

# Preseason Checkpoints: *Classification and Review*



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# Why Classify?

- Level the playing field
- Provide a more equitable distribution of groups at a similar developmental level
- Motivate participants to strive for higher achievement

***Color guards should make every effort to compete in the class for which they are most suited.***

Factors to take into consideration when selecting class:

- Age and experience of performers
- Experience of design and instructional team(s)
- Resources available to group (rehearsal space, budget, etc)
- Future expectations or the “end-goal”

# Cadet Class

*The WGI Regional A Class sheet will be the adjudication tool for this class.*

## **Defining Characteristics**

- Any unit in which every member is an 8th grader or younger
- Units in these classes are generally not attending any WGI Regionals or World Championships
- Class Structure

### **Cadet B**

- Absolute beginner skill and design level (similar to “Novice” class, but for middle school)

### **Cadet A**

- More advanced design elements and skills for the youngest circuit members (similar to SRA class, but for middle school)

# Novice and Regional A Classifications

*The WGI Regional A Class sheet will be the adjudication tool for the above classes.*

- Guards are comprised of **introductory** and **beginning** levels of vocabulary, excellence, quality of design, repertoire and performance
- Emphasis on **training**
  - Limited vocabulary with priorities on establishing solid building blocks on which to develop the skills of the performers.

## **Novice Class**

- All aspects of the program should be novice (beginner) — performers, designers, instructors, etc.
- Units are generally not attending any WGI events

## **Regional A Class**

- There is a broad spectrum of levels within the RA Class: performers who are experiencing their first set of skills at a body and equipment level and performers all along the developmental levels that take them to the point where they are ready to move into A Class
- Units may or may not attend WGI events in the Regional A Class

# AAA, AA, SA, IA and SAN Classifications

*The WGI A Class sheet will be the adjudication tool for the above classes.*

- This sheet emphasizes that A Class guards are comprised of **intermediate** levels of vocabulary, excellence, quality of design, repertoire, and performance.
- Broad spectrum of development within these classes.
  - Some layering of equipment on body and some phrases done while traveling. Phrases will begin to lengthen, showing the performers' skills in this area. Standard tosses will typically top out at quads with individuals who may be spotlighted with more challenging skills.
  - Staging choices will provide the performers with the opportunity to show growing comprehension of challenging spatial relationships, speed/method of moving and orientation
  - At the top of A Class, students demonstrate more challenging Open Class skills, typically in the area of Equipment
- SAPA Class Structure:
  - AAA
  - AA
  - SA and IA
  - Scholastic A National
    - *Units attend at least 1 WGI regional and World Championships*

Scoring neighborhoods are similar within each classification with some overlap at the top and bottom of each class.

# Other Important Classification Considerations

- All units must compete in the same class within SAPA as registered with WGI.
- For Novice, SRA, AAA, AA, and A classes – all medalists from the previous season **MUST** register for the same class or the class above for the current season.

# Review and Reclassification Process

*Any unit can be reclassified and reclassifications may occur after a unit's first performance of the season, regardless of date.*

*\*\*If a Regional A class unit is reclassified, timing penalties will be waived for 2 weeks following the promotion\*\**

## **What is used to determine classification/reclassification?**

Units will be reviewed for reclassification based upon their competitive IA and DA scores. The “reclassification score” for each contest will be determined by the Steering Committee. The reclassification score is a weekly standard score used to flag units for review for reclassification.

## **How will I know if my unit is reclassified?**

If a unit is reclassified, the Director of the unit will be notified at the awards ceremony following the contest where the reclassification score was achieved or exceeded.

# Appeal Process

If a unit feels they are misclassified, the unit directors may adjust their unit's class up until two weeks prior to the first competitive event of the season.

After the first competitive event of the season, if a unit feels they are misclassified or a reclassification was inappropriate, there is a specific process to follow :

1. The Unit Director must present a written statement (petition) to the SAPA Colorguard Steering Committee, supported by the Unit Director's reasons for appeal. This written statement must be received by the SAPA Steering Committee within 24 hours of being notified of reclassification (Sunday Evening).
2. Based on information received from the Unit Director, the SAPA Colorguard Steering Committee will make a final determination, in combination with the other factors utilized to reach the original decision. Careful consideration will be given to the written appeal from the Unit Director in determining the final result of the appeal.
3. A written rationale will be communicated to the Unit Director submitting the petition for appeal within 48 hours of the SAPA Colorguard Steering Committee's receipt of said petition (Tuesday Evening) . This written statement will provide a clear explanation of the criteria used to determine the final classification of the unit.



# Resources

- **WGI policy manual:** <http://wgi.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/WGIPolicyManual-revOct2016.pdf>
- **SAPA policy manual:** available to all SAPA Directors via the SAPA website
- **WGI Contest rules:** <http://wgi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/2018CGRules.pdf>
- **WGI Adjudicators Manuals:** available to all SAPA Directors via the SAPA website
- **WGI Score Sheets (quick reference criteria):** <http://www.wgi.org/color-guard/cg-score-sheets/>