

**MEPA ANNUAL MEETING**  
**June 26th, 2022**  
**Miamisburg, OH**  
**PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION**



**PERSONNEL**

**Division: ALL**

**Proposal #1**

**Compensate Interns in addition to mileage reimbursement. - WITHDRAWN -**  
**Submitted to Board for Consideration**

*Jonathon Shaw, Director of Operations*

**Rationale:** When MEPA returns to 100% operational normalcy in 2023, it will require additional support behind the scenes from the internship program. Compensating these individuals will have a positive impact on their quality and quantity of work.

**Financial Impact:** TBD per intern, per season.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #10**

**AMENDED:** A group must COMPETE in a minimum of three contests to qualify to COMPETE in Championships. - **PASSED**

----Original: Place a cap on the number of times a participating ensemble can be viewed in Exhibition Performance.

*Jodi Fairbanks, Vice President - Color Guard*

**Rationale:** This item is open for discussion.

**Financial Impact:** None.

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## **CLASSIFICATION**

**Division:** Color Guard

### **Proposal #11**

**Correct the SRAA and SRA Review Numbers - PASSED**

*Jonathan Lischak, Hamilton HS WG Varsity and JV*

**Rationale:** Currently, the review numbers for SRAA and SRA are the same. Yet, both classes are judged on the same sheet with the same tolerance. So, for an SRAA unit to be considered for review, they have to be performing at the level of an SRA subject to review for movement to SAA. This undermines the intent of creating separate paradigms for the SRAA and SRA classes.

My recommendation would be to increase the SRA review number by 6, and decrease the SRAA review number by 2, or just increase the SRA review number by 8. The SRA review number is too low - all but one SRA unit at the Nutter show hit this number. The gap between the review numbers should be at least 7 points, based on the meaning of a tenth as explained on the judging sheets (gap of 7 or more tenths in one sub-caption (of which there are 10) represents significant differences). Given that SRAA and SRA represent different paradigms within the RA sphere, this seems like an appropriate base for distinguishing the review numbers.

**Financial Impact:** None.

## **CLASSIFICATION**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #12**

**Groups should be able to be looked at for reclassification more than once per year. - PASSED**

*Jodi Fairbanks, Centerville High School*

**Rationale:** Groups can improve drastically within a season based on added content, skills, equipment, effects, etc. Evaluating them just once by current rule would prevent groups from moving into a more appropriate class within the season.

**Financial Impact:** None.

## **CLASSIFICATION**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #13**

**If a group is either X points above review score and/or if a unit is reviewed twice within a season they are to be promoted for the next competition. DID NOT VOTE**

*Zack Strong, Nagel Middle School, Forest Hills Junior Guard*

**Rationale:** There have been units in the past few years that have been comfortably above review score and/or should have been reviewed more than once within a season and remained in the class all season long. If a group is not deserving of that review score then the judging process should be reevaluated.

**Financial Impact:** None.

## **CLASSIFICATION**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #14**

**Change Policy 13.45 from “A group will only be reviewed once time per season (for that same class)” to “A group may be reviewed no more than twice per season (for that same class), provided that the first review occurs as a result of a performance in the first two weeks of the season. If the group’s first review occurs after that period, the group may only be reviewed once (for that same class).”**

**All other aspects of Policy 13.45 remain unchanged. - DID NOT VOTE**

*Jonathan Lischak, Hamilton High School*

**Rationale:** There are other well-reasoned proposals offered addressing re-review of units, the rationale for which are valid and important. However, units benefit from consistency in knowing what class/paradigm they must compete and educate towards. I feel a policy such as this balances the concerns advanced in the other proposals with the need to give groups fair notice as to what class/paradigm standard they will be held.

