

IHSCGA, Inc.

2021 Rule Book



For the purposes of this document IHSCGA refers to the Indiana High School Color Guard Association, Inc.

A not-for-profit corporation registered with the State Of Indiana.

Our Mission

The Indiana High School Color Guard Association exists for the purpose of providing an arena in which Junior and Senior High School students in the State of Indiana may participate in, and experience the winter color guard activity.

IHSCGA has chosen competition as its method for organizing youth activities in pursuit of high standards of achievement. The IHSCGA recognizes that this activity takes place in a school setting; therefore education must be the primary focus. We are committed to inspire all of our participants to achieve high standards in every aspect of the activity.

ALL performers at an IHSCGA event will be required to wear protective footwear while outside the performance area.

1.0 ELIGIBILITY

1.1 All performers of any color guard competing in any IHSCGA class must be approved for participation by the principal of the sponsoring school. Each color guard shall submit a form signed by the authorizing school principal listing all approved participants of that school's color guard. The IHSCGA Scholastic Eligibility Certification form must be filed with the IHSCGA office by each color guard.

1.2.1 Color guards may combine students from multiple schools within their district provided the color guard competes under the name of a single school or the school district. Color guards may not combine names or use any other name. Combined color guards may only use students that are in their district and/or home-schooled students that would be zoned for those schools.

1.2.2 The IHSCGA Scholastic Eligibility Certification form must be signed by each principal of the schools involved.

1.2.3 A letter from the district superintendent that allows combining students from multiple schools within the district must be provided to the satisfaction of IHSCGA.

1.3 No guard member shall compete in more than one color guard at the same contest.

1.4 Color guards in the World class may not compete with less than five (5) nor more than forty (40) performers in the competition area at any time.

Units entered in the Cadet class are not subject to Rule 1.4 *** (There is no minimum limit or maximum limit for Cadet color guards.)

Any guard not competing in World Class or Cadet Class may not compete with less than five (5) nor more than thirty (30) performers in the competition area at any time.

1.5 Each competitive unit must compete in a minimum of three competitions to be eligible to compete in the IHSCGA State competitions. One of these may be a WGI Regional Event held prior to IHSCGA State competitions during that competitive season. Exceptions shall be made at the discretion of the Executive Board and shall follow the established procedures in the Procedure Manual.

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.

2.0 COMPETITION AREA

2.1 For the purpose of interpretation, the “competition area” shall measure a minimum of sixty by ninety (60’ x 90’) feet and does not include entry ramps, hallways, bleachers or seating area. Color guards are permitted to utilize the entire designated competition area for their performance. All performers must be in the designated competition area when performance time begins. Depending on the performance venue, IHSCGA 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 foot (60’ x 90’) area.

2.2 All IHSCGA contest sites must have a minimum of seventy by one hundred feet (70’ x 100’) to accommodate a “safety zone” of five (5) feet 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 (60’ x 90’) foot 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 (5’) feet beyond the designated competition area. There can be no equipment choreography outside the competition area including the safety zone.

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

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

2.5 The center of the front boundary line shall be marked by a six (6”) inch tape line at the front and back of the competition area. The outer edges of the competition area shall also be marked by six (6”) inch tape lines at the corners to designate the safety zone.

2.6 All floor coverings (tarps) must fit in the designated competition area at each particular contest site and cannot enter the safety zone.

2.7 110-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.

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

2.9 All competitions will use a professional sound system and have a backup system on standby. Both tape decks and CD players will be available as sound sources. Sound system will have the capability to use external devices such as MP3 players and/or iPods. Color guards that use external devices in the sound system must have a representative at the sound table to adjust sound on the external devices.

