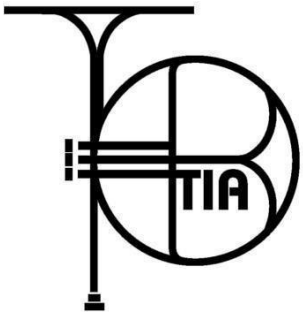


# Tournament Indoor Association (TIA)

## Rule Book and General Guidelines

*2027 Edition*

*(August 2026 changes in RED)*

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Tournament Indoor Association (TIA) utilizes an adaptation of the Winter Guard International (WGI) scoring system and contest rules. When any contradictions occur between a Tournament Indoor Association rule and a WGI rule, the TIA rule will take precedence.

When a discrepancy between WGI and TIA rules exists, the following method shall be used to determine if a TIA rule change should take place: Any unit which finds such a rule, after Rules Congress has ended for that season, shall submit to the TIA Director in writing, a rationale for the adaptation of this rule. This rationale should include the potential penalty or negative impact on the unit, and a reasonable solution which parallels the national circuit. It should also include supporting arguments on the positive impact on TIA units should the change be approved. Once received by the TIA Director, the following administrators shall offer a written opinion on the proposed change: TIA Director, Education Director, and Caption Chair. The recommendations of these administrators shall then be forwarded to the Region Coordinators and an online vote shall be then forwarded to the TIA Director within 48 hours. Any Region that does not vote within the 48 hours will be counted as an "abstain" vote. Majority will rule. The results of voting shall then be announced by the TIA Director. This procedure must occur prior to end of the reclassification period. Any potential rule changes after the reclassification period has ended will be held for the Rules Congress.

## I. MEMBERSHIP

See Tournament Bylaw 6 Membership in addition to below.

1) Independent units are required to provide proof of insurance to their Region Coordinators prior to the start of the competition season. For insurance limits, please refer to https://wgi.org/insurance-information. Scholastic units that make the choice for a variety of reasons to compete in the Independent division will be bound by all requirements of the Independent division, including providing proof of insurance.

2) The personnel size of a unit may not increase after April 1st. In the event of injury or illness, a unit may replace a person by notifying the Region Coordinator and Indoor Director in writing.

3) If a new unit is formed as a split of an existing member unit during the competitive season and after January 1, they cannot be accepted as members until the next competitive season.

## II. ELIGIBILITY

### Color Guard/ Dance/ Twirl/ Percussion

Units in the Independent A Classes composed of performers not over 22 years of age as of 12:01 AM on April 1, 2026, shall be permitted to compete in contests governed by TIA. Units in the Independent Open Class may utilize performers not over 25 years of age as of April 1, 2026. Independent World Class units may compete with performers of any age. Each unit appearing in a TIA contest shall be prepared to show proof of age.

### Winds

1) All groups in the Winds divisions are not bound by any age limit, so no change is indicated.

2) **AGE VERIFICATION**: Each scholastic unit will submit a list to the Indoor Region Coordinator showing each member's grade and a letter signed by the Principal, Vice-Principal, or other School Administrator assigned to oversee the indoor programs, verifying that all students are enrolled in the school district (for Scholastic units).

3) Independent units must submit a name and age list of all members. This information must be submitted to the Indoor Region Coordinator before the date of the unit's first competition, but no later than February 15th. Any changes/additions must be submitted to the Region Coordinator before the member can compete.

4) No Color Guard, Twirler or Dance unit may compete with less than five (5) nor more than forty (40) members on the floor of competition at the same time, or forty (40) members for the World Classes. The minimum number for Percussion is six (6) and there is no maximum number of members for Percussion units. Winds units must have a minimum of ten (10) members including the optional student conductor (student conductor may be positioned in the competition area or in a designated place in the stands). The unit shall inform the Region Coordinator prior to the contest if a student director shall be used and a designated space shall be established during the performance to ensure safety.

**Qualifications:**

**Qualifications for Region Championships**

To qualify for the Region Championship, a unit must compete in a minimum of two (2) sanctioned competitions during the reclassification period (The Reclassification Period in 2027 will end 11:59 PM on March 31st). A unit attending Wildwood must follow the requirements listed below.

- Cadet Units must participate in a minimum of ONE performance to compete at Region Championships.

**Qualifications for Atlantic Coast Championships**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cadet/Junior/Middle/Winds | **TWO** Sanctioned Competitions **AND** Region Championships |
| Novice/Regional A/A/Senior | **THREE** Sanctioned Competitions **AND** Region Championships<br><br>**2 must be during reclassification period and 2 at any time during the season** |
| Open/World | **TWO** Sanctioned Competitions **AND** Region Championships |

***Exhibitions, other than the show host, do not count as a "Sanctioned Competition" whether they are on the recap or not***

**WGI Credit:** One (1) TIA show credit may be used for any units competing in a WGI-sanctioned Regional/Championship. This may only be used **once**, regardless of the number of WGI contests attended. The unit must still compete in at least two (2) TIA competitions within the reclassification period.

