



2018

Contest Rules

Revised 10/26/17

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MISSION STATEMENT

WGASC is a non-profit, youth organization which cultivates personal growth through competitive performance opportunities in an organized forum that promotes self-esteem, education and freedom of creativity.

WGASC CONTACT INFORMATION

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Membership Education CoordinatorJoey Valenzuela
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Lead Contest DirectorBrian Nunez
Customer Relations Rhonda Choat
Logistics Coordinator.....Matt Mize

E-COMMITTEE

President Melissa Samson
VP-RecordsDebby Gibson
VP-Finances Daniel Mack
VP-Adjudication Richard Kramer
VP-Member Relations Ben Contreras

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lynn Kunster
Greg Llacer
Daryl Lee Specter

WGASC CONTEST RULES 2018

WGASC discourages independent color guards from utilizing membership composed of any high school students who were previously enrolled in an active winter guard high school program and have not yet graduated.

WGASC also discourages independent color guards from utilizing performers who have outstanding monies owed to a previous color guard.

WGASC strongly recommends that performing groups and their directors/staff use the utmost caution and forethought in planning and use of props that might place participants (and others) in potential danger during assembly or use.

All performers at a WGASC event will be required to wear protective footwear while outside the performance area.

ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1 Color guards in the Independent Regional A and Independent A Classes composed of performers not over twenty-two (22) years of age on April 1st of any given year shall be permitted to compete in contest governed by WGASC. Independent Open Class color guards may utilize performers not over twenty-three (23) years of age on April 1st of any given year. Independent World Class Color guards may compete with performers of any age. Each color guard appearing in a WGASC contest shall be prepared to show proof of age.
- 1.2 Color guards whose total membership comes from the same school or schools that feed into that school and abide by the WGASC age rule may compete in the scholastic (non-post secondary) divisions provided by WGASC. Each school color guard appearing in a WGASC contest in a scholastic class shall be prepared to show proof of enrollment in sponsoring schools.
- 1.3 Color Guards may not compete with less than five (5) performers in the competition area at any time. There is no maximum number of members in any classification.

PENALTY: Disqualification - Any color guard violating any requirement in the Eligibility section shall be disqualified from that contest and must forfeit any scores, placements or awards

COMPETITION AREA

2.1 For the purpose of interpretation, the competition area shall measure a minimum of sixty by ninety feet (60' x 90') and does not include entry ramps, hallways, bleachers or seating area. Color guards are permitted to utilize the entire competition area for their performance. Color guards may not use floors (tarps) larger than sixty by ninety feet (78' x 106'). Depending on the performance venue, WGASC will authorize additional competition area space whenever possible and include that information in the diagram (footprint) to be made available to all competing color guards to identify the competition area. While the competition area will be increased whenever possible, all color guards must be prepared to perform within the minimum sixty by ninety feet (60' x 90') area.

2.2 All WGASC contest sites must have a minimum of seventy by one hundred feet (70' x 100') to accommodate a "safety zone" of five feet (5') from any spectator seating. If no spectators are seated on the sides, then the safety zone may be measured from the left and right walls of the competition area. This will ensure the minimum sixty by ninety feet (60' x 90') competition area within the minimum seventy by one hundred feet (70' x 100') of the contest site.

2.3 Once performance timing begins, no performer may enter the safety zone. Equipment and props may be placed into safety zones, but not extend more than five feet (5') beyond the designated competition area. There can be no equipment choreography outside the competition area including the safety zone at any time.

PENALTY: 0.5 per performer

2.4 The front sideline shall be considered to extend the full width of the competition area and shall be clearly marked at a minimum of five feet (5') from the first row of spectator seating area.

PENALTY: One-tenth (0.1) of a point penalty shall be assessed for each member for each boundary offense or violation of the competition area

2.5 The center of the front boundary line shall be marked by a six inch (6") line at the front and back of the competition area. The outer edges of the competition area shall also be marked by a six inch (6") lines at the corners to designate the safety zone. The center vertical line shall be completely marked with a solid line from the front center mark to the back center mark.

2.6 110-volt grounded power sources shall be available at the front and back of the center line of the competition area. Color guards must provide their own extension cords.

2.7 Power sources must be dedicated for color guard use only and have no other electrical devices using designated power sources.