3.0 SCORING

3.1 The elements to be judged are:

3.1.1 Individual Analysis Equipment = Twenty (20) points, one judge

Vocabulary = Ten (10) points (Festival, Reg A, & A Class = Seven (7) points)

Excellence = Ten (10) points (Festival, Reg A, & A Class = Thirteen (13) points)

3.1.2 Individual Analysis Movement = Twenty (20) points, one judge

Vocabulary = Ten (10) points (Festival, Reg A, & A Class = Seven (7) points)

Excellence = Ten (10) points (Festival, Reg A, & A Class = Thirteen (13) points)

3.1.3 Design Analysis = Twenty (20) points, one judge

Composition = Ten (10) points

Excellence = Ten (10) points

3.1.4 General Effect = Twenty (20) points, two judges

Composition = Ten (10) points

Excellence = Ten (10) points

3.1.5 Timing and Penalties = Penalties assessed per rules

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

4.0 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.

Units using a floor covering/tarp must still follow these guidelines. Wheels on props must be rubber or taped plastic so as not to mar host school flooring.

PENALTY: Two (2) point penalty

4.2 Props, and/or authorized equipment may be utilized or placed in the competition area by color guard performers at any time during the “maximum performance time” (see timing for clarification Section 5.7) or may be placed in the competition area by other than performers prior to the start of competition. Authorized equipment and/or hand-held props may be placed in front of the front boundary not to exceed five (5) feet.

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 (8) inches by twelve (12) inches. National colors must be at least three (3) feet by five (5) feet. Flagpoles must be at least twenty-four (24) inches 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 (24) inches in length.

4.2.3 Sabers/swords are defined as those weapons which are designed to be hand held for cutting, thrusting or slashing an enemy, with either a curved (saber) blade or a straight (sword) blade which may be constructed of wood, plastic, metal or any other suitable material. A cutting edge is not required. Simulated sabers/swords must have either a hand guard or a hilt and must be at least twenty-four (24) inches in length.

4.2.4 Authorized equipment may be modified by the addition of visual items, however, attaching a flag, rifle or sabre/sword to a prop does not make the prop a flag, rifle or sabre/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 Manager.

4.3 Definitions of other allowed equipment

4.3.1 Color guards may manipulate their sound board by using a remote-controlled wireless device through a self-supplied network. IHSCGA will provide an area in the stands with a direct line of sight to the competition area for (1) one designated staff member to adjust the mix or control any device using wireless technology. Cadet, Festival, Regional A, A and 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 guards may use any electrical device within their program deemed safe by the Contest Manager. The Contest Manager has the ultimate decision of any electrical device in consultation with the President. Color guards should consult with IHSCGA office 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 of said electrical devices.

Cadet, Divisional Regional A, Regional A, A & Open Class color guards may only use the electrical power sources provided as defined in Rule 4.3.2 (Use of amplification).

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. Car and/or truck batteries are not permitted.

4.4 Definitions of prohibited equipment:

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 will not be permitted.

4.4.2 Gasoline, electric or manual powered generators will not be allowed.

4.4.3 Use of lasers and flashcubes (electrical and chemical) will not be permitted.

4.4.4 Live animals shall not be allowed.

4.4.5 Use of powder, dirt or any other substance that lingers in the competition area past the interval time of the color guard shall be strictly prohibited.

4.4.6 Use of helium, including helium-filled balloons, shall be strictly prohibited.

4.4.7 No motorized vehicles will be allowed except for motorized wheelchairs used by disabled performers.

4.4.8 Use of glass objects is prohibited.

4.4.9 Drones or any remote controlled airborne devices.

4.4.10 Hover boards.

Directors are encouraged to contact IHSCGA 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 Manager, Timing & Penalty, IHSCGA officials 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 for use of any prohibited equipment

4.5 The following safety guidelines are applicable to the construction, transport, and use of any prop or structure at any IHSCGA event or facility and to any performer, staff, volunteer, or parent who may be assisting in the construction or transport.

4.5.1 Props built and/or used, including drum major podiums, that measure over six feet (6') high and 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. If a prop is moved with a performer on that prop, a safety rail or harness must be utilized by the performer.

* If a performers' feet are more than six feet above the competition area and the prop is in motion, the performer must actively use the appropriate safety railing or harness the entire time the prop is in motion. If the same prop is not in motion, the safety railing or harness must be in place but the performer has the option on whether to use those items while in a stationary position.

