

## 2014 SAPA May Meeting Proposals

### Registration

1) Type: Policy Amendment

Financial Impact: None for SAPA

Proposed By: Executive Board/Staff

Proposal: All units must pay circuit dues before registering for shows.

Rationale:

Common sense. "Pay to play". Every season units sign up and hold spots in shows without paying, while others, who may sign up a little later after they pay are put on waiting lists. In order to be fair to everyone, dues should be paid first before a unit is cleared to sign up for shows

Related SAPA documentation: SAPA Membership, p. 10

2) Type: Policy Amendment

Financial Impact: None for SAPA

Proposed By: Executive Board/Staff

Proposal: All forms must be completed and received by December 15th.

Rationale:

Currently the forms deadline is 15 days before the first contest. The timing of this is not optimal for various reasons. The deadline is during the holiday break, so those scholastic directors who procrastinate cannot get their principal's signature on the Scholastic Eligibility form during the holiday period, so by making the deadline sooner it would force them to get it done before the break. Also, 15 days before the first show does not give enough time for schedules to be made/changed for units that were dropped due to incomplete forms. Very hectic for the Contest Director and Secretary.

Related SAPA documentation: SAPA Membership, p. 10

3) Type: Policy Amendment

Financial Impact: None for SAPA

Proposed By: Executive Board/Staff

Proposal: Pay-per-performance should be limited to 2 shows. Fees should be \$100 for the first appearance and \$200 for the second. If a unit wishes to participate in more than 2 shows they must become a member.

Rationale:

Currently there is no limit in place on the pay-per-performance option. This would encourage units to become members and participate in more events and Championships.

Related SAPA documentation: SAPA Membership, p. 10

## Classification - Colorguard

4) Type: Policy Amendment

Financial Impact: None for SAPA

Proposed By: Kerry Gaskins

Proposal: As with every other class in the SAPA organization, promotion out of Cadet class should be possible if the unit "exceeds the boundaries of this class." (Policy manual, pg. 13).

Rationale:

As the cadet class continues to grow each year, it is evident that the skills and talent grow to match; however, the cadet class should still be considered a "learning class," focusing on the basic/ beginner skills, concepts, and ideas that color guard affords. If a unit clearly exceeds Basic/ beginner skills, they should be rewarded with promotion out of the class.

Related SAPA documentation: Color Guard Classifications, p. 13

5) Type: Policy Amendment

Financial Impact: Financial impact should be minimal (Additional trophies for those competing in this class).

Additional judges are not necessary. It shouldn't even really impact time wise since they still follow each other for time slots.

Proposed By: Jessica Smith

Proposal: Cadet Class should be split into two classifications (As was done previously). Cadet A and Cadet B. Cadet A being the higher classification (Closer to novice but not quite)

Rationale:

Over the last 5 years, the cadet class has changed dramatically. We have units in that class who are just using cadet class as a way of introducing guard to middle school children and working with very basic skill sets but we also have cadet guards that work year round and whose skill sets are close to novice but not quite there (Many of which are not permitted by their county restrictions for competing against high school units). It is unfair to expect two such distinctly different levels to compete against each other. There was almost a 13 point spread from top to bottom at championships and there were exhibition units that might have competed in cadet class if there were options for their developing units.

Related SAPA documentation: Color Guard Classifications, p. 13

6) Type: New Policy

Financial Impact: Potential growth in Cadet unit participation thus resulting in a growth of member fees;

Proposed By: Adam Sage

Proposal: Addition of a Cadet B circuit classification for those units that have members whom are in elementary school.

Rationale:

By instituting a competitive classification that promotes and supports the membership of elementary school students, it would allow for a broader range of accessibility and longevity for not only the circuit but for the color guard activity in general. This also allows for the development of technical skill and character building rooted in creative affirmation and recognition at an age where a huge impact can be made on the student's self-confidence, sense of team-work, and the development of problem-solving and artistic navigation.

Related SAPA documentation: Color Guard Classifications, p. 13

## Contests

7) Type: Policy Amendment

Financial Impact: Perhaps part of the fee should be retained by SAPA for administrative costs.

Proposed By: Executive Board/Staff

Proposal: Change withdrawal fees/timing to \$100 within 4 weeks of the show, and \$200 within 2 weeks of the show.

Rationale:

Sponsors look at the number of units registered for their show and begin to make plans well in advance. This season some shows have had very large swings in numbers close to the date, due to units withdrawing for various reasons. The greatest example: A show dropped from 47 guards to 26 in a matter of about 3 weeks. Hopefully the higher fees will discourage directors from signing up for every show then withdrawing, or will cause directors to think a little more before pulling a unit out of a show.

Related SAPA documentation: Entry Procedure, p. 18

8) Type: Policy Amendment

Financial Impact: None for SAPA

Proposed By: Executive Board/Staff

Proposal: The minimum 3 contests to qualify for SAPA Championships will include at least 1 Premier show, 1 show in February and 1 show in March.