It is the Unit Director's responsibility to notify the TIA Director, in writing, that they wish to utilize a WGI contest as a contest credit.

The TIA Director may grant show credit to any units that were contracted to attend a contest, but were unable to attend due to poor weather conditions or if the show was canceled.

## III. CLASSIFICATION

1) Classification for all indoor activities is based on competitive strata and opportunity for growth.

2) Competitive genres are described as: Color Guard, Twirler, Dance, Marching Percussion, Stationary Percussion and Winds. It is not acceptable to have the same student/member compete in two units of the same competitive genre in a single season (i.e. – one person may not compete in both the Middle School Guard and the High School Guard. This includes any unit members that stand behind props during the performance). You may use the same student/member to compete in two different competitive genres (i.e. – one person may compete in both guard and either twirler, marching percussion or dance team during the same competitive season). Please note that due to the extensive scheduling of the contests during the Atlantic Coast Championships, and the utilization of more than one site, TIA cannot and will not make schedule accommodations for units that have members in more than one unit or organizations that have multiple competitive units.

3) All units will declare their division, Scholastic or Independent (see above definition) and this may not change during the season. Units will also select a class to compete in at the beginning of the season and notify their Region Coordinator no later than January 15th of the class that they intend to compete in. Any changes to this class declaration should be communicated to the Region Coordinator prior to the unit's first competition.

4) All units that were promoted as part of the Review Panel process following the Atlantic Coast Championships must begin the next season in the class they were promoted to or a higher class. Units that finish in the Top 3 positions in finals will automatically be reviewed as well as any other unit the judging panel has indicated following finals should be reviewed.

5) A unit may begin in the class of their choosing (For A, Open and World Classes). Members who would like to compete in Cadet, Junior, Middle School or Senior classes, must meet the age requirements for those classes. Any unit who wishes to compete in Novice may do so if the following criteria have been met: 1) new unit to TIA; 2) did not make Regional A finals in 2024. In genres where all units made Regional A finals (Dance and Twirl) any unit may enter Novice. Groups recommended for promotion may select any class to begin participation in 2026, with the exception of Novice.

6) A unit that is new to TIA (or a returning member) may ask for a review of their classification after their initial performance of the season (given it occurs during the reclassification period). THis request shall be made to the Tournament Director.

**Color Guard Divisions/Classes:**

| Division: | **Scholastic** | **Independent** |
|---|---|---|
| Class: | Cadet | Cadet (rating only; no score) |
| | Middle School | Junior |
| | Novice | Novice |
| | Regional A | Regional A |
| | A | A |
| | Open | Open |
| | World | World |
| | University | Senior |

**Twirlers and Dance Divisions/Classes:**

| Division | **Scholastic** | **Independent** |
|---|---|---|
| Class: | Cadet | Cadet (rating only; no score) |
| | Middle School | Junior |
| | Novice | Novice |
| | Regional A | Regional A |
| | A | A |
| | Open | Open |
| | World | World |
| | University | Senior |

**Marching Percussion Divisions/Classes:**

| Division | **Scholastic** | **Independent** |
|---|---|---|
| Class: | Cadet | Cadet (rating only; no score) |
| | Middle School | Junior |
| | Novice | Novice |
| | Regional A | Regional A |
| | A | A |
| | Open | Open |
| | World | World |

**Stationary Percussion Divisions/Classes:**

| Division: | **Scholastic** | **Independent** Class: |
|---|---|---|
| Middle School | | Junior |
| | A | A |
| | Open | Open |

**Winds Divisions/Classes:**

| Division: | **Scholastic** | **Independent** |
|---|---|---|
| Class: | A | A |
| | Open | Open |
| | World | World |

**Dance Team Philosophy:** The philosophy behind the Tournament Indoor Association Dance Team Division is to provide an arena for competition for members that do not fall into the Color Guard or Twirler Divisions. The requirements are very open and should allow participation by a variety of marching units. Groups will be neither over-rewarded nor penalized for the use of equipment in this division. Emphasis will be placed on form and choreography, but will be credited by all means to generate an effective performance.

**Cadet:** The Cadet Class sheets will remain the same with the addition of the box scoring ranges from the Junior/MS sheets. There will be no "top" and "bottom" box. It will remain a general impression. Box 1 scores will be announced as a Bronze award; Box 2 scores will be announced as a Silver award; Box 3 and 4 scores will be announced as a Gold award.

**CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**

Available "Rating" Class:

**CADET** (Scholastic and Independent members up to and including age 15)
This class is provided strictly as an introduction to the activity. Focus should be on basic training. Programs are shorter in length than competitive programs.

Available "Competitive" Numerical Scoring Classes:

**JUNIOR** (Independent members up to and including age 15)
**MIDDLE SCHOOL** (Scholastic members up to and including grade 9)
**Novice** (Scholastic or Independent) – Limited design and skills; repetitious; single effort design; performers still learning to achieve basic skills; short phrases; some variety in skills, but not extensive; occasional basic layering opportunities; little use of expression in performers. This class will use criteria specifically developed for this class. In Jr/MS/Novice, all captions will have a 7/13 sub-caption scoring.