**Financial Impact:** None.

## **CLASSIFICATION**

**Division:** Color Guard

### **Proposal #15**

**Adjust the review numbers to reflect an increase of 2.5 points per week, rather than 2. -**

**DID NOT VOTE**

*Jonathan Lischak, Hamilton High School*

**Rationale:** Currently, review numbers increase by 2 points each week. The seeding formula used by both MEPA and WGI assumes units will grow by a minimum of 1.5 each week. When you divide these numbers (1.5 and 2) across the 10 sub-captions, they prove to be identical functionally (as we cannot give scores out to the hundredth decimal). As such, if we accept the premise of the seeding formulae, once a group hits the review number, they will assumedly hit the review number every week (as it stands). If groups are to be subject to multiple reviews (pending passage of other proposals), this change may alleviate redundant reviews. Likewise, as the season progresses and class paradigms begin to establish, it becomes more appropriate for the top of one class to look like the bottom of the next. The review numbers should reflect this.

**Financial Impact:** None.

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## **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #20**

**Once scores are verified and released, they can not be adjusted. - DID NOT VOTE**

*Andrew Hackworth, Tabulation Staff*

**Rationale:** Each judge should verify their numbers before receiving their paycheck and heading to critique. T&P must verify with Tab prior to running critique/awards. Numbers can't be altered, unless a verifiable mistake was made (striking penalties that were accidentally issued and not realized until after the show).

**Financial Impact:** None.

## **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #21**

**AMENDED: Only competing groups may attend critique. - PASSED**

**—ORIGINAL: Amend 15.2- Clarify language to indicate groups are/are not eligible for critique when performing in exhibition.**

*Julie Noble, Administration Staff*

**Rationale:** The intention of exhibition performances is that these are non-competitive groups. In recent years, the exhibition option has also been used for groups that don't want to cancel, but also know their performance will not be an accurate representation of their show (several performers missing, in the middle of an incomplete redesign, etc.). In both instances, critique may be beneficial but not as beneficial as it would be for a competitive group performing for evaluation.

Going forward, groups performing in exhibition will be able to attend critique as a "walk up." There were several occasions in 2022 where an exhibition group attending critique meant they were taking a spot away from a competitive group during shows where we had limited number of sign up slots.

Existing rule that needs clarification: 15.2-MEPA also employs an exhibition class allowing units who do not wish to compete. These units must designate a class and will be given judges' commentary but no scores. Exhibition units will perform first in their respective class at regular season shows. Exhibition unit's performance slot at Circuit Championships is left to the discretion of the MEPA Board of Directors.

**Financial Impact:** None.

## **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #22**

**Add a “health and wellness “clause, similar to the inclement weather clause, for pulling out of competitions due to widespread illness in the group. - DID NOT VOTE**

*Kendra Wendeln, Miamisburg HS Winds*

**Rationale:** Like weather, the health of an entire ensemble fluctuates from day to day. If a group is impacted significantly by physical or mental health the week of a contest, they should be able to remove themselves without financial penalty.

**Financial Impact:** Lost Cancellation Fee (\$150).

## **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #23**

**Cancellation Fees are waived when a group is reclassified by MEPA or by WGI and has less than one week to make changes prior to their next MEPA contest. - DID NOT VOTE**

*Jonathon Shaw, Director of Operations*

**Rationale:** If a group finds out on a Wednesday or Thursday that they are reclassified to a higher class, depending on their schedule they may need the approaching weekend to do show redesign or add content to be competitive the following weekend. They should be able to use that immediate weekend to work on their show without financial penalty.

**Financial Impact:** Loss of \$150 Cancellation Fee.

## **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #24**

**Cancellation Fees should be transferred to the Show Host upon receipt from MEPA. -**

**DID NOT VOTE**

*Jonathon Shaw, Director of Operations*

**Rationale:** Cancelled groups create lost revenue in ticket sales and concessions for the show host. A \$150 fee is only a fraction of the lost profits.

**Financial Impact:** MEPA would lose approx \$1,000 annually. Show hosts would add between \$0 and \$450 to their profit.

**ADDITIONAL P&P edits at end of this document.**

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## **RULES**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #30**

**Clarify T&P enforcement for the first two weeks of the season. - PASSED**

*Jonathon Shaw, Director of Operations*

**Rationale:** "Timing Penalties shall not be enforced in the first two weeks. However, all other infractions or violations shall be, including but not limited to: Boundaries, Facility Damage, Failure to follow instructions of Event Officials and Staff."

