



CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

Junior High / Middle School

JH/MS

General Definition: This area is where the beginner will be nurtured and developed with the beginning skills and qualities as their standard. The prime purpose is to develop individual training that will assure each student's technical growth. It is also to focus on logic in programs that will allow the performers to reach high achievement. This is intended to discourage those who overwrote in an attempt to be competitive and whose excessive demand on the performers precludes their proper training and development.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 2 ½ minutes and a maximum performance of 4 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 7 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) Local Class A judging criteria will be used.

High School

Cadet

General Definition: This area is where the beginner will be nurtured and developed with the beginning skills and qualities as their standard. The prime purpose is to develop individual training that will assure each student's technical growth. It is also to focus on logic in programs that will allow the performers to reach high achievement. This is intended to discourage those who overwrote in an attempt to be competitive and whose excessive demand on the performers precludes their proper training and development.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 2 ½ minutes and a maximum performance of 4 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 7 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) Local Class A judging criteria will be used.

Regional A

General Definition: Guards in this class have students and instructors with none or some prior winter guard experience. This class reflects a Beginning to intermediate level of achievement. Staff and performers will be encouraged to demonstrate logical yet imaginative programs with achievable standards for performers. Guards in this class should display all of the fundamentals and some of the beginning to intermediate qualities of performance and design. Both students and staff have talent to grow beyond the basics and explore a higher level of design and performance technique. Students shall be challenged to perform at a higher level.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 2.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 4 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 7 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) Regional A Class judging criteria will be used.

Intermediate A

General Definition: Guards in this class have students and instructors with some prior winter guard experience. This class reflects an application of intermediate skills. Staff and performers will be encouraged to demonstrate logical yet imaginative programs with achievable standards for performers. Guards in this class should display most of the fundamentals and some of the intermediate qualities of performance and design. Both students and staff have talent to grow beyond the basics and explore an intermediate or higher level of design and performance technique. Students shall be challenged to perform at a high level.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 2.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 4 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 7 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) A Class judging criteria will be used.

Scholastic A

General Definition: Like the Regional A Class, the emphasis in A Class is on the understanding and achievement of the tenants and principles in each caption. At the programming level, success is seen in choices that lead the performers understanding and achievement of excellence. Designers are sensitive to musical selections that offer clear guidelines for the performers to follow. Programming choices consider tempo, dynamic changes, and points of audio impact that help these younger performers develop their range of performance skills in all captions. In this class we look for some layering of equipment on body and some phrases done while traveling. Phrases will begin to lengthen, showing the performer's skills in this area. Standard tosses will normally top out at quads with an occasional individual who may be spotlighted with a more challenging aerial. Achievement must drive the reward for these choices. Staging choices will provide the performers with the opportunity to show growing comprehension of challenging spatial relationships, speed/method of moving and orientation. As the guards evolve within the class, they will add to their design and vocabularies' range taking on greater challenges as they prepare for the ultimate advancement into Open Class. At the higher level of A Class, students will be offered the opportunity to demonstrate some more challenging Open Class skills, usually in the area of Equipment. Like the Regional A Class, all score sheets offer a potential of 100 points (tenths) in each sub caption, with Equipment and Movement sub captions being factored in the tabulation process by the 70/130 ratio: 70 over 100 for Vocabulary and 130 over 100 for Excellence. This maintains the intended emphasis on training and rewards those units that are strategic with an eye towards excellence and achievement. This factoring will allow for a more consistent approach for judges as we further distinguish the emphasis in all classes as they develop and change through the coming years. Judges are still expected to be accountable for their raw score as well as their factored score understanding the need for proper profiling to give the competitive edge to those units being strategic with an eye towards training and excellence. Equipment and Movement Scores in the A Class will be given in two decimal places in anticipation of tighter spreads in vocabulary. This insures that the judge's sub-caption ranking is intact through the factoring process.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 5.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 8 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) A Class judging criteria will be used.

Scholastic Open

General Definition: This exciting class finds guards exploring greater challenges with emphasis on more complex equipment and body skills set in more challenging programs. The maturity and training enforced through the A Class experience allow these guards to explore more demanding equipment and body vocabulary. Standard tosses will be higher, with the higher aerials most commonly fives in Scholastic Open and sixes in Independent Open. We can expect to see a greater variation on releases and catches as well as a more extensive blend between the equipment and the body. We also can expect to see extended phrasing on all pieces of equipment and the further development of traveling as vocabulary opportunities reflect the shift from 'transition' to connect events to 'development'.

Open Class is where we see the growth in performer's ability offering greater choreographic choices. We will expect to see this impact all captions, further separating these guards from their A Class counterparts. This shift in opportunity will challenge not only the students but designers and choreographers as well. This shift in emphasis is reflected in the Open Class scoring system. Unlike the Regional A and A Class, the Open Class scoring system rewards vocabulary and excellence equally in the Equipment and Movement captions, encouraging the exploration of a broader range of vocabulary relative to the growing abilities of the Open Class performer.

Programming and design will show greater exploration into staging and a more developed connection to the audio and physical settings. Individual and group personality, role, characteristics and artistic nuance and details will be present and understood by the performers. The developing communication skills will lend greater effect to the performance of programs. Broader skills and choice will manifest in a range of stylistic identities as more designers, and choreographers work to be more unique and creative.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 6.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 9 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) OPEN Class judging criteria will be used.