Rationale:

To attempt to balance the attendance for all shows. In the past, February shows have been much smaller than March shows. The result is sponsors not wanting to bid for February (or in some cases, losing money on a February show), and overcrowding of March shows.

Related SAPA documentation: SAPA Policy Manual, pg. 13 (Colorguard) and pg. 16 (Percussion)

9) Type: New Policy

Financial Impact: None for SAPA

Proposed By: Andria Foerch

Proposal: Regarding fees. If a unit owes a fee past the due date they should be moved to a waiting list for any next contests until that fee is paid. They would follow the same rules of any unit on the waitlist. They would be placed at the end of the list.

Rationale:

This circuit is run on membership dues and a set of rules set forth by the membership. If another member is not compliant in paying fees, they should not be allowed to compete until those fees are paid in full.

Related SAPA documentation:

10) Type: New Policy

Financial Impact: None for SAPA

Proposed By: Executive Board/Staff

Proposal: In order to have the withdrawal fee waived, all withdrawals from shows due to “weather” must be accompanied by a letter from the principal of the school, on school letterhead, stating the students are not allowed to travel to the show. The exception for this requirement would be if school districts are closed on the Friday prior to the show.

Rationale:

Sponsors lose profits for every unit that withdraws from their show with short notice, and therefore, they are entitled to the withdrawal fee charged to a unit. In order to curtail units using the weather and loss of rehearsal time due to weather as an excuse to withdraw from shows and avoid paying the withdrawal fee, proper proof from the principal must be provided to SAPA. This would mirror existing WGI policy for regionals.

Related SAPA documentation: Entry Procedure, p. 18

11) Type: New Policy

Financial Impact: None for SAPA

Proposed By: Executive Board/Staff

Proposal: A small fee (\$20-\$25) for ANY withdrawal from a show at any time. Late addition fees stay the same: \$75 within 2 weeks and \$150 within 1 week.

Rationale:

Many directors sign up for every show, then decide much later which 3-4 shows they actually want to attend. Often units withdraw from shows at the last minute on the last day before a fee is charged. The result can be large swings in numbers from the time of registration to the date of a show. A fee would hopefully discourage directors from doing this

Related SAPA documentation: Entry Procedure, p. 18

12) Type: New Policy

Financial Impact: None for SAPA

Proposed By: Andria Foerch

Proposal: Waitlist--Regardless of the contest size, the wait list should accommodate as many units trying to sign up for a show as possible. The amount of units that would be allowed from the waitlist to the actual competition list would be left to the discretion of the Contest Director.

Rationale:

Many units sign up for shows they may not end up attending. If the wait list is kept constant, then the shows can always be at maximum capacity. Additionally, this benefits groups that have met their requirements and could possibly move up the list.

Related SAPA documentation:

## Code of Ethics

13) Type: Policy Amendment

Financial Impact: None for SAPA

Proposed By: Executive Board/Staff

Proposal: Add language regarding the use of social media to our SAPA Code of Ethics, using WGI "Social Media Guidelines", on p. 8 in the WGI Rulebook as a guide.

Rationale:

Social media is part of everyday life now. We all need to be aware of what we post and how it can be misconstrued or misunderstood in some cases. No unit, director, student, staff member or judge should be referred to by name in a negative way on social media.

Related SAPA documentation: Code of Ethics, p. 4

## General

14) Type: New Policy

Financial Impact: None for SAPA. We would save the money that was spent for fees.

Proposed By: Executive Board/Staff

Proposal: A 3% "convenience fee" will be charged on all PayPal transactions.

Rationale:

The PayPal option for paying dues and fees is convenient, however, SAPA paid thousands of dollars in fees for PayPal transactions this season.

Related SAPA documentation: SAPA Membership, p. 10

## New Business

Type: New Business

Category: Circuit Business

Financial Impact: "website maintenance fees"

Proposed By: Andria Foerch

Proposal: Loving the new website! As there is always room for improvement, can we explore the option of allowing multiple emails to be associated with the group?

Rationale:

In many cases, there is more than one person managing a group (band director/guard director; guard director/guard mom; shared guard director responsibilities, etc).

Type: New Business

Category: Circuit Business

Financial Impact: "website maintenance fees"

Proposed By: Andria Foerch

Proposal: Can there be an area that is a membership only page? I would love if that option could be explored.

Rationale:

Membership fees cover much of the resources provided by the circuit--I would like to protect the integrity of that. Users signing up for a login would just have to be associated with a unit that is a member of the circuit.

### **Executive Board Additions to New Business:**

- Discuss possibility of Sunday shows in March
- Discuss possible Championships ticket price increase (\$5) - Has always been the cost. Trying to negotiate free parking so the extra \$5 will not only cover that, but allow the circuit to offer more.
- Increase the number of percussion shows: Jan premiere...2 in Feb...all weekends in March
- Investing in mobile purchasing equipment for circuit contests
- Increase amount of money for provided scholarships
- Offer additional education programs?
- Marketing for the circuit and possibly adding internships for interested students
- Elections: President, Percussion Vice-President, Colorguard At-Large