



POLICY MANUAL AND COMPETITION RULEBOOK

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1 ELIGIBILITY

- 1.1. Percussion ensembles from the United States competing in the independent classes and composed of members not over 22 years of age as of 12:01 a.m. on April 1st of any given year shall be permitted to compete in contests governed by IMPA. Each ensemble appearing at an IMPA contest shall be prepared to show proof of age. International independent percussion ensembles are not bound by any age limit.
 - 1.1.1. U.S. Military veterans may be granted one (1) year of eligibility immediately following their end of active service. To qualify, individual must have enlisted prior to their 19th birthday, served for no less than four (4) years, and must have been honorably discharged or medically separated. Veteran must submit a copy of their discharge papers and separation documents to IMPA prior to January 15 to qualify.
- 1.2. All participants of any percussion ensemble competing in any scholastic class must have approval for participation in any IMPA-sanctioned event by the administration of the sponsoring school(s) or educational institution.
 - 1.2.1. Types of scholastic percussion ensembles are defined as follows:

Single School. A percussion ensemble whose total membership are students from the same school, schools that feed directly into that school, or home-schooled students that reside within the school district boundaries.

Combined Schools. The purpose of the combined schools policy is to encourage participation from scholastic groups that may have limited resources while keeping the integrity of the scholastic classes intact. Combining schools for the purpose of competitive advantage is contrary to this policy and will not be approved. A percussion ensemble in any scholastic class may apply for approval to combine students from multiple schools within a school district under the following guidelines:

- Multiple groups within a school district may be approved to combine on a case by case review by IMPAI. In very rare cases, schools from different districts may combine if approved.
- If approved, combined school groups may be required to compete using a school district name.
- Scholastic percussion ensembles utilizing students from parochial, vocational, or charter schools, must apply for approval under combined school guidelines.
- All percussion ensembles shall submit the Combined Schools Application, signed by relevant school and district officials, to IMPA no later than January 1.

PLEASE NOTE WGI has similar requirements but a deadline of December 1.

- 1.2.2. IMPA will have the final determination on whether a percussion ensemble will be permitted to combine students from multiple schools. If application for combined group is denied, the percussion ensemble has the option to either not include students from other schools or compete in an independent class.

- 1.3. No percussion ensemble may compete with less than six (6) members on the floor of competition at any time including the student conductor (optional).
- 1.4. Marching percussion ensembles may use one optional student conductor positioned in the competition area. Concert percussion ensembles may use one non-student conductor positioned in the competition area.

PENALTY: Disqualification – any ensembles violating any requirements in the ELIGIBILITY section shall be disqualified from that contest and must forfeit any scores, placements or awards

2 COMPETITION AREA

- 2.1. For the purpose of interpretation, the “competition area” shall measure a minimum of sixty feet by ninety feet (60’ x 90’) and does not include entry ramps, hallways, bleachers or seating area. Percussion ensembles 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, IMPA will authorize additional competition area space whenever possible and include that information in the diagram (footprint) to be made available to all competing percussion ensembles to identify the competition area. No competition area may exceed the maximum size of competition area (72’ x 106’) offered at the world championships. While the competition area will be increased whenever possible, all percussion ensembles must be prepared to perform within a minimum sixty-foot by ninety-foot (60’ x 90’) competition area.
- 2.2. All IMPA contest sites must have a minimum of seventy feet by one hundred feet (70’ x 100’) to accommodate a “safety zone” of five (5) feet from any spectator seating. This will ensure the minimum sixty-foot by ninety-foot (60’ x 90’) competition area within the minimum seventy feet by one hundred feet (70’ x 100’) of the contest site.
- 2.3. Once performance timing begins, no performer may enter the safety zone. All equipment and props (including all sound equipment) must be grounded within the competition area except during setup and teardown. No props or equipment may be staged within the safety zone and no choreography outside the competition area, including the safety zone, is allowed. No penalties shall be assessed for broken sticks, mallets, or hardware falling over the front boundary accidentally.
- 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.
- 2.5. All floor coverings (tarps) must fit in the designated competition area at each particular contest site and cannot enter the safety zone or cover the front boundary line.
PENALTY: One-tenth of a point (0.1) penalty shall be assessed for each performer or piece of equipment in violation of the competition area boundary. (2.3-2.5)
- 2.6. The center of the front boundary line shall be marked by a taped line at the front and back of the competition area. The outer edges of the competition area shall also be marked taped lines at the corners to designate 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 and will be the only power sources available for use. Ensembles may not plug into any wall outlet in the competition area and must provide their own extension cords.
- 2.8. Power sources must be dedicated for ensemble use only and have no other electrical devices using designated power sources.