**Financial Impact:** None

## **RULES**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #31**

**Revise rules to include the Director of Operations in addition to or in lieu of the Board of Directors, President, or Contest Administrator when relevant to reflect current processes. - PASSED**

*Julie Noble, Administrative Staff*

**Rationale:** With the addition of the new DOO position, MEPA's rules and policies need to be updated to reflect the ways this role/person is involved in the circuit. e.g. "8.1- The MEPA Board of Directors will award the right to host MEPA sanctioned contests." The DOO is now involved in setting the contest schedule.

**Financial Impact:** None

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## ADJUDICATION

**Division:** ALL

### Proposal #40

**Request for full WGI Panels in the week prior to circuit champs and at circuit champs. -**

**DID NOT VOTE**

*Zack Strong, Nagel MS, Forest Hills Junior Guard*

**Rationale:** This would give not only WGI participants, but ALL units feedback from some of the best adjudicators in the activity to further their development. Groups that are attending WGI would get a read from judges who will be able to guide them into the final weeks of their season.

**Financial Impact:** Potential added costs to attain judges.

## ADJUDICATION

**Division:** Color Guard

### Proposal #41

**Open for Debate: Should we factor scores for Elementary Class? WITHDRAWN**

*Jonathon Shaw, Director of Operations*

**Rationale:** What are the benefits of Factoring or Not Factoring?

**Financial Impact:** None

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## **GENERAL CONTESTS**

**Division:** Color Guard

### **Proposal #50**

**If the host school can accommodate space, keep Equipment and body warm up combined during competition warm up. - PASSED**

*Laurn Floring, Westland High School*

**Rationale:** During several shows body and equipment were separated, which I believe was to stay consistent with WGI warm up. Due to younger guards not having long shows, there is more equipment time than body. This leaves warm up times unbalanced, making it difficult to warm up in the allotted time. There were also several shows we attended this year where body and equipment were in the same space, the group just moved for seemingly no reason. This breaks the concentration for younger performers, making it hard to start back into the warmup routine. If a group wants to split body/equipment this is also possible but there is more flexibility with this option.

**Financial Impact:** None

## **GENERAL CONTESTS**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #51**

**AMENDED: Host should always provide a tarp folding area at every show if possible. - PASSED**

**—ORIGINAL:** Host schools must always provide a tarp folding area at every show.

*Laurn Floring, Westland High School*

**Rationale:** While some schools can use trailers, there are others that do not have this privilege and must use a staff member's car for their tarp. If there is no place to re-fold the tarp after performing it makes it difficult the tarp can fit back in the car it was transported to the show in. Every show site should offer a tarp folding area, even if it is just the band room.

**Financial Impact:** Maybe an additional charge for the school for using extra space during the show day.

## GENERAL CONTESTS

**Division:** ALL

### Proposal #52

**AMENDED:** A group may not switch to or from Competition and/or Exhibition after the Monday prior to a contest.- **PASSED**

—ORIGINAL: Create guidelines or a policy as to when a group can move from competition to exhibition.

*Julie Noble, Administration Staff*

**Rationale:** In the past 5+ years, performing in exhibition has become more and more common for a variety of reasons. It has also become common practice to request this change hours before the scheduled performance (i.e. asking the night before or at the event itself, 2-3 hours prior to performing).

MEPA has no parameters for how and when this change from competing to exhibition can be made. There are a variety of impacts this change makes to the contest schedule, communication with and info for judges, CompetitionSuite set up, and others that make this difficult/complicated to execute once we are less than 4-5 days from the event.

Open for group discussion to determine pros/cons to allowing groups to move infinitely within the season.

**Financial Impact:** There is sometimes a financial impact to hosts including purchasing additional frames, program revisions, etc.

