

SOP Proposals for 2021

SOPs

Proposal # 1	Pg. 15 – SOP Code of Conduct	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<p><u>Synopsis:</u> Put background checks in the Rulebook.</p>			
<p><u>Old Text:</u> None</p>			
<p><u>New Text:</u></p> <p>All MCGC Personnel including, but not limited to, the President, Vice President of Color Guard, Vice President of Percussion and Winds, Secretary, Treasurer, WGI Representative, MCGC Representative, Percussion and Winds Representatives, Past President, Contest Coordinator, and Judge Coordinator will be subject to undergo a background check. After elected or hired, MCGC will follow the WGI protocol for background checks, utilizing the National Center for Safety Initiatives using guidelines from the National Council of Youth Sports. These background checks will screen convictions and pending dispositions for felonies, crimes involving force or threat of force against a person, crimes of a sexual nature (including sex offender registrants), crimes involving controlled substances, crimes involving cruelty to animals, and crimes involving harm to a minor. Based on the circumstances considered, the decision to apply disciplinary action or dismissal can be at the discretion of the President, Vice President of Color Guard and Vice President of Percussion and Winds.</p>			
<p><u>Rationale:</u> This is something that is becoming the “norm” for most of the country, for the health and safety of all involved. This is already in our Code of Conduct, and should be in the Rulebook, as well.</p>			
<p><u>Financial Impact:</u> Fees associated with getting background checks are already involved since this is in the existing Code of Conduct.</p>			
<p>Submitted by: Kim Kuhn</p> <p>Affiliation: Vice President of Color Guards</p>			

Proposal # 2	Pg. 17 – SOP Contest Entry Fees 3.	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<p><u>Synopsis:</u> Make Champs payments due Feb 1.</p>			
<p><u>Old Text:</u></p> <p>3. Contest entry fees and paperwork deadlines will follow the schedule below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On or before December 1st: Membership dues and Field Day 2. On or before January 1st: submit insurance forms, member counts, registrations and payments for contest through the end of February 3. On or before February 1st: submit registrations and payments for regular season contests through the end of March 4. On or before March 1st: registrations and payments for Championships 			
<p><u>New Text:</u></p> <p>3. Contest entry fees and paperwork deadlines will follow the schedule below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On or before December 1st: Membership dues and Field Day 2. On or before January 1st: submit insurance forms, member counts, registrations and payments for contest through the end of February 3. On or before February 1st: submit registrations and payments for regular season contests through the end of March and payments for Championships 			
<p><u>Rationale:</u> This would make planning for Championships much easier to do in terms of judge travel, building a skeleton schedule, ordering awards, etc. It makes the deadline consistent with the rest of the end-of-season shows</p>			
<p><u>Financial Impact:</u> None</p>			
<p>Submitted by: Craig Rizzi</p> <p>Affiliation: MGC Treasurer and Stoney Creek HS</p>			

Proposal # 3	Pg. 17 – SOP Contests 1. Contest Staff Costs	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<u>Synopsis:</u> Add Site Manager to Contest Staff costs.			
<u>Old Text:</u> None			
<u>New Text:</u> Site Manager will receive a \$250 base fee plus mileage			
<u>Rationale:</u> At larger events and those sites that have known issues with traffic and timing in and around the event site would be beneficial to the Show Host and the Contest Director.			
<u>Financial Impact:</u> \$250 per show as needed.			
Submitted by: Kari Lynn Clark Affiliation: Contest Coordinator			

Proposal # 4	Pg. 17 – Contests – Contest Staff Costs	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<u>Synopsis:</u> Eliminate Clinician Judge.			
<u>Old Text:</u> Clinician Judges are assigned to the first three (3) contests in each division to help units with an overall view of their show. Clinician Judges receive a \$300 base fee, plus mileage.			
<u>New Text:</u> (REMOVE)			

