Within the round, there will be a random draw for performance order.

Each round will have a bronze, silver, and gold medal winner. The highest scoring unit in the class, regardless of round, will be recognized as the Grand Champion.

8 Promotion / Appeals / Reclassification

8-1 Regular Season Promotion

8-1.1 For all A, Open and World units, a promotion can only be made by WGI or at the recommendation of the Chief Judge.

8-1.2 At any contest through the end of February, should a unit demonstrate sufficient understanding of the class worthy of promotion, though maybe not yet reflected in score, the Chief Judge will meet with the unit Director and determine if a review for promotion is founded.

If deemed a promotion is warranted, a full review will be conducted by the Judge Coordinator and contest panel for a final decision. A decision on the final review will be made known to the competing unit no later than Monday following the contest in which initiated review.



8-1.3 Units will be promoted to the next appropriate classification by a series of numerical triggers.

If the unit receives a gross score that is equal to or higher than the promotion score for that weekend (matrix below), they will be promoted.

8 Week Season	SRA-2 to SRA	SRA to SA-2	SA-2 to SA
Week 1	55	65	64
Week 2	57	67	66
Week 3	59	69	68
Week 4	61	71	70
Week 5	63	73	72
Week 6	65	75	74
Week 7	No Promotion	No Promotion	No Promotion
Week 8	No Promotion	No Promotion	No Promotion
9 Week Season	SRA-2 to SRA	SRA to SA-2	SA-2 to SA
Week 1	55	65	64
Week 2	57	67	66
Week 3	59	69	68
Week 4	61	71	70
Week 5	63	73	72
Week 6	65	75	74
Week 7	67	77	76
Week 8	No Promotion	No Promotion	No Promotion
Week 9	No Promotion	No Promotion	No Promotion

8-1.4 Upon achieving promotion scores at a regular season contest, a meeting with the Chief Judge and unit directors will take place to review the decision on site, as overseen by the Contest Director.

8-1.5 Units will only be promoted one classification per weekend.

8-1.6 The unit may be scheduled into their next show in the new class.

8-1.7 No units will be promoted after the last weekend of April, unless otherwise promoted by WGI.

8-1.8 Groups promoted will need to compete in their new class at least once to ensure proper seeding for circuit championships.

8-1.9 Any percussion unit promoted during the season will automatically be placed at the start of a class during Circuit Championships IF less than 2 contests were attended in that class.

Otherwise, the promoted class scores will be put through the seeding process

All scores received in the old class will be withdrawn, so as not to effect the new seeding.



8-2 Promotion at Championships

8-2.1 A championship score of 78 will promote a SRA-2 unit to SRA.

8-2.2 A championship score of 80 or higher will promote a SRA unit to SA-2.

8-2.3 All championship medalists in SA-2 will be promoted to SA

8-3 Appeals

8-3.1 Any unit promoted during circuit championships may submit an appeal to the Review Board Committee prior to February 15 of the following year in order to remain in their lower class.

Send an email to Tristatemarchingarts@gmail.com and list the reasons for the appeal.

8-3.2 Any unit promoted after circuit championships, that submits a request to remain in their lower class, and their request is approved, will be reviewed if:

Their score is 3 points higher than the next highest score in their class

or

By recommendation of the Judge Coordinator.

8-4 Reclassification

8-4.1 Units that have scored below the minimum standard score in their classification (20 points below the promotion score for that weekend), have the option to remain in that class or move down.

This is at the unit Director's discretion.

8-4.2 Any unit misclassified will be reclassified by the decision of the TMA Board of Directors.

8-4.3 Send an email to Tristatemarchingarts@gmail.com to make your request.

8-4.4 This must be done prior to the last three weekends leading up to championships, unless it is the unit's first show.



9 Scholarships

The TriState Marching Arts offers a scholarship program that awards three (3) \$500.00 scholarships, to deserving pageantry participants.

Scholarship funds are to be used for educational expenses only.

Scholarship questions should be directed to the TMA Treasurer or the Executive Director.

9-1 Scholarship Determination

9-1.1 Unless otherwise negated below, there will be one scholarship awarded to each the following groups:

Scholastic Guards
Independent Guards
Percussion Units

9-1.2 There must be a minimum of two (2) independent guard applicants before a separate Independent Guard Scholarship can be awarded. Less than this and the Independent Guard applicants will be included with the Scholastic Guard Scholarship.

9-1.3 There must be a minimum of 15 percussion units participating in the Circuit Championships to award a separate Percussion Scholarship. Less than this will result in the loss of this scholarship and the inclusion of the applicants into the other two scholarships.

9-2 Eligibility

9-2.1 Units are not limited to the number of candidate applications.

9-2.2 The candidate's unit must be an active member of the TriState Marching Arts.

9-2.3 The candidate's unit must attend the TMA Championships contest.

9-2.4 Candidates must be high school seniors or already attending a college, university or technical school.

9-2.5 Candidates must be active, marching members of a TMA unit.

9-2.6 Scholarship applications must be complete, along with supporting paperwork, or the application will not be considered for a possible scholarship.

9-2.7 Candidates must submit a completed TMA Scholarship Application within a predefined time limit.

Deadline dates will vary each year, and are based upon the circuit championships. Refer to the Scholarship Application for the current year's deadline date.



9-2.8 Candidates may apply each year, if all the guidelines are met.

9-3 Review Process

9-3.1 A committee consisting of members representing the TMA Board of Directors, whose decisions will be final, will make selections.

9-4 Awarding of the Scholarship

9-4.1 Scholarships granted will not be less than \$500.00 per candidate.

9-4.2 Scholarships granted will be paid by check, written to the candidate and their school.

9-4.3 Scholarships will be granted for one year only.

9-4.4 Scholarship winners will be announced at TMA Championships Finals.

All policies and rules are subject to change at the Board of Director's discretion.

Units will be notified of any changes through e-mail