**Regional A** (Scholastic or Independent) – Some skill variety; basic skills moderately understood by the performers; some longer phrases; developing use of layering; training process is developing; performers are more aware of basic stylistic responsibilities and use of expression; choreography provides an opportunity to develop a growing range These classes will use the WGI Regional A criteria. The 7/13 sub-caption scoring will only apply to the Equipment and Movement captions. Color Guards in this class must compete at WGI in Regional A.

**A** (Scholastic or Independent) – A larger range of basic skills and developing intermediate skills; broad and well-understood basic choreography; frequent layering of skills and some exploration of intermediate skills with layering; expressive qualities are being explored; performers have established a sound awareness of basic skills, developing intermediate skills and attention to stylistic responsibilities is evident; greater attention is paid to the range and gradation of expressive dynamics; greater opportunity for basic layering exists in the design.

**OPEN** (Scholastic or Independent) – Units in this class have a greater experience level. Units will be challenged to broaden their design and performance skills. Designers/instructors will be challenged to expand their programming, creativity and instructional techniques.

**WORLD** (Scholastic or Independent) – Highest level. The most advanced programs with the more mature performers -- a class where innovation and setting standards is the goal. This category is open to a unit with the membership talent, design and instructional staff and budget to place their unit in this challenging level to stimulate growth and development through World Class competition. NOTE: There are no age limitations for the Independent World Class for Color Guard, Twirlers or Dance. Percussion follows the same age limits as A and Open.

**UNIVERSITY** (Scholastic) – All members must be students (full or part time) of a single college or university (no age requirements).

**SENIOR** (Independent) – All members must be 21 years of age and above. *Colorguard, Dance and Twirl ONLY-members can be included at 18 years old and up but they MUST have graduated high school

## IV. RECLASSIFICATION

### 2026 TIA Reclassification Review Process

1. A review of a unit will be triggered by two (2) or more working judges suggesting a unit should be promoted/reassigned to a "lower" class. Only one (1) judge's recommendation will be necessary to trigger a review of a standstill percussion line. A judge will have until 6:00 pm Sunday to recommend a review by calling or texting the TIA Director with the unit name, contest location, and caption worked. If a unit is recommended (after review by the Review Committee) to move to a "lower" classification and refuses, this will be viewed as a self-promotion back to the competitive class in which they started and the Tournament Director may decide that no further reviews will be offered to a "lower" classification. Reviews to a "higher" classification will remain possible.

2. If, at the show, during critique, a unit accepts a "promotion" to a higher class, the review process will not take place and the reassignment for the unit to the higher class will go into effect immediately.

3. Once a review has been "triggered" by the recommendation of the working judges at the show, the TIA director will reach out to the unit to be reviewed and request a video of their performance. The video will need to be received prior to Wednesday at 6:00 of the following week. If a video was not taken of that week's performance, a video from the unit's next rehearsal, (prior to Wednesday at 6:00 pm) should be provided. If, due to weather or other constraints, no video is able to be provided prior to Wednesday at 6:00 pm, a video will be taken at the unit's next performance or rehearsal and provided for the following week's review. A video link that is private and shared to the TIA director on YouTube is preferred. This link can be removed after the review has been completed.

4. On Wednesday of the following week, a review panel will convene via Zoom to review the unit's performance and decide whether reassignment in class is appropriate. The majority vote will determine whether a unit has been reassigned. The committee shall focus on the adjudication sheets of the class the unit is being proposed to be reclassified to as the rubric and basis for whether a reclassification should occur.

5. The results of the review will be communicated to the director of the unit as well as the members of the panel recommending the review no later than Thursday (the day following the review) at 12:00 pm.

6. Each year, the panel members for review committees will be determined by the TIA director and made public at the annual Education Day.

7. The TIA director will join the meeting and observe, only to fill in if there is an absence for the meeting and a tie-breaking vote needs to be cast.

8. Twirl and Dance Reclassification Only: Junior class units are subject to reclassification (during the reclassification period) to Regional A, and subsequent reclassifications as warranted. No reclassification shall occur from Regional A, Novice, etc. to Junior, rather from Junior to a more competitive class following the established reclassification guidelines outlined in this section.