Scholastic World

General Definition: Scholastic World guard members will range in age from 14-18 years. Many times they are the upperclassmen of their school including the most experienced performers. In these cases we will notice more similarities in skill-set and consistency in training from member to member. Because most of these performers have been together for the duration of their high school years, we see more advanced skills throughout these programs in both equipment and movement. We also notice that skills are connected in more complex ways over longer periods of time. More performance experience and training make choreographic and design options in this class greater than the other scholastic classes. As a result, expect stronger stylistic identities with a wider range of approaches. This variety can make comparisons in this class more challenging. These guards have strong defined personalities and are highly creative and unique. Programs are designed to showcase their impressive body and equipment talent. Their depth of training and skills are strong and push the limits of the top of the scholastic classes as this class strives to set new standards.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 7.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 10 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) Scholastic WORLD Class judging criteria will be used.

Independent Regional A

General Definition: This area is where the beginner will be nurtured and developed with the beginning skills and qualities as their standard. The prime purpose is to develop individual training that will assure each student's technical growth. It is also to focus on logic in programs that will allow the performers to reach high achievement. This is intended to discourage those who overwrite in an attempt to be competitive and whose excessive demand on the performers precludes their proper training and development.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 3 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3 minutes and a maximum performance of 4.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 7 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) Regional A Class judging criteria will be used.

Independent A

General Definition: Guards in this class have at least some members with strong experience. Both staff and performers have talent that goes beyond the basics and some intermediate design. A wide range of skills and physical development can exist. Programs are usually unique. Occasionally a few individuals will demonstrate a high level of skills.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 5.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 8 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) A Class judging criteria will be used.

Independent Open Class

General Definition: This exciting class finds guards exploring greater challenges with emphasis on more complex equipment and body skills set in more challenging programs. The maturity and training enforced through the A Class experience allow these guards to explore more demanding equipment and body vocabulary. Standard tosses will be higher, with the higher aerials most commonly fives in Scholastic Open and sixes in Independent Open. We can expect to see a greater variation on releases and catches as well as a more extensive blend between the equipment and the body. We also can expect to see extended phrasing on all pieces of equipment and the further development of traveling as vocabulary opportunities reflect the shift from 'transition' to connect events to 'development'.

Open Class is where we see the growth in performer's ability offering greater choreographic choices. We will expect to see this impact all captions, further separating these guards from their A Class counterparts. This shift in opportunity will challenge not only the students but designers and choreographers as well. This shift in emphasis is reflected in the Open Class scoring system. Unlike the Regional A and A Class, the Open Class scoring system rewards vocabulary and excellence equally in the Equipment and Movement captions, encouraging the exploration of a broader range of vocabulary relative to the growing abilities of the Open Class performer. Programming and design will show greater exploration into staging and a more developed connection to the audio and physical settings. Individual and group personality, role, characteristics and artistic nuance and details will be present and understood by the performers. The developing communication skills will lend greater effect to the performance of programs. Broader skills and choice will manifest in a range of stylistic identities as more designers, and choreographers work to be more unique and creative.

With the growing participation of several colleges, and in deference to the typical college students' age, WGI's maximum age for the Independent Open Class is 23. This allows all Independent Open Class students to compete for the duration of their college enrollment.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 6.5 minutes.
Interval between performances is at least 9 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) OPEN Class judging criteria will be used.

Independent World Class

General Definition: Since the removal of the maximum age in the Independent World Class, these groups have elevated the degree of difficulty in the blend of equipment and body set in innovative programs that explore the abstract as well as the literal story of their creations. The score sheet class descriptive in each caption reflects this: “Sophisticated challenges emphasize the physical and mental capabilities of these more mature performers.” Years of performer experience have given designers new options in choreographic and design choices and the collective life experiences of these mature performers have opened the door to limitless programming options considering theme, premise, physical and audio settings. The strength and maturity in the class yield a performer confidence that is reflected in full-out communication of the roles they portray bringing a professional level of performance to the stage. Creativity and imagination are cornerstones in this class.

Separating the scoring sheets for the Independent World Class from the Scholastic World Class is the first step in recognizing the separate standards that have been seen over recent years and set the stage for more specific considerations in all captions in the future. This is reflected in the movement and equipment vocabulary criteria where the greatest challenges occur. In the comparison questions we ask: “Whose vocabulary contained the greater difficulty and risk?” This is intended for us to recognize and reward these considerations of the depth when assessing the overall vocabulary and its achievement. Factoring the full range of depth will be key in this class as these performers experience has pushed their skill sets into the most extreme of skills. Assessing these skills singly without considering the frequency of skills within phrases and how they are connected, over extended time in challenging environs, would undervalue the accomplishments of these expert performers.

This class contains the legacy color guards where creative and technical staffs, as well as membership, have been together for many years. These years are spent developing and perfecting very specific processes, leading to an extended repertoire of skills and hyper-stylized approaches. These compositional and choreographic fingerprints lead to the strong creative identities delivering us the widest variety from unit to unit, creating the crown jewels of the activity. When defining the standards for this class, we assume that choices are drawn from all possibilities, as this class strives to set new standards.

Timing: Minimum performance time is 4 minutes with a minimum of authorized equipment time of 3.5 minutes and a maximum performance of 7.5 minutes. Interval between performances is at least 10 minutes.

Winter Guard International (WGI) Independent WORLD Class judging criteria will be used.