<p><u>Rationale:</u> This program costs the circuit more than \$2,000 a season and is not used effectively by the membership to enhance their show design process. Unit directors already have enough to listen to with the 4 or 5 tapes that they receive and can use those tapes to make positive changes in their production.</p>
<p><u>Financial Impact:</u> Circuit savings on early shows.</p>
<p>Submitted by: Craig Rizzi</p> <p>Affiliation: MCGC Treasurer and Stoney Creek HS</p>

Proposal # 5	Pg. 17 – Contests – Contest Staff Costs	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<p><u>Synopsis:</u> Change guidelines for hotel stays for contest staff.</p>			
<p><u>Old Text:</u> Hotels–The show host will be responsible for providing hotel rooms for any MCGC contest staff traveled 100 miles or more, one way, to attend the show and would like to stay over-night. This request must be made by the Wednesday prior to the contest</p>			
<p><u>New Text:</u> Hotels – MCGC will be responsible for providing hotel rooms for any hired Judge and Contest Staff that has traveled 150 miles or more, one way. Consideration will be made for a Judge or staff member that is working both a Saturday and Sunday event. This request must be made two weeks prior to the contest.</p>			
<p><u>Rationale:</u> 100 miles is roughly a 1.5 hour distance. The start and end time of an event is taken into consideration so that ample travel time is given</p>			
<p><u>Financial Impact:</u> Costs related to hotel stays.</p>			
<p>Submitted by: Kari Lynn Clark</p> <p>Affiliation: Contest Coordinator</p>			

Proposal # 6	Pg. 17 – Contests 2. Bidding to Host an MCGC Contest	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<p><u>Synopsis:</u> Raise show host fee to \$2,000 in order for the Circuit to take over hotel arrangements.</p>			
<p><u>Old Text:</u> All contests will require a \$1,500 Show Host fee. This fee is due on the day of the awarded contest.</p>			
<p><u>New Text:</u> All contests will require a \$2,000 Show Host fee. This fee is due on the day of the awarded contest.</p>			
<p><u>Rationale:</u> With raising the Show Host fee to \$2,000 we will eliminate the host from any hotel fees for judges and contest staff. Those will be booked by the coordinators and paid for by MCGC.</p>			
<p><u>Financial Impact:</u> Costs associated with hotel fees for judges and other contest staff.</p>			
<p>Submitted by: Kari Lynn Clark</p> <p>Affiliation: Contest Coordinator</p>			

Proposal # 7	Pg. 18 – Contests – 3. Contest Info	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<p><u>Synopsis:</u> Take out line asking for judge bios.</p>			
<p><u>Old Text:</u> Directions to contest sites and maps of facilities will be made available on the MCGC website as soon as the schedule is finalized. Judging panels for the season will be made available with the Field Day schedule. Two weeks prior to the event, performance schedules will be available online. Judges will be asked to provide a short bio to be included in the online packet for each contest.</p>			
<p><u>New Text:</u> Directions to contest sites and maps of facilities will be made available on the MCGC website as soon as the schedule is finalized. Judging panels for the season will be made available with the Field Day schedule. Two weeks prior to the event, performance schedules will be available online- Judges will be asked to provide a short bio to be included in the online packet for each contest</p>			
<p><u>Rationale:</u> There is no benefit of having a bio for a judge. We trust the Judge Coordinator to hire qualified judges who have the proper credentials. Knowing where a judge marched, taught, went to college, or who with does not indicate their quality.</p>			
<p><u>Financial Impact:</u> None</p>			
<p>Submitted by: Kari Lynn Clark Affiliation: Contest Coordinator</p>			

Proposal # 8	Pg. 18 – SOP Contests 5. Contest Schedule	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<p><u>Synopsis:</u> Add 3 minutes of transition time to percussion and winds warm up times.</p>			
<p><u>Old Text:</u> None</p>			
<p><u>New Text:</u> For all Percussion and Winds warmups there will be a 3-minute interval between each designated warmup time.</p>			

Rationale:

Many Percussion and Winds units have had issues with the transit in and out of warmup zones interfering with their actual designated "warmup time." This 3 minute interval time would allow groups to move in and out of warmup zones at ease and still ensure all ensembles are given the exact amount of actual "warmup time" in the warmup rooms. This would also ease any stress on warmup zone volunteers.