9. Review committees will be comprised of the following:
    a. + Caption Facilitator (chair)
    b. + Additional Facilitator (at least one "upstairs" and one "downstairs")
    c. + TIA Visual Caption Head
    d. + Two judges from the working panel who recommended reassignment (to provide context and answer questions)

Twirl:
TIA Twirling Caption Head (chair)
TIA Visual Caption Head
TIA Design Analysis Caption Head
Two Judges from the Panel that Recommended Reassignment

Dance:
TIA Movement Caption Head (chair)
TIA Visual Caption Head
TIA General Effect Caption Head
Two Judges from the Panel that Recommended Reassignment

Guard:
TIA General Effect Caption Head (chair)
TIA Equipment Caption Head
TIA Visual Caption Head
Two Judges from the Panel that Recommended Reassignment

Percussion:
TIA Percussion Caption Head (chair)
TIA Design Analysis Caption Head (if moving percussion)

TIA Visual Caption Head (TIA Winds Caption Head if standstill percussion)
Two Judges from the Panel that Recommended Reassignment (one if standstill)
One individual "at large"- instructor- not teaching a unit in the class where the unit currently competes or could potentially be reassigned.

## V. TIMING – ENTRANCE AND EXIT

1) All personnel, equipment and/or props shall enter at a place designated by the contest sponsor at the signal from the Floor Coordinator. All props must be able to fit through a standard size (36") single door. No timing exceptions will be made for oversized props. Props will not be allowed in the competition area before the unit's performance time. Any unit causing a delay in the schedule will be subject to penalty.

   1a) Marching Percussion Classes Only: As space becomes available, front ensemble equipment, performers, and helpers, when time permits, may cross the timing line early and begin setup. Entering personnel must maintain a minimum distance of four (4) feet from the exiting group and may not encroach on, obstruct, or interfere with the exiting group.

   All other group elements not involved with the front ensemble, including battery performers and equipment, floor covers, props, and additional staff and helpers, must remain at the designated ready line until signaled to enter by the Floor Coordinator. This does not change the interval time, and the interval timing will begin at the signal to enter.

   This may not be available for all regular season shows, based on the flow of the venue. Region Coordinators will provide guidance to units prior to the event if this will not be in use.

2) In small, tight facilities, the Chief Judge will be allowed to make the decision to extend the time equally for each unit.

3) The entrance procedure will be as follows: When the unit first enters the competition area, an announcement of "Please welcome {unit name}". At one minute thirty seconds (1:30) of the interval time for all classes except World (World Class will have two minutes) and Percussion classes (Percussion will have 2:30), the announcer will be cued to say, "Performing their program {title}, Tournament Indoor Association is proud to present {unit name}. All classes may have this second announcement pre-recorded into their soundtrack and may not deviate from the wording of the announcement. Units who choose to do this shall notify the Floor Coordinator.

4) Units will be allowed to use music as part of their set up process through the house/show sound system after 1 minute of the unit's interval time. If a unit chooses to use music they must designate (in person) to the Floor Coordinator when the unit announcement is made so the performance time can begin. The Floor Coordinator determines the beginning of the unit's interval time. The unit is responsible for any music direction required at the sound table, which must be given in person. For Percussion, the use of entrance music is allowable for all classes.

5) Units will be scheduled to compete at the intervals defined below. This time interval will include set-up, entrance, performance, exit and removal of all equipment and props.

| **Color Guard, Twirlers, Dance Team**<br><br>**Class** | Min. Perf. Time | Min. Equip. Time (Guard and Twirlers) | Max. Perf. Time | Max Interval Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| World | 4 mins. | 3 ½ mins. | 7 ½ mins. | 10 mins. |
| Open | 4 mins. | 3 ½ mins. | 6 ½ mins. | 9 mins. |
| A | 4 mins. | 3 ½ mins. | 5 ½ mins. | 8 mins. |
| Novice/Regional A | 3 mins. | 2 mins. | 4 ½ mins. | 8 mins. |
| Jr/Middle | 3 mins. | 2 mins. | 4 ½ mins. | 7 mins. |
| Cadet | 2 mins. | 0 | 3 mins. | 6 mins. |

| **Marching Percussion**<br><br>**Class** | Min. Perf. Time | Max. Perf. Time | Max Interval Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| World | 4 mins. | 8 mins. | 11 mins. |
| Open | 3 ½ mins. | 7 mins. | 10 mins. |
| A | 3 mins. | 6 mins. | 9 mins. |
| Jr/Middle/Regional A/Novice | 3 mins. | 6 mins. | 9 mins. |
| Cadet | 0 | 3 mins. | 6 mins. |

| **Stationary Percussion**<br><br>**Class** | Min. Perf. Time | Max. Perf. Time | Max Interval Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| Open | 3 ½ mins. | 7 mins. | 10 mins. |
| A | 3 mins. | 6 mins. | 9 mins. |
| Jr/Middle | 3 mins. | 5 mins. | 8 mins. |

| **Winds**<br><br>**Class** | Min. Perf. Time | Max. Perf. Time | Max Interval Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| World | 4 mins. | 8 mins. | 11 mins. |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Open | 4 mins. | 7 mins. | 10 mins. |
| A | 4 mins. | 6 mins. | 9 mins. |

- Interval Time begins when the Floor Coordinator notifies the unit that they may enter the competition area past the mid-way point on the floor and continues until the music is off and the last members and all equipment/props have crossed the designated vertical or horizontal line of the mid-point of the floor. Interval Time will continue until any residue created by the use of any matter, for example, confetti, small pieces of material or paper used to generate the effect of leaves, snow, etc. or any other materials used to generate an effect is removed from the competition area. In other words, the interval time will continue until the floor is left in the condition that it was at the start of the performance.

