



PROPOSAL FOR THE JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL 'A' CLASS, WINTER GUARD ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

During the spring 2005 meeting of the Winter Guard Association of Southern California, the body voted on an amendment to change the number of classes for junior high/middle schools from two to three. A committee was appointed by President Lee Carlson to study the issue and develop an implementation strategy. The conceptual idea was to implement a novice class of guards using modified criteria from the regional 'A' class. Because of the very rudimentary nature of the regional 'A' class criteria in the lower boxes, it was discovered that there would not be enough differentiation in a new criteria to accommodate a completely different class. In addition, the board maintained their position that to place three classes on one criterion was neither feasible nor desirable. So, this plan has been developed to accommodate the regional 'A' class units by offering a classification that is in part based on a modified 'A' class criteria that does two things: one, allows the redistribution of units within the regional 'A' sheet by shifting more advanced units; and, two, offers a scoring rubric specifically for junior high/middle school units with a predominant number of experienced performers.

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLESCHOOL INSTRUCTORS: Please review the below descriptions and re-declare a class based on the current makeup of your group.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS STRUCTURE

In order to fully capture the desire of the body to incorporate three classes for junior high and middle school units, a redefinition of the characteristics of each of the three classes must accompany the development of the new class. The comments of the body at the spring 2005 meeting were taken into account to develop the characteristics of these classes. However, it should be noted that in order for this restructuring to work properly, the unit directors must utilize these descriptions in classifying their own groups, so that like units compete within the same class. The WGASC Classification Committee has created classification review scores that take into consideration the modified nature of the new JH/MS-A sheet.

- **JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL REGIONAL A CLASS:** This class is designed for the most novice performers of color guard. Units in this class are characterized by

membership of no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the total number of performers having any dance or guard experience ever. Show design and the generation of effect are very much less important than the development of primary technical skills and the introduction of expression. This class is reserved to allow these performers a positive emerging competitive experience in color guard, and to allow them to develop entry-level skills in a supportive environment. Only groups who are at the very nascent stages of training should declare this class.

- JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL REGIONAL AA CLASS: This class is designed for junior high and middle school units that may have new performers, but also includes more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the unit with limited dance or previous color guard training. This class is designed for individuals to be somewhat more competitive than the regional 'A' class, but still working on the refinement of entry-level skills. Design and thematic efforts play a more prominent role than in the regional 'A' class, but still are at elementary levels. Groups who have had some exposure but limited training should declare this class.
- JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL A CLASS: This class is designed for junior high and middle school units that may have new performers, but may also include a majority of returning performers who have had some previous exposure to dance and/or color guard. These units are expanding from entry-level skills, which they are fairly comfortable with, to more of the beginning skills associated with the high school 'A' class. Units that have had moderate exposure and training, are developing performers for further competition beyond junior high school/middle school, who are feeder units for existing competitive programs, or are developing individuals who aspire to national competition levels should declare this class.