* If the performers' feet are less than six feet above the competition area, no safety railing or harness is needed for the prop whether stationary or in motion.

* A performer executing a lift while atop ANY prop may not lift another performer above six feet (6') without appropriate safety precautions in place or padding around the performers.

Directors are encouraged to contact the IHSCGA to inquire about the use of a particular prop when its permissibility under this section or at a specific site may be in question.

PENALTY: Ten Point (10) penalty to Disqualification at the discretion of the Contest Administrator, including (but not limited to) prohibition of the use of the overheight/unsafe prop(s)

4.5.2 Lighting cannot be turned off in the competition area by a color guard.

PENALTY: DISQUALIFICATION

4.7 The use of recorded music and/or live musical instruments is optional. Proficiency of playing shall not be judged but how the live music contributes to the overall design and effect of the performance may be reflected in the commentary. Musician’s age must be consistent with Rule 1.1 under Eligibility.

5.0 CONDUCT OF COLOR GUARDS - TIMING

5.1 Color guards will be timed to compete at intervals according to class.

CLASS	INTERVAL TIME	MIN. PERF. TIME	MAX PERF TIME	MIN EQUIP TIME
WORLD	10	4	7.5	3.5
OPEN	9	4	6.5	3.5
A	8	4	5.5	3.5
REGIONAL A FESTIVAL	7	3	4.5	3.0
CADET	7	1.5	4.5	1.5

- **5.1.1 for 2021 Season – COVID19 Pandemic – No Min Perf. Time & Min EQUIP time will be enforced.**

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. Color guards must continue to make a deliberate and obvious exit from the competition area and impede the entrance of the next 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) minutes with the exception of the Regional A and Divisional Regional A classes which shall have a minimum of three (3) minutes. Cadet class shall have a minimum of one and a half (1.5) 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 ½) minutes of authorized equipment time during their performance except for Regional A and Festival classes where the minimum is three (3) minutes. Cadet class shall have a minimum of one and a half (1.5) 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.

5.6 Competing color guards cannot be required to perform before the time set in the latest contest schedule distributed by the IHSCGA.

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 Manager.

Penalties for under time will be waived the first two weekends of the competition.

All timing penalties are # of seconds/3 X .1.

6.0 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. Once the performance time begins, performers are limited to the designated competition area.

PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) 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 exceptions will be made for oversized props. Props will not be allowed in the competition area before the color guard's performance time.

6.3 Any color guard creating a delay in schedule may be subject to penalty.

PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty for each class interval time of lateness.

6.4 The color guard will line up at a ready line to be designated by the Contest Manager 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 (5') feet beyond 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 of a point (0.1) penalty for each non-performer failing to exit the competition area prior to the performance time.

6.6 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) minute of the color guard's interval time. If a color guard chooses to use music or recorded narration, they must communicate 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.

6.7 When the color guard first enters the competition area, an announcement of...*"Performing next in __ class competition, is (name of color guard)from (city, state)"* will be made. At one minute thirty seconds (1:30) of the interval time for Cadet, A and Open Classes, two minutes (2:00) for World Class or at any specific time noted to the Timing and Penalty Judge by the color guard, the announcer will be cued to say, *"Performing their program (title),IHSCGA is proud to present (name of color guard)"* World class color guards are permitted to have this second announcement pre-recorded into soundtrack. Color guards may not deviate from wording of announcement.

6.8 Once the performance begins, performers must remain in the designated competition area for the minimum performance time for respective class (See Section 5). Performers may not re-enter competition area during performance time once they have exited until after performance has concluded.

PENALTY: Five tenths of a point (0.5) 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.

6.11 Non-competitive, excess uniformed performers must avoid any area where they could be considered as competitive performers.