2.8 All contests must utilize a high quality sound system with a CD player and the capability to use external devices such as MP3 players and/or iPods.

2.9 Color guards may not pull out their floor coverings at show sites due to limited space at show sites except in the performance area or in a designated folding area.

PENALTY: Two (2.0) point penalty

SCORING

3.1 The elements to be judged for Open and World classes are:

<u>CAPTION</u>	<u>POINTS (# OF JUDGES)</u>
Individual Analysis Equipment	20.0 (1)
Vocabulary	10.0
Excellence	10.0
Individual Analysis Movement	20.0 (1)
Vocabulary	10.0
Excellence	10.0
Design Analysis	20.0 (1)
Composition	10.0
Excellence	10.0
General Effect	20.0 (2)
Repertoire	10.0
Performance	10.0
<u>Timing and Penalties Penalty</u>	<u>?? (1)</u>
Total	100.0 (6)

The elements to be judged for Scholastic A/AA/AAA classes are:

<u>CAPTION</u>	<u>POINTS (# OF JUDGES)</u>
Individual Analysis Equipment	20.0 (1)
Vocabulary	7.0
Excellence	13.0
Individual Analysis Movement	20.0 (1)
Vocabulary	7.0
Excellence	13.0
Design Analysis	20.0 (1)
Composition	10.0
Excellence	10.0
General Effect	20.0 (2)
Repertoire	10.0
Performance	10.0
<u>Timing and Penalties Penalty</u>	<u>?? (1)</u>
Total	100.0 (6)

The elements to be judged for WGASC HS A/AA & JH A/AA/AAA classes are:

<u>CAPTION</u>	<u>POINTS (# OF JUDGES)</u>
Individual Analysis Equipment	25.0 (1)
Vocabulary	8.75
Excellence	16.25
Individual Analysis Movement	25.0 (1)
Vocabulary	8.75
Excellence	16.25
Design Analysis	25.0 (1)
Composition	12.50
Excellence	12.50
General Effect	25.0 (1)
Repertoire	12.50
Performance	12.50
<u>Timing and Penalties Penalty</u>	<u>?? (1)</u>
Total	100.0 (5)

- 3.2 All judges with the exception of the Timing and Penalty judge will be located in the audience viewing area.

EQUIPMENT

- 4.1 For the protection of the facilities, especially wooden competition floors and easements, all equipment and props must be properly prepared to assure that damage of the facilities will not occur. All equipment will be subject to inspection. Any damage to the facility (wheels on carts locking, improperly prepared equipment, etc.) that may occur will be the responsibility of the color guard.

PENALTY: Two (2.0) point penalty for each infraction

- 4.2 Definitions of authorized equipment:

- 4.2.1 Flags are defined as any material attached to a pike, pole, rod or staff other than an authorized weapon and used as a flag, with a minimum size of eight inches by twelve inches (8" x 12"). National colors must be at least three feet by five feet (3' x 5'). Flagpoles must be at least twenty-four inches (24") 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 scenic element or a prop.

- 4.2.2 Rifles are defined as devices with the outward appearance influenced by a rifle. Rifles must be at least twenty-four inches (24") in length.

- 4.2.3 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. Simulated sabres/swords must have either a hand guard or a hilt and must be at least twenty-four inches (24") in length.
 - 4.2.4 Authorized equipment may be modified by the addition of visual items, however, attaching a flag, rifle or saber/sword to a prop does not make the prop a flag, rifle or saber/sword – it is still a prop. Timing and Penalty judges have the right to inspect and challenge guards for authorized equipment either before or after the maximum performance time with permission of the Contest Director.
- 4.3 Definitions of other authorized equipment:
- 4.3.1 Color guards may manipulate their soundboard by using a remote-controlled wireless device through a self-supplied network. WGASC will provide an area in the stands with a direct line of sight to the competition area for one (1) designated staff member to adjust the mix or control any device using wireless technology. A & Open Class devices must be battery operated as per rule 4.3.3. The soundboard/controlled device must remain in the competition area.
 - 4.3.2 Performers playing musical instruments or singing using a 115/120-volt power source provided to allow amplification is permitted in the competition area.
 - 4.3.3 World Class color guards may use any electrical device within their program deemed safe by the Contest Director. The Contest Director has the ultimate decision regarding safety of any electrical device in consultation with the Director of Color Guard and/or Executive Director. Color guards should consult with the Director of Color Guard prior to using any equipment not specifically defined in these rules. Color guard will assume any liability for issues arising out of use of said electrical devices.