- Performance Time will begin at the first step of the unit or at the first note of music after the unit's program has been announced and will continue non-stop through the show, and the unit's exit off the floor or obvious conclusion.

- Judging will take place during the entire performance -- from the first note of music or movement after the cue is given to begin to the unit's exit from the floor or obvious conclusion.

- Percussion units may enter with a "tap" prior to introduction. If a unit chooses to play during an entrance, it will be considered part of the performance time.

- Winds groups may include a playing entrance as part of the performance following introduction. Groups may warm-up as part of the floor set-up. 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. Once the performance begins, performers must remain in the designated competition area for the entire performance.

## VI. DEFINITIONS OF AUTHORIZED EQUIPMENT

**COLOR GUARD EQUIPMENT:**

1) Flags are defined as any material attached to a pike, pole, rod or staff other than authorized weapons and used as a flag, with a minimum size of eight (8) inches by twelve (12) inches. National Colors must be at least three (3) feet by five (5) feet. The American flag is covered under the Flag Code and should not be used to spin or dishonored. Flag poles must be at least twenty-four (24) inches in length. Curved and straight poles are

acceptable; however, complete circles, squares, etc. to which material is attached are not flags. Material attached to chains, ropes or hoses are not considered flags. The intent of this definition is to utilize a flag as a flag and not as a backdrop or a prop.

2) Rifles/simulated rifles are defined as devices constructed so as to conform to the outward appearance of a military rifle past or present. Sights, slings, trigger, trigger housing, bolt and bolt levers are optional. Rifles must be at least twenty-four (24) inches in length.

3) Sabres/swords are defined as those weapons that are a curved blade (sabre) or a straight blade (sword) and may be constructed of wood, plastic, metal or any other suitable material.

4) Simulated sabre/swords must have either a hand guard or a hilt and must be at least twenty- four (24) inches in length.

5) Authorized equipment may be modified by the addition of visual items, however, attaching a flag, rifle or sabre/sword does not make the prop a flag, rifle or sabre/sword – it is still a prop.

6) Floor coordinators have the right to inspect and challenge guards for authorized equipment either before or after the maximum performance time with permission of the Chief Judge.

7) Authorized equipment must be IN HAND to be considered for accumulating authorized equipment time. In hand means equipment must be in hand ready to be used or being used. Example: A sabre hung at the side with hand touching is not considered authorized equipment in hand. IN HAND also means that the performer with equipment in hand must be visible in the performance area and to the audience. Standing behind a prop or at the edge of a prop does not meet the requirement.

**TWIRLER EQUIPMENT:**

For Twirlers, equipment time is measured when **at least one** performer twirls/uses any legal equipment in a "twirling" manner (to execute wrist twirls, tosses, finger twirls, rolls and novelty moves). The use of rifles or sabres will not count towards equipment time.

The following is legal twirling equipment and its use will be counted towards twirling equipment time for competing Twirler teams:

- Batons – defined as a steel shaft with a minimum of 18" in length and may have attached flags or hoops – rubber or plastic ends are required to protect the floor
- Flags are defined as any material attached to a pike, pole, rod or staff other than authorized weapons and used as a flag, with a minimum fabric size of 8" x 12". Curved or straight poles

are acceptable; however, complete circles, squares, etc. to which material is attached are not flags. Material attached to chains, ropes or hoses are not considered flags. The intent of this definition is to utilize a flag as a flag and not as a backdrop or a prop.

The use of the following equipment will result in the unit's disqualification:

- Hawaiian Knives (safety issues)
- Any pyrotechnics (e.g. fire batons of any type)

**DANCE EQUIPMENT:**

Use of equipment and/or props is optional. This includes items such as flags, hats, canes, streamers, pom-poms, etc.

**World Class Color Guards, Twirlers or Dance** may use any electrical device within their program deemed safe by the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge has the ultimate decision regarding safety of any electrical device in consultation with the TIA Director. Units should consult with the TIA Director prior to using any equipment not specifically defined in these rules. Units will assume any liability for issues arising out of use of said electrical devices.

**PERCUSSION EQUIPMENT:**

1) All electronically produced musical material must be triggered in real-time, and no single, triggered, electronic sound may produce rhythmic intent. Human-voice samples presented as singing or spoken word may be performed with single or multiple triggers, regardless of any rhythmic intent. PENALTY: Ten points (10.0) (WGI 4.2/ 4.2.1)

2) Ensembles may manipulate their soundboard by using a remote-controlled wireless device through a self-supplied wireless network. One designated staff member may adjust the mix using wireless technology while in the front stands. The soundboard must remain in the competition area. All lighting must be controlled by a performer in the competition area.