In terms of effect on units, this would require units to arrive earlier than normal to all contests. The extra time added into the schedule could either be absorbed in a longer interval between units or a longer break between classes. This would buffer a unit from leaving warmup and having an unusually long time before their performance, although those times may be extended depending on the contest. It would need to be discussed on which is best based on the number of units at a given contest.

For context, here are the stats of unit attendance from 2017-2020: (all are rounded up)

2020

- Average P/W portion of a regular contest: 11 units
- Maximum P/W portion of a regular contest: 16 units
- State Championships was not held

2019

- Average P/W portion of a regular contest: 14 units
- Maximum P/W portion of a regular contest: 23 units
- State Championships: 30 Units

2018

- Average P/W portion of a regular contest: 9 units
- Maximum P/W portion of a regular contest: 20 units
- State Championships: 29 units

2017

- Average P/W portion of a regular contest: 9 units
- Maximum P/W portion of a regular contest: 23 units
- State Championships: 26 Units

These averages indicate a regular season schedule may need to be extended by a max of about 70 minutes and State Championships by a max of about 90 minutes. This would obviously warrant discussion but I think all units would appreciate the consideration.

Financial Impact: None

Submitted by: James Sparling

Affiliation: Walled Lake Consolidated Schools

Proposal # 9	Pg. 18 – Contests – 5. Contest Schedule	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<p><u>Synopsis:</u> Shows should not end earlier than 8:00pm on Saturdays.</p>			
<p><u>Old Text:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ However, the Contest Coordinator reserves the right to finalize the schedule. 			
<p><u>New Text:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Schedules for Saturday shows will be set with a general practice of the final unit performing after 8:00pm. Schedules for Sunday shows will be set with a general practice of starting at 1:00pm. 			
<p><u>Rationale:</u></p> <p>This proposed rule would allow for consistency from contest to contest with respect to time. During the 2020 season, for example, many Saturday shows ended (or would have ended had the season been completed) in the 5:00 - 6:30 PM time block. Contests ending so early clearly require start times that are much earlier than many units may have been accustomed to in the past. This practice eliminates precious hours of rehearsal, preparation and travel time needed for units to achieve at their highest potential. It is very difficult for many groups to get rehearsal time as they are often competing with sports teams, etc. Starting some contests so early takes away additional potential rehearsal time blocks that groups might fit into. In addition, when contests begin around or just before traditional lunch time while also ending at or around traditional dinner time, show hosts lose out on concession and other sales. Members, staff and spectators are more likely to eat before they arrive at the show site and eat elsewhere after the show has ended, rather than patronizing the show host over the traditional dinner hour. Clearly each contest must be considered on a case-by-case basis for any underlying extraordinary circumstances, but this guideline would offer fairness and consistency across the board for all M.C.G.C. contests in the future.</p>			
<p><u>Financial Impact:</u> None</p>			
<p>Submitted by: Derek Smith</p> <p>Affiliation: Interplay</p>			

Proposal # 10	Pg. 19 – Contests – 10. Audio Considerations	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<u>Synopsis:</u> Sound Personnel placement.			
<u>Old Text:</u> Sound personnel will be placed in the best possible location for quality and level control. Locations can include front and center in the stands, balconies, contest table, etc.			
<u>New Text:</u> Sound personnel will be placed in the best possible location for quality and level control taking into consideration the guidelines provided by the MCGC Judge and Contest Coordinators.			
<u>Rationale:</u> Not only are quality and level of sound important but maintaining the integrity of the judges' areas and ease of access to the sound table for unit staff is equally important.			
<u>Financial Impact:</u> None			
Submitted by: Kari Lynn Clark Affiliation: Contest Coordinator			