WGASC JHS/HS AA/A, AAA/AA/A & Open Class color guards may only use the electrical power sources provided as defined in Rule 4.3.2.
 - 4.3.4 Battery operated devices using common off the shelf flashlight batteries (AA, AAA, AAAA, C, D, N, 9V and button cells) are allowed. Devices using dry-cell secondary “rechargeable batteries” including cell phones, cameras, MP3 players and computers are also allowed.
- 4.4 The following are NOT ALLOWED in the Competition Area:
- 4.4.1 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.
 - 4.4.2 Gasoline, electric or manual powered generators
 - 4.4.3 Live animals
 - 4.4.4 Use of powder, dirt or any other substance that lingers in the competition area past the interval time
 - 4.4.5 Use of helium, including helium-filled balloons
 - 4.4.6 No motorized vehicles, including hoverboards, will be allowed except for motorized wheelchairs used by disabled performers
 - 4.4.7 Use of glass objects that may break and/or leave shards of glass in the competition area

4.4.8 Drones, **hover boards** or any remote-controlled airborne devices

4.4.10 Tap and/or dancing shoes will be only be allowed on a hard surface provided by the competing color guard. The hard surface will be properly padded (carpeting, foam, etc.) so as not to damage the floor. A “floor” or tarp alone is not proper padding.

Directors are encouraged to contact the Director of Color Guard to inquire about the use of particular equipment or materials when its permissibility under this section or at a specific site may be in question.

The Contest Director, Chief Judge or Director of Color Guard shall at all times have the authority to prohibit the use of any prop or equipment that presents an unreasonable or unacceptable risk of injury or harm to participants or others or potential danger to a venue or its property.

PENALTY: Ten point (10.0) penalty to Disqualification

4.5 Props built and/or used, including drum major podiums, that measure over six feet (6′) high and are used in such a way that result in a participant whose feet are more than six feet (6′) above the competition area must have appropriate safety railings in place or protective padding around prop to prevent any injury. Participants are prohibited from jumping or leaping off any prop that exceeds six feet (6′) in height unless protective padding is in place or other adequate safety precautions are taken.

The following safety guidelines are applicable to the construction, transport, and use of any prop or structure at any WGASC event or facility and to any performer, staff, volunteer, or parent who may be assisting in the construction or transport of the prop or structure. These guidelines are in effect during the entire time in the competition area, including setup and exit.

PENALTY: At the discretion of the Contest Director, including (but not limited to) prohibition of the use of the over-height/unsafe prop(s) or disqualification

4.6 If a United States flag is used as part of a program, proper protocol must be followed as dictated by the US Flag code.

4.7 Recorded music:

4.7.1 All color guards should upload their soundtrack on the Director’s Portal on the WGASC website by Thursday at 12:00 AM Midnight (PST) before a contest

4.7.2 If a CD is used, it must be turned in to the Announcer before the color guard’s performance. All CD’s should be clearly marked with color guard’s name and division. The CD must only have one track. A sound check may be made before the contest or at a break/intermission.

4.7.3 MP3 players including iPods and Smartphones may be used and must be fully charged. The performance sound track must be the only song/track on playlist. The volume on the device must be turned up 100%. All Smart Phones must be placed in “Airplane Mode”. A Sound check is required.

PENALTY: One (1.0) point penalty for a non-dedicated CD or violation of the iPod, Smart Phone requirements will be assessed

4.7.4 Color guards may not use live streaming (Dropbox, iCloud, etc.) at play their performance soundtrack.

PENALTY: Five (5.0) point penalty and other timing penalties if applicable

Timing

5.1 Color guards shall be scheduled to compete at intervals according to class.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Interval Time</u>	<u>Minimum Performance Time</u>	<u>Maximum Performance Time</u>	<u>Minimum Equipment Time</u>
World	10 minutes	4 minutes	7½ minutes	3½ minutes
Open	9 minutes	4 minutes	6½ minutes	3½ minutes
A/AA	8 minutes	4 minutes	5½ minutes	3½ minutes
AAA	7 minutes	3 minutes	4½ minutes	2½ minutes
WGASC JH A/AA/AAA & HS A/AA	7 minutes	3 minutes	4½ minutes	2½ minutes

5.2 Interval time will include entrance, setup, performance, exit and removal of all performers, props, floors and equipment from the competition area. Interval time will begin when the Timing and Penalty Judge signals the color guard.