3) Ensembles may use any electrical device within their program deemed safe by the Chief Judge. The Chief Judge has the ultimate decision regarding safety of any device in consultation with the Percussion Caption Head and/or TIA Director. Ensembles should consult with the Percussion Caption Head 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) Electrically amplified equipment may be used if it is manually struck in a percussive fashion. Synthesizers with touch keyboards are acceptable. All props will be considered as props only and not used in musical evaluations.

5) Use of visual equipment and/or props is optional. Any individual or the entire ensemble is permitted to use visual equipment. If equipment is used, it may be placed on the floor, or
6) moved by students during the unit's performance. These students may not cross the front line and must meet eligibility requirements. Equipment may also be placed on the floor prior to the unit's performance.

7) Performers playing musical instruments or singing using a 115/120-volt power source provided to allow amplification is permitted in the competition area.

**WINDS:**

1) Instruments typically utilized and recognized as part of a band or orchestra, including electronic instruments, are allowed as well as visual only performers such as color guard.

2) Ensembles may manipulate their soundboard by using a remote-controlled wireless device through a self-supplied wireless network. One designated staff member may adjust the mix using wireless technology while in the front stands. The soundboard must remain in the competition area. All lighting and sound must be controlled by a performer in the competition area.

3) Any sound generating source, computer, synthesizer, etc. must be located in the competition area. The triggering/controlling/playing of this equipment must be performed by a performing member of the group who is in the competition area. All electronic sounds are permitted except the direct and simultaneous duplication of wind parts that exist within the group's wind score by similar electronic voices (this would NOT prohibit ex. a synthesizer doubling a clarinet part).

## VII. FLOOR SIZE

1) Size of the competing area will be 50 feet by 70 feet with a 5-foot working area around the floor (a standard basketball floor) with the outside lines marked. Front sideline out-of-bounds penalties will be assessed based on the floor marking on the GE side of the 50'x70' floor.

2) Although there will be no boundary violations for stepping over the hoop side or back sidelines of the floor, the sponsor is only required to guarantee the 50'x70' floor for competitions. **(Please note that this is different than WGI Rules.) The front sideline must be visible at all times. In gyms where space is tight, the unit shall be prepared to make**

**adjustments to their floor covering to keep the front sideline visible. This is not negotiable.**

3) **The contest sponsor will notify units in advance whether horizontal or vertical line will be used for timing.**

4) For Percussion, the front ensemble may be set-up outside the front sideline, as long as any part of the instrument touches within bounds and all performing members stay within bounds.

## VIII. NON-PERFORMING MEMBERS

1) Non-performing members (equipment managers) must meet the eligibility requirements for that class and remain in the competitive area during the performance and follow the timing and boundary rules. Please note that members from another unit in that division (ex. Middle School Color Guard members on the competitive floor with a High School Color Guard) may not compete in two units of the same division in the same contest. The penalty for this violation is DISQUALIFICATION.

2) Two runners are allowed for each unit. They must be off the front of the floor and may only retrieve dropped equipment. If they do anything else, they are performing members and all timing and boundary rules apply. Runners who create any type of effect will be bound by equipment and boundary requirements. Any equipment or props, if used, should be retrieved by the competitor, student runner/staff member, if dropped. Only students on the floor and rostered with a unit may generate an effect.

3) Percussion and Winds may use one (1) optional member conductor positioned in the competition area (or a designated place in the stands for Winds). The conductor must meet all of the eligibility requirements of that class.

## IX. CONTEST SPONSORS

1) Please see Bylaws for “Schedule of TOB/TIA Contests”.

2) Tournament Bylaw 8 covers units removing themselves from a show within fourteen (14) days of a show date.

3) Contest sponsors must notify all participants in advance that they will be utilizing a floor covering/tarp for their entire competition. The floor covering/tarp must have a center line and the center circle marked on the floor. Failure of the contest sponsor to notify

participants in advance will allow units to take themselves out of the competition without bond forfeiture.

4) Site information should include designated entrance/exit to gymnasium and whether horizontal or vertical timing line will be utilized. When planning a schedule for the contest, please try to end the competition at a reasonable hour, so that participants and judges will not have to travel in the early morning hours.

5) Divisions may be intermixed (i.e., guards, twirlers, dance) at the choice of the contest sponsor as long as like classes compete together. Breaks should be placed outside a competitive class of units. If a contest sponsor chooses to do this rather than the "traditional" schedule, participants must be notified of this in advance, or at the latest, two weeks prior to the competition date. It is the responsibility of the contest host to also notify the Chief Judge of this choice of scheduling at least two weeks prior to the contest date.

6) The contest sponsor's unit(s) may compete at their own competition and choose to decline any award placements. A contest sponsor that performs as part of their competitive class will receive show credit. A contest sponsor who does an exhibition outside of their class, whether judged or not judged, will **not** receive credit toward their competitive requirements.

7) The contest sponsor must provide qualified medical aid at a contest site.