3 SCORING

- 3.1. The elements in Marching Percussion to be judged are:
 - 3.1.1. Effect-Music = Thirty percent (30%), one judge
Overall Effect = Fifteen percent (15%)
Music Effect = Fifteen percent (15%)
 - 3.1.2. Effect-Visual = Twenty percent (20%), one judge
Overall Effect = Ten percent (10%)
Visual Effect = Ten percent (10%)
 - 3.1.3. Music = Thirty percent (30%), one judge
Composition = Ten percent (10%)
Performance Quality = Twenty percent (20%)
 - 3.1.4. Visual = Twenty percent (20%), one judge
Composition = Ten percent (10%)
Performance Quality = Ten percent (10%)
 - 3.1.5. Timing and Penalties = Penalties assessed per rules
- 3.2. The elements in Concert Percussion to be judged are:
 - 3.2.2. Music = Fifty percent (50%), one judge
Composition = Twenty percent (20%)
Performance Quality = Thirty percent (30%)
 - 3.2.3. Artistry = Fifty percent (50%), one judge
Program = Twenty percent (20%)
Fulfillment = Thirty percent (30%)
 - 3.2.4. Timing and Penalties = Penalties assessed per rules
- 3.3. The Music judge will be positioned low in the stands. The Artistry, Effect, and Visual judges will be positioned higher in the audience viewing area. The Timing and Penalty judge will be positioned in the competition area. Specific row assignments will be determined by the Chief Judge based on each venue's specific attributes.

4 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 that may occur (dragging the timpani, wheels on carts locking, improperly prepared equipment, etc.) will be

the responsibility of the ensemble. **PENALTY:** One-tenth of a point (0.1) penalty per piece of equipment

- 4.2. All electronically produced musical material must be triggered in real-time, and no single, triggered, electronic sound may produce rhythmic intent.
 - 4.2.1. Human-voice samples presented as singing or spoken word may be performed with single or multiple triggers, regardless of any rhythmic intent.
PENALTY: Ten points (10.0)
- 4.3. Definitions of authorized equipment:
 - 4.3.1. Ensembles may manipulate their soundboard by using a remote-controlled wireless device through a self-supplied wireless network. IMPA will provide an area in or near the Effect & Visual judging area for one designated staff member to adjust the mix using wireless technology. The soundboard must remain in the competition area. Staff members may also communicate through a text-based messaging tool to a designated performer in the event the soundboard needs adjustment.
 - 4.3.1.1. A staff member may manipulate a soundboard that is **INSIDE** the performance area, so long as they do not have to enter the performance area themselves to do so. Please be aware that rule 4.2.2.1 is recognized by IMPA **ONLY**. WGI events will not permit a staff member to manipulate a soundboard inside the performance area.
 - 4.3.2. Ensembles may use any electrical device within their program deemed safe by the Contest Administrator. The Contest Administrator has the ultimate decision regarding safety of any device in consultation with the Board of Directors and/or Executive Director. Ensembles should consult with the Board of Directors prior to using any equipment not specifically defined in these rules. The ensemble will assume any liability for issues arising out of the use of said electrical devices.
PENALTY: One-tenth of a point (0.1) penalty to Disqualification at the discretion of the Timing and Penalty judge.
 - 4.3.3. Battery operated devices using common off the shelf flashlight batteries (AA, AAA, AAAA, C, D, N, 9V, button cells) and dry-cell secondary “rechargeable batteries” including cell phones, cameras, MP3 players and computers are allowed. Sealed, spill-proof maintenance-free leadacid batteries such as gel cell, sealed lead-acid (SLA), valve regulated sealed lead-acid (VRLA), and absorbed glass mat (AGM) batteries are also permitted.
- 4.4. The following are **NOT** allowed in the Competition Area:
 - 4.4.1. Pyrotechnics, discharge of arms, pressurized canisters, dry ice, smoke machines, compressed air apparatuses, dangerous materials, and/or flammable liquids or gas will not be permitted in or around the competition area.
 - 4.4.2. Gasoline or manual powered generators.
 - 4.4.3. Live animals.
 - 4.4.4. Use of powder, dirt or any other substance that lingers in the competition area past the interval time.
 - 4.4.5. Use of helium, including helium-filled balloons.