5.3 Each color guard, with all competing performers, shall remain in the competition area and be judged in all captions for a minimum of four (4:00) minutes with the exception of AAA and WGASC classes, which shall have a minimum of three (3:00) minutes.

5.4 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. The end of the maximum performance time is at the obvious conclusion of the show. All captions will be judged until the obvious conclusion of the show.

5.5 Each color guard must accumulate a minimum of three and one half (3:30) minutes of authorized equipment time during their performance except for AAA and WGASC classes, where the minimum is two and one half (2:30) minutes. Authorized equipment may be flags, rifles or sabres/swords.

5.5.1 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. For example, a sabre hung at side with hand touching is not considered authorized equipment in hand.)

5.5.2 A color guard performer is considered visible as determined by the Timing and Penalty judge viewing from the front sideline.

PENALTY: One-tenth (0.1) of a point for each three seconds (:03) or fraction thereof for any timing violation

5.6 Competing color guards cannot be required to perform before the time set in the latest contest schedule distributed by the office. Schedules for finals may be adjusted up to 15-20 minutes from the published schedule. If a schedule change occurs, color guards will be notified by text message at the conclusion of prelims. (See page 98 of WGI Rule Book)

5.7 Any color guard unable to make their scheduled performance time will be rescheduled to perform during the next most logical performance slot in their class. Schedule adjustments will be made at the discretion of the Contest Director.

ENTRY

6.1 All performers must enter the competition area through the designated entry door, tunnel or ramp. Prior to the actual start of the performance time, color guard may utilize the entire arena for setup and pre-show preparations.

PENALTY: Five-tenths (0.5) of a point penalty per performer for failing to use designated entry door, tunnel or ramp

6.2 All props must be able to fit through a standard size double door with the center bar removed. No timing exception will be made for oversized props. Props will not be allowed in the competition area before the color guard's performance.

6.3 Any color guard creating a delay in the schedule will be subject to penalty

PENALTY: Five-tenths (0.5) of a point penalty for each class interval time of lateness or part thereof up to the conclusion of the class and/or contest

6.4 The color guard will line up at a ready line to be designated by the Contest Director to enter the competition area

6.5 Authorized equipment and/or props may be placed anywhere in the competition area by color guard performers or anyone prior to the start of the performance. Authorized equipment and/or hand held props may be placed in front of the front boundary line not to exceed five feet (5') beyond the designated competition area. Any non-performers involved in set up must exit the competition area prior to the start of performance time.

PENALTY: One tenth (0.1) of a point penalty for each non-performer failing to exit competition area prior to performance time

6.6 World Class color guards will be allowed to use music and/or recorded narration as part of their setup process through the house sound system after one (1:00) minute of the color guard's interval time. If a color guard chooses to use music or recorded narration they must communicate this to the Timing and Penalty judge. The color guard is responsible for any music direction required at the sound table, which must be given in person. A & Open Class color guards are not allowed to have any kind of pre-show music or narration prior to their performance time.

6.7 When the color guard first enters the competition area, an announcement of...*"Please welcome from [city, state], [name of color guard]"* will be made. At one minute thirty seconds (1:30) of the interval time for Open, A/AA/AAA and WGASC HS/JHS classes, two minutes (2:00) for World Class or at any specific time noted to the Timing and Judge by the color guard, the announcer will be cued to say, *"Performing their program [title], the Winter Guard Association of Southern California is proud to present [name of color guard]."* World Class color guards are permitted to have this second announcement pre-recorded into their soundtrack. Color guards may not deviate from the wording of this announcement.

6.8 Once the performance begins, performers must remain in the designated competition area for the minimum performance time as designated in Rule 5.1. Performers may not re-enter competition area during performance time once they have exited until after the performance has concluded.

PENALTY: Five tenths (0.5) of a point penalty for each performer failing to remain in competition area for designated time or returning after they have exited before conclusion of performance

6.9 The front boundary line is inviolate at all times except for performers involved in entrance set up or tear down at the end of the performance. Boundary line violations (including first aid cases) do not constitute permanently leaving the floor.