## GENERAL CONTESTS

Division: ALL

### Proposal #53

Clarify and document cancellation process. This needs to be done for all non-MEPA initiated cancellations (aka MEPA cancels a show). - **DID NOT VOTE**

We need a documented process for weather-related cancellation (e.g. district will not allow a group to travel, county is under a storm warning that doesn't allow for travel) and something for non-weather-related cancellations (e.g. forgot that prom/ACT testing/musical was the same day and half the students will be absent, we are in the middle of a massive re-write and the show is in pieces) as well.

*Julie Noble, Administration Staff*

**Rationale:** Process needs clarification and to be accessible to directors (and admin staff). What is the process? When are fees assessed? What documentation is needed to waive those fees?

**Financial Impact:** None.

## GENERAL CONTESTS

Division: ALL

### Proposal #54

Hold live draws for performance order via FB live. - **WITHDRAWN**

*Julie Noble, Administration Staff*

**Rationale:** This will create excitement around individual contests and provide transparency in the scheduling process. Secondly, CompetitionSuite has been used to randomize performance order for groups paid by January 1 since MEPA began using it, but in 2022, the integrity of the scheduling process was questioned by a group director who believed their group was being unfairly/not randomly scheduled in undesirable slots. This would create transparency in scheduling and also create some involvement around holding a draw.

**Financial Impact:** None.

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## CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Division:** ALL

### Proposal #60

**Award a fan favorite show for each class at Circuit finals, voted on by the audience. -**

**DID NOT VOTE**

*Lauryn Floring, Westland High School*

**Rationale:** This will allow audience members and performers to vote on their favorite show of the season. It's a great way to recognize different groups that have entertaining, fun and exciting shows for the season.

**Financial Impact:** cost of award- picture frame, platform to vote- app or online forum?

## CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Division:** ALL

### Proposal #61

**Award one Director of the Year at Circuit finals, voted on by Directors of programs. -**

**DID NOT VOTE**

*Lauryn Floring, Westland High School*

**Rationale:** This will allow directors to recognize our peers in the hard work put into their program throughout the year. This can be voted on prior to finals.

**Financial Impact:** cost of award- picture frame, platform to vote- app or online forum?

## **CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #62**

**AMENDED:** A physical trophy instead of a plaque for the top three in each class.

**INCLUDED:** Gold Medalist Ensembles should receive additional awards at Championships. A Banner (flag) that can be hung in a band room/equipment room. -

**PASSED**

—ORIGINAL: Gold Medalist Ensembles should receive additional awards at Championships. A Banner (flag) that can be hung in a band room/equipment room. A physical trophy instead of a plaque.

*Jodi Fairbanks, Centerville High School*

**Rationale:** Increase the magnitude of winning a Class Championship.

**Financial Impact:** Cost of awards- unless provided by a sponsor.

## **CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Division:** ALL

### **Proposal #63**

**Amend Prelims Class rule to allow for additional classes to participate in Prelims and Finals at Circuit Championships. Additionally, clarify the date Prelims Classes will be announced. - PASSED**

*Matt Hahn, Vice President - Percussion*

**Rationale:** 1.) Allowing more classes to participate in Prelims results in an additional viewing by a panel for the group. However, this could put physical, scheduling, and financial strain on ensembles. 2.) Prelims Classes should be announced following Week #2 and shall be determined as the two largest classes based on participating members overall, not the participating Championship groups.

**Financial Impact:** Increased ticket sales. No additional cost for judges.

## **CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Division:** Color Guard

### **Proposal #64**

**Eliminate Equipment behind the performance curtain, or install carpet padding in the same manner that WGI does for their Guard events. - PASSED**

*Jonathon Shaw, Director of Operations*

**Rationale:** Dropped Equipment and Clapping Hands behind the curtain is a distraction to performers and audiences on the front (performance) side. It was said multiple times at the 2022 Championships by multiple people that equipment warmup can never take place behind the curtain unless sound absorbing measures are taken. With our facility use, we can have Body and Equipment warmup in the same McLin gym. This will also allow an easier floor refolding behind the curtain. Additionally, laying the padding would require additional time and people resources that could not be done on Saturday morning alone.