Proposal # 11	Pg. 18 – Contests – 10. Audio Considerations	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<p><u>Synopsis:</u> Sound checks will end 5 minutes before the break ends.</p>			
<p><u>Old Text:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sound checks for guards will be available prior to the contest and during breaks in the performance schedule. A record of your first sound check is kept and will be used for your performance. FINAL DECISION ON SOUND LEVEL WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SOUND PERSONNEL AND/OR CONTEST DIRECTOR. 			
<p><u>New Text:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Sound checks for guards will be available prior to the contest and during breaks in the performance schedule. Sound checks will end 5 minutes before the break ends. A record of your first sound check is kept and will be used for your performance. FINAL DECISION ON SOUND LEVEL WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SOUND PERSONNEL AND/OR CONTEST DIRECTOR. 			
<p><u>Rationale:</u> No unit should be doing a sound check when another unit is on the ready line, or even worse, pulling their floor onto the floor getting ready to perform.</p>			
<p><u>Financial Impact:</u> None</p>			
<p>Submitted by: Kim Kuhn</p> <p>Affiliation: Vice President of Color Guards</p>			

Proposal # 12	Pg. 19 – SOP Contests 10. Audio Considerations	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<p><u>Synopsis:</u> Times for sound checks.</p>			
<p><u>Old Text:</u> Sound checks for guards will be available prior to the contest and during breaks in the performance schedule. A record of your first sound check is kept and will be used for your performance. FINAL DECISION ON SOUND LEVEL WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SOUND PERSONNEL AND/OR CONTEST DIRECTOR</p>			
<p><u>New Text:</u> Sound checks for color guards will be available prior to the contest. They will also be available during breaks longer than five minutes or the first and last ten minutes of a lunch/dinner break in the performance schedule. All sound checks MUST be completed once a team enters the performance floor. A record of your first sound check is kept and will be used for your performance. FINAL DECISION ON SOUND LEVEL WILL BE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE SOUND PERSONNEL AND/OR CONTEST DIRECTOR.</p>			
<p><u>Rationale:</u> Better define when a sound check can be done and when it must be completed by.</p>			
<p><u>Financial Impact:</u> None</p>			
<p>Submitted by: Kari Lynn Clark</p> <p>Affiliation: Contest Coordinator</p>			

Proposal # 13	Pg. 19 – Contests – 13. Staff Seating	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<p><u>Synopsis:</u> Make it clear that unit staff members may not sit in the aisles of the bleachers.</p>			
<p><u>Old Text:</u> When and where possible, accommodations will be made to secure a number of seats in the stands for staff members to view their unit’s performance. The staff must then vacate these seats once their performance is done.</p>			
<p><u>New Text:</u> When and where possible, accommodations will be made to secure up to seven seats in the stands for staff members to view their unit’s performance. The staff must then vacate these seats once their performance is done. Due to fire regulations, there is no seating in a bleacher aisle way. Staff sitting in an aisle way and violating regulations will be asked to move immediately. The Contest Director has the authority to stop the performance from starting to get people to vacate the aisle. Timing may continue and timing penalties may apply.</p>			
<p><u>Rationale:</u> Many venues are limited on space and preference should be given to paying spectators. Choose who is sitting in staff seating and all others need to find another place to sit that isn't in the aisle</p>			
<p><u>Financial Impact:</u> None</p>			
<p>Submitted by: Kari Lynn Clark</p> <p>Affiliation: Contest Coordinator</p>			