PENALTY: One-tenth (0.1) of a point penalty for each member per offense

6.10 Floor coverings (tarps) may not cover the front boundary line at the beginning of performance time

PENALTY: Two (2.0) point penalty

EXIT

7.1 Exit may be over any line at the conclusion of the performance

7.2 All performers must exit the competition area through the designated exit door, tunnel or ramp

PENALTY: Five-tenths (0.5) of a point penalty per performer for failing to use designated exit door, tunnel or ramp

7.3 All personnel, equipment and/or props must clear the vertical or horizontal center-line at the conclusion of interval time. The timing line shall be for visual use by the Timing and Penalties judge and not designated by tape.

7.4 For purposes of timing, equipment and props are considered removed when they cross the vertical or horizontal centerline. After crossing the timing line, all equipment and/or props must continue to make forward progress out of the competition area in a timely manner or receive a penalty at the discretion of the Timing and Penalty judge.

PENALTY: One-tenth (0.1) of a point penalty for each three seconds (:03) or fraction thereof

7.5 There will be no flying of tarps (also known as “ballooning”) to clear floor at the conclusion a color guard’s performance

PENALTY: Disqualification

PENALTIES

8.1 Timing and Penalty judges will assess all penalties for infractions that take place in the competition area. Contest Directors may not waive competition area penalties. A color guard has a right to challenge any penalty in consultation with the Chief Judge but any final decision regarding penalties will remain with the Timing and Penalty judge.

8.2 Any color guard violating any rule or part of a rule, breaching standard contest etiquette or failing to comply with directions from contest personnel for which no specific penalty is provided, will be penalized for each such violation, not less than one-tenth (0.1) point up to disqualification at the discretion of the Chief Judge, Contest Director, Director of Operations, or Executive Director

PENALTY: One-tenth (0.1) of a point penalty to Disqualification

8.3 All programs, soundtracks, thematic and costuming choices must reflect the qualities that would be acceptable for performance at a scholastic venue or suitable for marketing to sponsors on a national level

PENALTY: Denial of performance or possible Disqualification as determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the Executive Committee

INSPECTION GUIDELINES

- The following is an informational guideline for color guards to prepare equipment properly for use in WGASC events. The protection of the gymnasium floor of every site we utilize for our contests is extremely important. District/School administrators are less likely to have schools host contests in their gymnasiums if their facilities would require repair or replacement.
- All flag pikes must be cushioned with rubber plugs or a protective substance. Rifles, sabers/swords and all other props must have adequate protection. It is the responsibility of the contest host to check the equipment.
- Footwear is optional. Cleats and rosin are prohibited on all footwear. All footwear must be protected. It is the responsibility of the contest host to check each color guard prior to its performance to insure that no harm will be done to the gymnasium floor. The WGASC encourages all contest sponsors to inspect all equipment and footwear of each color guard participating in their contest. Any color guard with equipment or footwear not meeting the following guidelines will be required to correct the deficiency prior to their entering the gym or the equipment in question will not be allowed into the gym.

PROTECTION GUIDELINES

- Poles - All flag poles should be covered with some type of protective cap. This can be made of rubber, plastic or some type of protection that will protect the gym floor from damage. These can be rubber crutch tips, furniture caps or caps made specifically for flag poles. Any pole which does not have protection, or if the protection is worn out and the pole itself is cutting through, will not be allowed into the gym. This also pertains to short flags, sticks, or props that are made from, or resemble poles that are utilized by the color guard. All poles made out of metal, wood, fiberglass, plastic or any other material is covered by these guidelines.
- Rifles – All rifles should have the barrel removed or properly capped. Each end of the rifle must have sufficient padding and/or tape to cover the entire end of the rifle. There are pads specifically made and cut to size to fit on both ends of the rifle. Rifles that are severely worn so that the ends are rounded must have adequate protection so that no bare wood is shown or can be felt with the hand. In addition, rifles with bolts or any mechanisms or appendages that protrude from the side of the rifle must be padded and/or taped sufficiently to protect the floor from damage if dropped. Rifles not meeting these guidelines will not be allowed into the gym. All types of rifles made out of wood, plastic or fiberglass is covered by these guidelines.
- Sabers/Swords – Sabers/swords must have a piece of tape on the end so that it is not sharp to the touch. All hilts or handles must be padded and taped sufficiently to protect the floor from damage if dropped. Sabers/swords not meeting these guidelines will not be allowed into the gym. All types of sabers/swords made out of any type of material are covered by these guidelines.
- Props/Sets – All sets, flats, props or any items brought into the gym including any and all items necessary for the transport of props, sets, flats or equipment must have adequate protection so that they do not damage the floor. Bare wood on the bottom of any prop is unacceptable and must be padded and protected with tape, cloth, carpeting, etc. so that the wood does not come in contact with the gym