- 4.4.6. Motorized vehicles such as golf carts, tractors, all-terrain vehicles, etc.
- 4.4.7. Glass objects that may break and/or leave shards of glass in the competition area. Video monitors must utilize screen protectors. Mirrors must be of the acrylic type and cannot contain glass. Any light bulbs used must be shatter resistant safety coated.
- 4.4.8. Drones or any remote-controlled airborne device.
- 4.4.9. Hover boards.

PENALTY: Ten-point (10.0) penalty or Disqualification for use of any prohibited equipment

- 4.5. Signal jamming devices – including, but not limited to, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and cellular – may not be used.

PENALTY: Disqualification

Directors are encouraged to contact the Board of Directors to inquire about the use of particular equipment or materials when its permissibility under this section or at specific sites may be in question.

The Board of Directors 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.

- 4.6. All lighting and robotic devices must be controlled by a performer in the competition area. Staff members may also communicate through a text-based messaging tool to a designated performer in the event the lighting/robotics need adjustment.

PENALTY: Ten-point (10.0) penalty

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

- 4.7.1. No participant may be placed on any portion of any prop, structure, or podium where the participant's lowest point of contact (i.e., feet, hands, etc.) is more than six feet (6') above the competition floor unless appropriate safety railing, safety harness, or protective padding is in place around prop, structure, or podium to prevent injury.

- Safety railing is a barrier at least forty-two inches (42") in height at all points and surrounding participant a minimum of 50%.
- Safety harness is a method to restrain a participant preventing or arresting a fall entirely a minimum of three feet (3') before contact with the competition floor.
- Protective padding is compressed foam padding (gymnastic mat type) or other suitable material measuring a minimum of two inches (2") in depth.

- 4.7.2. If a participant is placed on any portion of any prop, structure, or podium and the lowest point of contact (i.e., feet, hands, etc.) is more than six feet (6') above the competition floor, the following is required:

- If the prop, structure, or podium is in motion, the participant must actively use the appropriate safety railing or harness the entire time the prop, structure, or podium is in motion.

- If the prop, structure, or podium is stationary with a safety railing in place, the participant does not have to actively use the safety railing.
 - If the prop, structure, or podium is stationary with no safety railing, participant must be harnessed.
- 4.7.3. If a participant is placed on any portion of any prop, structure, or podium and the lowest point of contact is less than six feet (6') above the competition floor, no safety railing, harness, or padding is required for the prop, structure, or podium, whether stationary or in motion.
- 4.7.4. A participant executing a lift or stunt while atop ANY prop, structure, or podium may not lift another participant above six feet (6') in height above the competition floor unless protective padding or other adequate safety precautions are in place
- 4.7.5. Participants are prohibited from jumping or leaping off any prop, structure, or podium that exceeds six feet (6') in height above competition floor unless protective padding or other adequate safety precautions are in place.
- 4.7.6. IMPA shall at all times have the final authority to prohibit the use or prescribe additional safety requirements of any prop, structure, or podium that presents an unreasonable or unacceptable risk of injury or harm to participants or others or potential danger to a competition venue or its property.

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

PENALTY: Ten-point (10.0) penalty to Disqualification at the discretion of the Percussion Administrator, including (but not limited to) prohibition of the use of prop, structure, or podium.

5 TIMING

5.1. Percussion ensembles will be timed to compete at intervals according to class.

CLASS	INTERVAL TIME	MIN PERFORMANCE TIME	MAX PERFORMANCE TIME
Novice Class	9 minutes	3 minutes	6 minutes
A Class	9 minutes	3 minutes	6 minutes
Open Class	10 minutes	3.5 minutes	7 minutes
World Class	11 Minutes	4 minutes	8 Minutes

- 5.2. Interval time will include entrance, setup, performance, exit and removal of all performers, props, floors and equipment from the competition area.
- 5.3. Each percussion ensemble, with all competing performers, shall remain in the competition area and be judged in all captions for a minimum of four (4) minutes.
- 5.4. 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. Percussion ensembles cannot be required to perform before the time set in the most recent contest schedule.
PENALTY: Five-hundredths of a point (.05) penalty per second for any timing violation
- 5.6. Any percussion ensemble 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 Administrator.
PENALTY: Five-tenths of a point (0.5) penalty for each class interval time of delay.
- 5.7. Any ensemble creating a delay in the schedule will be subject to penalty.
PENALTY: Five-hundredths of a point (0.05) penalty per second of delay up to 10 points.
- 5.8. 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.