8) The contest sponsor must provide sufficient audio equipment that is capable of playing CDs and connection for a digital device. The playing of loud music in between units is discouraged due to the distraction it causes to the judges.

9) The contest sponsor must provide electric connection in the judging area and 110-volt grounded power source and the front and back sideline of the performance floor. Units are required to provide their own extension cords.

10) The contest sponsor must ensure the building does not have any wireless signal blocking systems that may interfere with the use of WINDI, the digital recording and scoring system used by the National Judges Association.

11) It is highly recommended that contest sponsors have an "inspection" area where they inspect all equipment, props and percussion equipment at least 30 minutes prior to entering the competition floor. This will hopefully prevent damage to gymnasium floors.

12) Contest Sponsors are encouraged to provide a designated indoor area for each competing percussion ensemble for music warm up and/or in the event of adverse weather conditions. This should be in addition to the timed warm up area.

## X. CONTEST PROCEDURES

1) Units will not be allowed to give an exhibition during the competitive portion of a class/division. Exhibitions should be scheduled at the end of a class/division. If a unit does a judged exhibition, all scores will appear on the recap sheet, but will not be announced. Judged exhibitions (other than contest sponsors) will not count towards show requirements. Judged exhibitions by the contest sponsors may count toward show requirements if performing during their class.

2) Units contracted as competitors must compete, if present. Last minute judged exhibitions are not permitted.

3) Units should be encouraged to have their members wear some sort of foot protection when they are not performing. Walking barefoot throughout the contest facility is dangerous and unsanitary.

4) Post-contest meetings (critiques) will be held at all Tournament Indoor Association contests, with the exception of the Region and Atlantic Coast Championships. Recaps may be distributed prior to the critique at the discretion of the Chief Judge; however, no discussion of numerical comparison will occur unless you and the judge have discussed your program first.

5) Units will have dialog with the judges. ALL participating units, including Cadets, will have the opportunity for dialog with the judges. Critiques will be conducted with 3 stations (IA, DA, and GE) for 9 minutes (3 minutes at each station). After the reclassification period, when a contest exceeds 20 units, the time span will be shortened to 6 minutes (2 minutes at each station). Percussion stations: Music, Visual, Music Effect and Visual Effect.

6) A timer will be used to limit each unit's critique. Hosts, whether competitive or exhibition, must critique last.

7) Region Preview & Evening Contests will only allow the host region units to participate when there is a maximum cut-off of unit participants. If the maximum number of units is not reached by a specific date, units outside the host region will be able to be added to the Preview and/or Evening Contest.

8) It is recommended all TIA Events, Except Atlantic Coast Championships (as the TIA Director guides that particular event to best accommodate multiple factors), to be ran in classification order. Contest sponsors may decide which order the genres will compete in classification order. Exceptions to the above may be granted as requested by the region coordinator in consultation with the Tournament Director.
Example: Cadet, Junior, Novice, Regional A, A, University, Senior, Open, World

## XI. CHAMPIONSHIPS

1) Only units that have competed in their Region Championship and have met the Tournament Indoor requirements to qualify for championship competition may register for the Atlantic Coast Championships for Indoor. Several Regions may combine their members for a regional contest, however, only members of each Region may compete for their respective Region title.

2) Registration for the Atlantic Coast Championship will take place online and a unit's registration date will be noted when their deposit is received either in the form of a check/money order or school purchase order. Earliest entry date for championship registration will be December 1. The Wildwood Housing Coordinator will set and announce a deadline for entry based on the requirements of the facilities utilized in Wildwood. Housing and ticket information for the championship will be made available through the Weekend in Wildwood Convention Committee. A tentative schedule for the Atlantic Coast Championships will be available by mid- March.

3) The order of appearance for preliminary performances at Atlantic Coast Championships in Wildwood will be set using the seeding score as of the day following the end of the reclassification period. The seeding score will be the units most recent score. If that score occurred prior to the reclassification deadline week, 1.5 points will be added for each week prior to the deadline that the score occurred. If more than five units in a class, the order will be randomly arranged in groups of five. That "arrangement" will be made public prior to the end of the reclassification period.

4) Finals position will be seeded by reverse order of prelim scores. Provided the unit qualifies for finals, the defending champion of any class may elect to compete last in finals competition.

5) Elementary/Cadet/Junior/Middle School units will compete in a finals event only. Positions will be determined using the prelim process listed above.

6) TIA may utilize rounds for preliminary competition with semi-finals and finals for any class where there are more than 20 entries. This will be determined once all entries have been received. If any class is over 20 entries and it is decided by the Indoor Director that "rounds" will be used, then the positioning of units in the preliminary competition will not be by the usual process (listed above). Units will be seeded by using the average of their last two scores the unit received prior to the end of the reclassification period. The seeding of units will be spread evenly over the number of "rounds". For example: the highest seeded unit will be in round 3, the second highest seeded unit in round 2, the

third highest seeded unit in round 1, etc. A certain number of units from each round (to be determined at a later date) will advance to the semi- finals competition. Then, the top units in the semi-finals competition will advance to the finals competition. The same judging panel must judge all of the rounds in the preliminary competition. Add the 1.5 points per week for prelims that occur in rounds.