floor. Props constructed of plastic PVC type piping is acceptable, however, if the color guard personnel utilize it as equipment, then it must be protected as if it were a flag pole. Props, sets, flats, carriers or any other type of transport equipment which have wheels must have wheels which are clean and free of all debris and should be made out of plastic or rubber. Bare metal wheels will not be allowed into the gym. In the case of any and all props, sets, flats or equipment, they should not be dragged across the floor during set-up, removal or in the course of the color guard's performance.

- Floors – Performance floor coverings should be free of debris and liquids. Check floors prior to arriving at a show site. Especially if a color guard performs outside, debris can accumulate underneath a floor and be transferred onto the circuit floor. Debris includes fine black dust from asphalt in parking lots or “blacktops”. Debris/liquids can become a hazard for subsequent performing color guards, especially if the color guards do not utilize floors or only use floor coverings that only cover part of the performance area. Delay in contest penalties may apply if time beyond the maximum interval time is required for cleanup.
- Footwear – All footwear should be clean and free of any dirt, rocks or other debris regardless of the composition or type of material or construction of the footwear. Hard-soled shoes or high-heeled shoes must be protected with silver duct tape over the complete surface of the sole of the shoe. Dance shoes, slippers or rubber soled athletic footwear are all acceptable types of footwear, which do not need additional protection.

Color guards damaging a gymnasium floor or any part of the performance facility will be held liable for the repair and/or replacement of the affected area. The WGASC strongly suggests that all color guards regularly inspect their equipment for wear and follow these guidelines. Please be responsible and help protect the contest floors by making certain your equipment meets these guidelines.

COMPETITIVE FLAG CODE FOR WINTER GUARD

- 1.0 PURPOSE: The purpose of the code is to establish a set of rules and regulation for the use of color guard contest committee, for the display of the National Color of any country uniformed groups may represent, hereinafter referred to as the National Color
- 2.0 The code confines itself to consideration of the National Color and the items and/or incidents relative to flag etiquette and does not concern itself with the other captions such as analysis or effect, etc. Use of the code shall not be the authority either expressed or implied, to violate any National, State or Provincial laws at variance with it.
- 3.0 Any color guard that is competing shall be subject to this code
- 4.0 Violations of the code may be noted by any assigned judge, however only the Timing & Penalty Judge may assess a penalty. Infractions of the competitive flag code shall be penalized one tenth (0.1) of a point per offense (sixteen (16) steps or change of direction); however, a one (1.0) point penalty shall be assessed for dropping the National Color.
- 5.0 Any number of National Colors may be carried by a color guard provided they are properly guarded. In the case of the US Flag, any stars in the Union are permitted; however, the most recent US Flag shall be carried in the point of honor.
- 6.0 When a competitive color guard is carrying a flag of another nation in addition to its own, then it shall be carried according to the UN Protocol, following in honor, the flag of the country from which the guard originates