Proposal # 14	Pg. 20 – Contests – 15. Sheets and Judges comments	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<p><u>Synopsis:</u> Take out reference to score sheets.</p>			
<p><u>Old Text:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Unit representatives can pick up their sheets at the Contest Table. Unit representatives may be asked to fill out a site evaluation before receiving sheets. Recorded comments and sheets will be made available as soon as possible. Individuals are asked to keep their score confidential so as not to take away from the excitement of announcing the score at the retreat. ▶ Recorded comments and tabulation are handled through Competition Suite. Units will be required to pay for using Competition Suite when they register as an MCGC member. Competition Suite is handled and managed by the Contest Coordinator. ▶ All penalties are at the discretion of the Contest Director according to MCGC rules, and are not to be discussed when picking up sheets. A Unit Director may approach the Contest Director about a penalty if necessary (see the Protests and Complaints rule). No timing or boundary penalties will be given during the first two contest weekends for each division. 			
<p><u>New Text:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Recorded comments, scores, and recaps will be made available electronically as soon as possible. Individuals are asked to keep their score confidential so as not to take away from the excitement of announcing the score at the retreat. ▶ Recorded comments and tabulation are handled through Competition Suite. Competition Suite is handled and managed by the Contest Coordinator. ▶ All penalties are at the discretion of the Contest Director according to MCGC rules. A Unit Director may approach the Contest Director about a penalty if necessary (see the Protests and Complaints rule). No timing or boundary penalties will be given during the first two contest weekends for each division. 			
<p><u>Rationale:</u> Housekeeping. We don't have sheets at a table any longer</p>			
<p><u>Financial Impact:</u> None</p>			
<p>Submitted by: Kari Lynn Clark</p> <p>Affiliation: Contest Coordinator</p>			

Proposal # 15	Pg. 20 – Contests – 16. Recaps	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<u>Synopsis:</u> Remove reference to recaps at Critique.			
<u>Old Text:</u> When possible, recaps of all scores will be made available at the Critique for contest officials, judges, and Unit Directors			
<u>New Text:</u> (Remove)			
<u>Rationale:</u> If the proposal about making recaps available electronically passes, this SOP will be obsolete.			
<u>Financial Impact:</u> None			
Submitted by: Kari Lynn Clark Affiliation: Contest Coordinator			

Proposal # 16	Pg. 21 – SOP Champs Perf Schedule	Board Recommended? Y / N	Pass / Fail For: _____ Against: _____
<u>Synopsis:</u> There should be one guard Championships contest. The amount of time dedicated to any particular class will be decided by how much that class makes up of the Circuit.			
<u>Old Text:</u> Championship rounds within a single class will be determined utilizing the current MCGC seeding process, placing units in rounds from the top of the class. For example, if there are 3 rounds, the top scoring unit will be in Round 1, the second unit in Round 2, the third in Round 3, the fourth unit in Round 1, the fifth in Round 2, and so on. Championships for all Regional A class guard units, including Junior Regional A, will be held the weekend prior to Championships for all other classes at a high school chosen by the Board of Directors in consultation with the Contest Coordinator.			

If more than 75 guard units register, and are eligible, for WGI class Championships, the bottom few units in each class will be subject to elimination. Each unit's high score will be expressed as a ratio of the top score in the class. Cuts will be made based on that ratio. For example, a AA unit with a high score of 70 compared to a high score in that class of 84, is 83%. A JrRegA or Regional A unit with a high score of 68 compared to a high score in that class of 80, is 85%. The AA unit would be eliminated

New Text:

There will be one Championship competition for all guard classes. The Championships schedule will be set using the general practice of a maximum of 75 units at guard Championships.

The time allotted for any given class at Championships will be based on the percentage of the guard division that is made up by that class. Percentages that yield numbers that are not whole will be rounded up. For example, if there are 110 guards in the Circuit, and 20 of them are Scholastic A class, then Scholastic A makes up 18.1% of the guard division of the Circuit and should make up 18.1% of the 75 units at guard Championships, or 13.5 units. That would mean 14 Scholastic A units would go to Championships. Cuts will be made based on a unit's highest score from the current season.

If the number of units in a class is less than 1% of the guard division of the Circuit, 1 unit from that class will be eligible for Championships.

There will be no rounds at Championships.

Rationale: Having one Championship event for the guard division will extend the season 1 week for the RA and AA classes allowing them to have more performances. This would also allow for additional competitions to be hosted the weekend before Championships. The members who host these additional events will profit from this. Each class will have less participants, rounds will not be necessary. Eliminating rounds will prevent having 6 medalists in a one class.

Financial Impact: Costs associated with hosting a bigger Championships.

Submitted by: Sarah Curran

Affiliation: Troy Athens Guard