7.0 EXIT

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

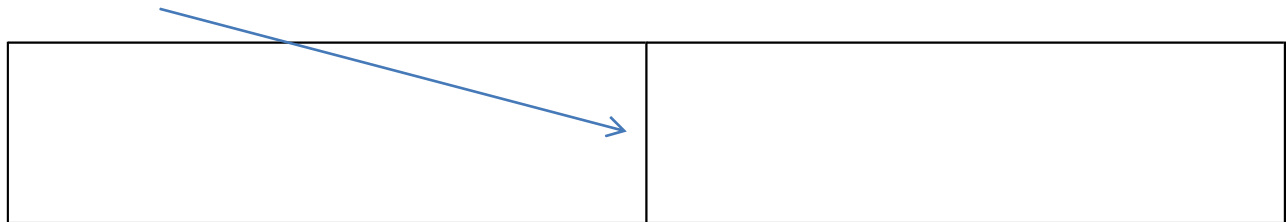
7.2 All performers must exit the competition area through the designated exit door, tunnel or ramp.

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

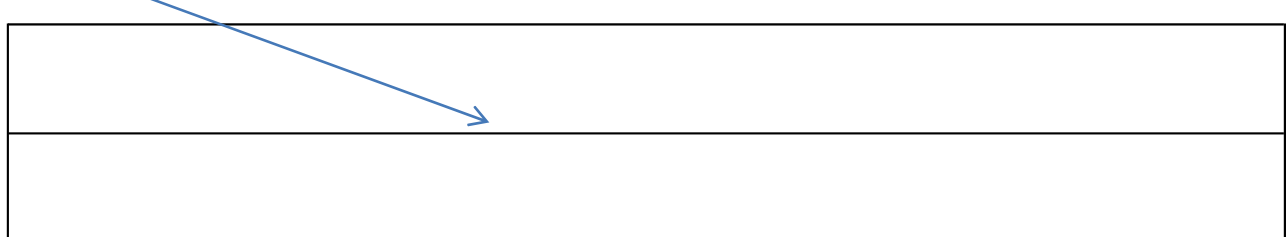
7.3 All personnel, equipment and/or props must clear the vertical or horizontal center-line at the conclusion of interval time. The timing line shall be for visual use by the Timing and Penalties judge and not designated by tape.

7.4 For purposes of timing, equipment and props are considered “removed” when they cross a center-line either horizontal or vertical depending on the contest site. After the equipment/props have crossed this line, they 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.

Vertical Line



Horizontal Line



7.5 No flying of tarps (also known as “ballooning”) to clear floors at the conclusion of a guard's performance.

PENALTY: Disqualification

8.0 PENALTIES:

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

8.2 Any color guard member, director, staff or parent violating any rule or part of a rule, breaches standard contest etiquette or fails to comply with directions from contest personnel for which no specific penalty is provided, shall be penalized for each such violation, not less than 0.1 point up to disqualification at the discretion of the Contest Manager, or IHSCGA Officer. Any infraction on day of event will be immediately reviewed by the IHSCGA Executive board for possible further action. Maximum penalty: Units, Directors, Instructors or Staff Members may be banned from participating in or attending IHSCGA events for a period of up to one year from date of infraction.

8.3 Only contest host provided sound equipment can be used during warm-up. Any violation of the IHSCGA warm-up procedure will result in disqualification.

*****IHSCGA will warn a group one time before assessing penalties for this infraction.**

8.4 All programs, soundtracks, thematic and costuming choices must reflect the qualities that would be acceptable for performance in scholastic venues or suitable for marketing to sponsors.

PENALTY: Denial of performance or possible disqualification as determined by the Contest Administrator in consultation with the IHSCGA President.

END of DOCUMENT

VERSION CONTROL PAGE:

REVISED NOVEMBER 2020 – Updated to 2021 IHSCGA

- **5.1.1 for 2021 Season – COVID19 Pandemic – No Min Perf. Time & Min EQUIP time will be enforced.**

Revised August 2018 – Reword Rule 1.5

Revised November 2017 at the Fall Meeting to match WGI Rules.

Revised November 2016 – Remove all references to Class AA and add Divisional Regional A

Revised August 2015

Revised 5.7 Timing to align with WGI requirements for Reg A groups. The IHSCGA will now be using the Regional A score sheets for Class AA.

Revised 8.2 to include persons other than “group” as a whole.