



SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION FOR PERFORMANCE ARTS  
2022 SAPA Spring Membership Meeting Proposal List

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Policy Proposals

**Category: Classification**

**1** Proposed by: Ginger Armstrong

Proposal:

Reinstate the SAA and SAAA classes or divide rounds in SA by scoring neighborhoods.

Rationale:

As evidenced by the many reclassifications in the 2022 season, there is a clear need for a competitive class for groups that are successful in SRA and not yet at the level to be successful in the top 1/2 of the SA sheet. By either reinstating the SAA and SAAA classes or allowing units to compete with other groups in their scoring neighborhood, this gives scholastic units the opportunity for comparison to other groups that are at or near the same skill level.



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Proposed by: Ginger Armstrong

Proposal:

Amend Color Guard Reclassification and Review Process (amendments listed **bolded, underlined, and italicized**):

Who can be reclassified?

Any unit can be reviewed for possible reclassification if they attend a WGI regional and make finals at that WGI regional.

If any unit achieves the reclassification score as determined by the Steering Committee, they will be **\*REVIEWED FOR POSSIBLE PROMOTION\*** to the next classification.

• When can units be reclassified?

Units in all eligible classes can be promoted **UNTIL THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS**. If a Regional A class unit is reclassified, timing penalties will be waived for 2 weeks following the promotion. Reclassification for all units can be promoted based on a WGI regional finals performance, regardless of date.

What is used to determine classification/reclassification?

Units will be reviewed for reclassification based upon their competitive score. The reclassification score for each contest will be determined by the Steering Committee. **WHEN A UNIT IS REVIEWED, THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE SHEETS FOR THE CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE CLASSES AND MAKE A DETERMINATION IF THE SKILLS DISPLAYED IN THE SHOW ARE APPROPRIATE FOR THE CURRENT CLASS OR MORE ALIGNED TO THE HIGHER CLASSIFICATION.**

How will I know if my unit is reclassified?

If a unit is **BEING REVIEWED FOR RECLASSIFICATION, the Director of the unit will be notified WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE CONTEST AT WHICH THEY MET THE DESIGNATED SCORE FOR REVIEW.**

Rationale:

Using a set number to identify groups for review and then ensuring that the final decision is based on the sheets for the current and prospective class will avoid the stress of reclassification and appeals for both the units and the steering committee and will bring the SAPA process more in line with the WGI process.



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The prior rationale for reclassifying only certain classes was based on not promoting any unit off of one WGI sheet to another level. All WGI regionals now include SRA and IRA classes, so if these classifications can be promoted off of one sheet to another, all other classes should be eligible for reclassification at the circuit level as well.

**Category: Championships**

**3** Proposed by: Alyssa Dickens

Proposal:

Prior to signing a new contract for a Championships venue after the current contract expires, the Executive Board must present three options of venues to the membership for a vote, at least one of which must be within the State of Georgia.

Rationale:

Traveling has become increasingly difficult for units as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Some school systems have limited travel for groups specifically with regard to crossing state lines in response to the pandemic, while others already had strict rules about crossing state lines that create an increased financial burden on units, making participation in championships a barrier for groups. Due to the multi-day format and unpredictability of performance times, traveling out of state often requires groups to stay overnight in hotels. There is increased concern over asking students to share hotel rooms/beds as a result of the COVID crisis. The circuit has successfully held championships in two different locations that would not require groups to travel out of state, and this should be an option for the membership of our circuit.



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**Category: Contests**

**4** Proposed by: Ginger Armstrong

Proposal:

Add a bullet to Circuit Contests>Sponsorship section to include geographic area to the criteria for choosing circuit contests.

Rationale:

All geographic areas of our circuit should be represented when choosing contests. In the 2022 season, all contests were above the north side of I-285, making travel for groups in the southern part of the circuit a challenge. When new sites are added to the schedule, a show in the same area should be replaced if possible instead of eliminating a show in another area of the circuit.

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**5** Proposed by: Ginger Armstrong

Proposal:

Eliminate the statement that "All colorguard Classes MUST appear at three SAPA performance events to qualify for SAPA Circuit Championships."

Rationale:

This requirement was included when we started the circuit so that shows would have enough entries to support the costs taken on by the host schools and hopefully make a profit. As the circuit has grown, this is no longer a concern for show hosts. Because our season overlaps with many other band events (GMEA, All-State, JanFest, etc.), scholastic programs are often limited as to which weekends they can compete, making it even more difficult to schedule 3 circuit contests in addition to circuit championships.



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**6** Proposed by: Ginger Armstrong

Proposal:

If units are required to attend 3 circuit contests in order to participate in circuit championships, allow 1 WGI regional to count toward the 3 show minimum.

Rationale:

This was in place for the first several years of our circuit. Our circuit should encourage growth and exposure for our units in WGI competitions without adding a logistical and financial burden to these programs by requiring additional shows.

**Category: Circuit Business**

**7** Proposed by: SAPA Executive Board

Proposal:

Increase primary unit fees to \$600 & increase additional unit fees to \$450

Rationale:

Our current primary & additional unit fees have changed one time in the past decade. Costs to run the circuit have increased significantly in that time due to continually rising transportation costs and other expenditures to maintain the quality of our competitions. Increasing these fees helps the circuit remain viable as we add staff positions and continue to improve on the quality of our events.



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**8** Proposed by: SAPA Executive Board

Proposal:

Add the following statement in Costs & Deadlines:

"Dues will be evaluated by the Executive Board on a yearly basis, and any increases in dues will not exceed 5%."

Rationale:

The Executive Board is tasked with making financial decisions for the circuit. By adding this language, it allows the circuit to make changes to the dues structure on an as-needed basis from year to year while providing a cap for these increases. This allows for cost increases to happen on a more incremental basis and be more manageable from year to year.