6 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, the percussion ensemble may utilize the competition area for setup and pre-show preparations.
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 designated entry door, tunnel or ramp. No timing exceptions will be made for oversized props. Props will not be allowed in the competition area before the ensemble’s performance time.
- 6.3. The ensemble will line up at a ready line to be designated by the Contest Administrator to enter the competition area.
- 6.4. Authorized equipment and/or props may be placed anywhere in the competition area by ensemble performers or anyone prior to the start of the performance. 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 competition area prior to performance time
- 6.5. Once the performance begins, all performers must remain in the designated competition area for the entire performance. Boundary line violations (including first aid cases) do not constitute permanently leaving the floor.
PENALTY: Five tenths of a point (0.5) penalty for each performer failing to remain in competition area for the entire performance

7 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 centerline at the conclusion of interval time. The timing line shall be for visual use by the Timing and Penalties judge and not designated by tape.
- 7.4. For purposes of timing, equipment and props are considered removed when they cross the vertical or horizontal centerline. After crossing the timing line, all equipment and/or props must continue to make forward progress out of the competition area in a timely manner or receive a penalty at the discretion of the Timing and Penalty judge.
PENALTY: Half of one tenth of a point (.05) penalty per second
- 7.5. There will be no flying of tarps (also known as “ballooning”) to clear floor at the conclusion of an ensemble’s performance.
- 7.5.1. At no point while clearing the floor can a tarp be raised above a performer’s shoulder.
 Tarps should be kept as low as possible while being folded and removed from the floor to prevent injury to performers and staff.
PENALTY: Disqualification

8 PENALTIES

- 8.1. Timing and Penalty judges will assess all penalties for infractions that take place in the competition area. Contest Administrators may not waive competition area penalties. An ensemble has a right to challenge any penalty in consultation with the Board of Directors but any final decision regarding penalties will remain with the Timing and Penalty Judge.
- 8.2. Any ensemble violating any rule or part of a rule, breaching standard contest etiquette, or failing to comply with directions from contest personnel for which no specific penalty is provided, shall be penalized for each such violation, not less than 0.1 point up to disqualification at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- 8.3. All timing penalties shall be 0.05 points per second. All boundary penalties shall be 0.1 points per offense.
- 8.4. During a performance, non-performing personnel may not coach, cue, etc., any performers or control any wireless lighting or robotic events outside the competition area. As per rule 4.2.2 and 4.4, staff members may communicate via text messaging with a designated performer controlling a soundboard, lighting, and robotics.
PENALTY: One point (1.0) to Disqualification at the discretion of the Timing and Penalties judge.
- 8.5. All programs, soundtracks, thematic and costuming choices must reflect the qualities that would be acceptable for performance at a scholastic venue or suitable for marketing to sponsors on a national level.
- 8.6. Groups using the flag of the United States should follow the U.S. Flag Code. Directors are encouraged to contact the Board of Directors for guidance prior to performance.
PENALTY: Denial of performance or possible disqualification as determined by the Board of Directors.

9 CODE OF CONDUCT

IMPA feels it is essential to enforce a Code of Conduct for groups participating in any IMPA sanctioned event. If employees, independent contractors, and volunteers are expected to adhere to a professional code of conduct, then it is appropriate that this standard is expected from participating groups as well.

Definitions:

Participant: A person who is performing with a participating group.

Staff: A person who is engaged by a participating group in an instructional or administrative capacity.

Volunteer: A person who gives of their time freely to a participating group as a chaperone or provides support in any capacity.

All groups participating in any IMPA sanctioned event must accept and act under the policies and procedures outlined within this Code of Conduct.

IMPA will not tolerate conduct that impacts negatively on the organization or the experience of our performers. All participants, staff, and volunteers should consider themselves as ambassadors of IMPA. All parties are not only expected to uphold these policies but help remind others of them when necessary.

Further, IMPA reserves the right to discipline, discharge or suspend participants, staff or volunteers who engage in or is alleged to have engaged in unlawful activity at an IMPA sanctioned event to the extent consistent with applicable law.