**Financial Impact:** None.



## CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Division:** ALL

### Proposal #65

**AMENDED: No Friday Contests. - PASSED**

**ORIGINAL:** Mandatory prelims events should be competitive with the intent of creating a smaller finals lineup.

*Zack Strong, Nagel MS, Forest Hills Junior Guard*

**Rationale:** In this past season, groups were made to travel on a Friday evening to participate in a prelims performance that did not impact their participation in finals. This caused a financial burden, added stress, and was not easily accessible for working parents/guardians to attend. Holding an event on a week night forces students not on Spring Break to attend a full day of school, have little to no practice/preparation time if they are not in the Dayton area. Weekday events also cause bussing issues for units because buses are running for dismissal routes until 5pm at times.

**Financial Impact:** Loss of ticket sales. Ensembles would save money on bussing.

## CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Division:** Color Guard

### Proposal #66

**Change rule 15.9 and the process of awarding placements in both rounds of competition in classes of 16 or more in a one day championships format. If rounds are needed, groups will compete early in the contest day, with the top 3-5 (TBD and up for discussion) from each round combined into a finals-style block at the end of the normal contest progression (after World Class). This will eliminate co-winners and winners would not be announced for each round. - PASSED**

*Julie Noble, Administration Staff*

**Rationale:** Feedback from the year this happened was negative across the board. There is a need to create separate rounds with large classes, but we should attempt to award a single winner, 2nd place, 3rd place, etc. to be consistent with the way other classes are handled.

**Financial Impact:** Additional Judge Fee, possibly.

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## OTHER/MISC

Division: ALL

### Proposal #70

Create a MEPA Hall of Fame or an annual MEPA “Contributor” (not this name but this idea) award. The award would be used to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to the circuit as a group director or staff member, parent volunteer, board member, MEPA staff, judge, etc. This would be similar to the recognition at the 2022 championships for former board President, director, and performer Lynsey Tyson. - **PASSED**

*Julie Noble, Administration Staff*

**Rationale:** This award creates a way to recognize contributions made to improve and advance the circuit made by a variety of people in different roles.

**Financial Impact:** Cost of physical award.

## OTHER/MISC

Division: ALL

### Proposal #71

Help subsidize WGI Advisory Board Members. - **WITHDRAWN**

*Steve Aylward, Miamisburg High School Winds*

**Rationale:** Each year MEPA members who qualify for the WGI Advisory Board are forced to pay their own ways to Las Vegas. There are circuits who help subsidize part of the costs for their member groups that earn the right to represent them on a national level. For example, CWEA pays for a hotel night for each qualifying group. I believe we should have a conversation to explore whether this is something MEPA could do.

**Financial Impact:** It would depend on how many MEPA members earned Advisory Board status in a given year.

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## Proposed Updates to “Rules & Policies 2019” - Submitted by Julie Noble

A motion was made by Tim Fairbanks and then seconded to allow the Board to make the changes below as needed.

Revision of several rules that include outdated language or irrelevant policies. Each rule is detailed below. It may seem like overkill, but 1. Each year we intend to revise the rules and sometimes that doesn't get done, and 2. The updates range from updating wording to policy changes. This provides a list of specific updates to work from and provides for discussion with membership.

1.1- Revise "Unit/Ensemble" to "Group/Ensemble" as "group" is what we have used for several years instead of "unit" e.g. Group Check In. Also, replace this working throughout the Rules and Policies document to be consistent.

4.2- Revise "Membership is established by completing the membership application" to reflect current process of registering via CompetitionSuite. If a new director read this, they would think we use some sort of application and that is no longer the case.

5.5 - Revise rule to reflect current practice of listing authorized representative in CompetitionSuite for purposes of voting at the membership meeting.

6.4 - Revise to remove "Fees can be paid on the MEPA website." This does not accurately reflect current practices.

8.9 - Revise to reflect registration once payment has been received, and not "All units will register for shows upon initial registration with the circuit.

8.13 - Revise to remove: "All sound checks are done using headphones."

Section 8. Contest Policy - This section has many rules that are not rules or enforceable policies. In an effort to make the MEPA document as concise as possible, remove the following rules: 8.11, 8.12, 8.16

9.5 - Eliminate this rule as it is covered by WGI rule 8.2.