- 7.0 The National Color must be at least 3 feet x 5 feet (3' x 5'). No flag shall be larger than the National Color.
- 8.0 Finial Pieces: All National Color flagpoles must have a staff or a finial piece. No National Color should bear any staff other than a conical spear or those officially authorized by the Army (eagle, acorn, ball or spear) or by the Navy (gilt, star, gilt ball, and flat truck).
- 9.0 Fringe on the National Color is permitted. No streamer, banner or other material may be attached to the pole or finial piece of the National Color. In the case of the US Flag, this does not preclude black crepe streamers when ordered by the President of the United States.
- 10.0 When the National Color is carried by a color guard, the maximum distance between the guard and the National Color will be three (3) thirty inch (30") paces. The direction of motion or the direction of facing of the National Color will be considered properly guarded regardless of the relative positions as long as the guard is within the allowable distance. At no time shall another piece of equipment pass between the Color and its guard unless that person qualifies as a guard. Authorized weapons are rifles, sabers, swords, either real or simulated. See rules for definitions on authorized equipment. Bayonets may not be used.
- 11.0 Immediate Front: No other flag in the same color guard shall at any time pass or be in the immediate front of the National Color without rendering the proper salute, that being dipping. (Dipping: any position that may be attained by a downward movement of the flag from the zero degree of arc carry, within the one hundred eighty degrees (180°) front of the bearer.) The immediate front is the infinite path through which the National Color can pass safely without contact. This pertains to the immediate front of the National Color and not the immediate front of the other flags.
- 12.0 Trailing: There will be no flag to the one hundred eighty degree (180°) front of the National Color facing in the same banner direction
- 13.0 Flash trails and/or sweeps are allowed as long as they are one (1) count or less. This pertains to the movement of the National Color only. (Interpretation: If the trail is caused by a turn or movement of the National Color in one (1) count or less it is not a violation. Should the error be caused by a turn or movement of a flag other than the national Color, this is an immediate violation.)
- 14.0 Point of Honor: No other flag in the same color guard may be placed above the national color. Flags out of contact with the bearer will not be penalized for point of honor violations. This applies to flag tosses and aerals.
- 15.0 Placement of the US National Color
- 15.1 In case of the US Flag, there shall be no flag to the immediate right of the US Flag while facing the same direction.
- 15.2 Placement of the Canadian National Color
- 15.2.1 When two (2) or more than three (3) flags are flown together, the Canadian Flag should be seen on the left as seen by the spectators in front of the flag
- 15.2.2 When three (3) flags are flown together, the Canadian flag should be occupying the central position with the next ranking flag to the left and third ranking flag to the right as seen by the spectators
- 15.2.3 If a number of flags are flown together, the Canadian Flag may be flown at each end of the line of flags

- 16.0 Carriage and Position of the National Color
 - 16.1 Dipping of the National Color
 - 16.1.2 The US Flag shall never be dipped in any direction or to any person
 - 16.1.2 The Canadian flag is dipped to the ground upon the playing of the Royal Anthem or Vice-Regal Salute or as a salute it is dipped to the parallel position to the sovereign, members of the Royal Family related in the first degree to the sovereign or to one of the Sovereign Canadian representatives
 - 16.2 The National Color shall at all times be carried aloft and free except during the posting ceremony
 - 16.3 At no time, except for one back step in the act of retrieving colors, shall the National Color bearer back step, engage in theatrical steps or counter marches except when the National Color is posted
 - 16.4 The National Color bearer shall not execute "to the rear march" or "about face"
Interpretation: a turn of one hundred eighty degrees (180°) in two steps or less
 - 16.5 The National Bearer shall not be armed while in possession of the National Color
 - 16.6 The National Color shall never be permitted to touch the ground
 - 16.7 Headgear is required as part of the uniform of the National Color Bearer

FLAG CODE FOR POSTING CEREMONY

- 1.0 At any time the colors are posted, the National Color shall be posted in the right of the saluting point or place of honor and/or the right of the officer receiving salutes or honors
- 2.0 The National Color and other flags may be posted simultaneously, if not the National Color must be posted last
- 3.0 The National Color and other flags may be retrieved simultaneously; if not, the National Color must be retrieved first
- 4.0 Timing for posting purposes will start with the posting of the first flag and end with the retrieving of the last flag, if flags are not posted and retrieved simultaneously. Colors must not be posted for more than sixty (60) seconds.
- 5.0 Flags are deemed posted when neither hand is on the pole
- 6.0 Flags are deemed retrieved when either hand is on the pole
- 7.0 No human receptacle may be used in posting colors. During the ceremony of Post and Retrieve, two salutes are required - one immediately following post and the other immediately prior to retrieve.
- 8.0 At any time a salute is required, it shall be rendered as a military salute as required by the recognized National military authority of the country of origin of the color guard. These salutes must be rendered at least momentarily by all competing members.
- 9.0 Other salutes may be rendered, provided they conform to the dignity and propriety of the National Color and its proper display
- 10.0 The Guard with the National Color shall remain within the distance limitation during the posting ceremony, covering the National Color. A guard is not required while the National Color is in the posting receptacle.