7) When seeding units from the semi-finals round to the finals round, the units will perform in reverse order of score ranking (the highest scoring unit will go on last). In the case of a tie between two units, the unit that has the most caption wins will be seeded higher than the unit that they tied with.

8) Due to the size of the competition, not all Finals Competitions will occur at Convention Hall. An alternate site may be used for some of the Finals Competitions. Please note that due to the volume of units to schedule in the Atlantic Coast Championships, accommodations may not be available for units that use students in multiple units or multiple units from the same school/organization.

9) Unit Directors are reminded that retreat and awards ceremony demeanor is important. Units are expected to continue to project a professional look until the end of retreat and out of the view of the public.

10) Any unit applying glitter or similar items within Championship facilities that leaves a residue on the floor or fixtures within the restroom facilities will be charged appropriate cleaning fees.

11) Any unit that leaves props, trash, etc. behind in Championship facilities will be charged with a disposal fee that must be paid to the National Judges Association before they can compete the following season.

12) A minimum score of 60 must be attained to qualify for finals at Atlantic Coast Championships in Wildwood, NJ

## XII. PENALTIES

Under time Performance and Equipment Timing penalties will not be enforced from the start of the season until March 1. After March 1, all timing penalties will be enforced.

A one-tenth (0.1) penalty will be assessed for:

- Each occurrence of performing or touching over the front sideline.
- Each piece of equipment thrown over the front sideline. Members of the performing unit may ground equipment inside the front sideline and then push it over the front sideline without penalty. No penalties shall be assessed to percussion units for broken sticks, mallets, or hardware falling over the front boundary accidentally.
- Every 3 seconds UNDER Equipment or UNDER/OVER Interval or Performance time.
- Each occurrence of utilizing more than a total of two runners.

A two-point (2.0) penalty will be assessed for:

- Appearing late, refusing to appear in the position drawn/assigned, or any infraction of the TOB Bylaws or percussion group experiencing electronic difficulties- must take the floor within assigned time period for genre and class performance- otherwise the unit will be disqualified.
- Improper conduct by any competing member with another unit's performance
- Interference by a staff or unit member with another unit's performance.
- Interference by a staff or unit member with the judging of their own unit's performance.
- Adult or non-performing personnel that coach, cue, etc. any performing member.
- Use of pre-recorded sounds that set a tempo/rhythm.
- For the protection of the wooden competition floors, all equipment must be properly taped or otherwise be prepared to ensure that damage to the floors will not occur. Inspections may occur by the contest sponsor. Damage to the floor that may occur by dragging the tympani, wheels on carts locking, unprotected props, etc. will be the financial responsibility of the unit and is subject to a penalty of 2.0. **If unsure about appropriate wheel types or prop protection, contact your Region Coordinator or TIA Director PRIOR to your first show of use.
- Tap shoes and/or tap dancing will be allowed only on a hard surface provided by the participating unit. The hard surface will be properly padded (carpeting, foam, etc.) so as not to damage the floor. A canvas/vinyl floor alone is not proper padding. Penalty: 2.0

10 Points to Disqualification, at the discretion of the Chief Judge:

- If a unit fails to notify a contest sponsor and the Region Coordinator and TIA Director that they have been moved to another competing division.

- 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.
- Battery operated devices using “common use” batteries (AA, AAA, AAAA, C, D, N, 9V and button cells) are allowed. Battery operated wheelchairs used by disabled members of the unit 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.
- No gasoline, electric or manual powered generators.
- Use of lasers, strobe lights and flashcubes (electrical and chemical) will not be permitted.
- Live animals shall not be allowed.
- Use of powder, dirt or any other substance that lingers in the competition area past the interval time…
- Use of helium, including helium-filled balloons.
- No motorized vehicles except for motorized wheelchairs used by disabled performers.
- No use of glass objects that may break and/or leave shards of glass in the competition area.
- No drones or any remote-controlled airborne devices.
- No hoverboards, one wheels, E-bikes, E-scooters, or similar means of propulsion.
- Any unit violating any requirement in the ELIGIBILITY section shall be disqualified and its position and standing in the contest shall be forfeited. Example: Utilizing members that are over the age limit for their class.
- There will be no “flying” or “ballooning” of tarps to clear the floor at the conclusion of a unit’s performance.
- Props built and/or used, including drum major podiums, that measure over four feet high and are used in such a way that result in a participant whose feet are more than four feet above the competition surface must have appropriate safety railings in place or protective padding around the prop to prevent injury. Participants are prohibited from jumping or leaping off of any prop that exceeds four feet in height unless protective padding is in place or other adequate safety precautions are taken. PENALTY: At the discretion of the Chief Judge, prohibition of the use of the over height/unsafe prop(s) or disqualified.