10.1.5 - Revise to replace "each" with "from week to week" to reflect current practices. MEPA is not able to always change the order of divisions each week due to site constraints (e.g. noise ordinances). Add that every effort will be made to ensure as equal of a distribution as possible between division for both late and early starts--which reflect current practice.

10.2- Revise to reflect current practices and add clarification that this process is for regular season shows. Random draws for those paid by January 1, CompetitionSuite is used for the random draw process.

10.6 - Update rule with information on wait list process since we now use date/time stamps for payment in CompetitionSuite to determine eligibility to perform.

11.2 - Eliminate this rule as it is addressed on page one of the WGI Contest Rules: "WGI discourages independent groups from utilizing high school students who were previously enrolled in an active high school program and have not yet graduated."

12.4- Eliminate this rule as it is covered by language in MEPA rule 2.1: "MEPA has adopted most WGI rules and policies regarding competitive procedures. MEPA will also continue to adopt future WGI-approved rule changes"

12.1 - Eliminate this rule to avoid confusion as it is covered by WGI rule 7.5: "There will be no flying of tarps (also known as "ballooning") to clear floor at the conclusion of an ensemble's performance."

12.2 - Eliminate this rule--and the associated, MEPA-specific penalty--as it is addressed on page one of the WGI Contest Rules: "WGI strongly recommends that all participants wear protective footwear while outside the performance area."

12.3 - Revise rule to reduce confusion and eliminate description and examples of violations of WGI rule 8.2. Rule would read: "Repeated infractions of WGI rule 8.2 may result in a review by the MEPA Board of Directors, up to and including removal from future competitions and a forfeiture of all paid dues and fees."

12.5 - This rule is about encouraging judges to complete WGI Certify, and is not a Contest Regulation. It needs to be moved to another section (possibly 2 - Affiliation since it speaks to the circuit affiliation with WGI and following their rules?)

14.4 - Eliminate this rule as it is a duplicate of MEPA rule 8.7. It speaks to max/min starting/ending times and makes more sense in section 8 - Contest Policy than 14 - Contest Season.

15.4(g) - Eliminate SRA from the non-WGI recognized classes.

15.4(e) - Add language to specific that JCG uses WGI's SRA judging sheets: "...uses WGI's SRA timing guidelines and judging sheets."

16.7 - Revise to read: "The MEPA Director of Operations will serve as contest chair for this event." The rule currently reads that a Contest Administrator will chair the event.

16.10 - Eliminate "for classes of six or less" (which only applies to our Color Guard division) from the first sentence of the rule. Right now the rule reads: "The order of performance will be determined by random draw for classes of six or less." Percussion and Winds both use a

random draw regardless of the size of the class. The rest of the rule addresses seeding for "Color Guard classes with seven or more units" so it can stay as is to detail that process.

16.15 - Eliminate mention of "regular season" as it's in section 16 - Circuit Championships. \*If updates are made to 15.9 (in a separate proposal) regarding championships they need to be updated in this rule as well.\*

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Sections - Combine sections for clarity (see below). This will also result in renumbering rules and allow us to group similar rules together.

Combine the following:

4. Membership and Fees

6. Fees & Insurance Requirements (these are both requirements of membership)

7. Surety Bonds - eliminate as surety bonds have not been required since 2012

Combine the following:

8. Contest Policy

9. Staff Passes - subtopic of Contest Policy

10. Performance Order Procedure - subtopic of Contest Policy, rename Scheduling

14. Contest Season - subtopic of Contest Policy

Combine the following:

12. Contest Regulations - rename Contest Procedures

17. Critique - subtopic of Contest Procedures

18. Inclement Weather - relabel as Cancellation Procedures and combine all cancellation-related rules into one section

Combine the following:

13. Classification

15. Divisions of Competition (many rules in this section deal with classification not divisions)

--create Reclassification subtopic

Combine the following:

16. Circuit Championships

(un-numbered) Championship Prelim Seeding Procedures