ALCOHOL & CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

IMPA participants have the right to participate in an environment free of alcohol and controlled substances. IMPA participants are not to possess, distribute or be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances including, but not limited to, narcotics, inhalants, marijuana or other dangerous drugs. It is unlawful to bring alcohol and controlled substances onto any school grounds and most arena facilities.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

IMPA strictly prohibits all conduct which could pose a threat to the safety of participants of an IMPA sanctioned event. If the participating group receives information of any kind (oral or written, "informal" or "formal") suggesting that misconduct has occurred that is connected in any way to individuals or activities associated with the participating group, and if the suggested misconduct meets any of the following criteria, then participating group shall inform IMPA of the information in writing immediately:

- Any misconduct of a sexual nature or potentially classifiable as a sex offense under applicable law, including without limitation so-called "victimless" activities such as prostitution, pornography, and indecent exposure.
- Any misconduct in which actual or suggested sexual relations is an element.
- Any harassing conduct pertaining to, in whole or in part, an individual's sex, gender, sexual orientation, or gender expression.
- Any conduct involving harm to a minor.

Participating groups shall maintain effective internal policies and procedures for the protection and safety of its participants, staff, and volunteers, including without limitation the ability of any individual

to report suspected misconduct to the leadership of the participating group without reprisal. Participating group shall conduct an effective internal investigation, report the matter to the appropriate external authorities as may be necessary, and take appropriate and effective remedial action under the circumstances.

Anyone found to have participated in misconduct that threatens the safety of a participant will be disciplined as IMPA finds appropriate, up to and including a permanent ban from association with any IMPA-sanctioned event in any capacity.

HARASSMENT

Behavior that may be considered inappropriate or may be deemed as harassment is not allowed. Harassment refers to a full spectrum of offensive behavior. When the term is used in a legal sense, it refers to actions that can be found to be threatening or disturbing, and beyond those that are sanctioned by society. Conduct that creates a hostile environment is prohibited. Such conduct may include:

- Any harassing behavior about, in whole or in part, an individual's sex, gender, sexual orientation or gender expression
- Repeated unwanted sexual flirtations, advances, or propositions
- Verbal abuse of a sexual nature
- Verbal comments about an individual's body
- Sexually degrading words used to describe an individual
- Unwanted physical contact
- Cyber-bullying or social media abuse
- Any other behavior that is not socially acceptable in a professional environment

Any participant, staff or volunteer who is found after an appropriate investigation to have harassed another participant, staff, employee, contractor, volunteer, or customer of IMPA will be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions, including suspension.

ANTI-RETALIATION AND WHISTLEBLOWER POLICY

In an effort to protect all interested parties and address our commitment to integrity and ethical behavior, IMPA will not tolerate any retaliation against anyone who makes a good faith report, or threatens to make a good faith report, regarding IMPA, another organization, or an individual, whose suspected violation of the law or other violation endangers the health or safety of a participant, any personnel of IMPA or a participating group, or the general public. An anonymous reporting form will be made available on our website: www.im-pa.org.

GENERAL CONDUCT

Our reputation depends on the conduct of all parties involved in IMPA. Good manners, courtesy, and common sense are generally all that is required to ensure appropriate conduct and behavior. Conduct or language that could be perceived by a reasonable person as being rude, inappropriate, abusive, disorderly, derogatory, immoral or threatening will not be tolerated.

If an undue and unfair pressure is applied to IMPA judges or staff through inappropriate behavior, then this places the competitive experience at risk. Examples include, but are not limited to, participants or staff of a group verbally abusing IMPA personnel, the inappropriate conduct of any participants or staff on the contest floor, or inordinate or unauthorized communication to judges or the Chief Judge.

Disruptive or rude behavior from participants, staff, or volunteers of one group towards another in the warmup areas will not be tolerated.

Anyone found to have participated in misconduct will be disciplined as IMPA finds appropriate, up to and including loss of the privilege that has been violated. For example, staff could lose all critique privileges with judges, barred from contest floor or venue, or loss of the right to use the warm-up venue.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

IMPA respects the right to use social networking sites and does not wish to discourage from self-publishing or self-expression. Nevertheless, we expect all involved in IMPA to follow applicable guidelines and policies. All persons using social media should be clear that any posts are their own and they are not authorized to speak on behalf of IMPA.

Our policies prohibit the use of social media to post or display comments that are vulgar, obscene, threatening, intimidating, harassing, or hostile on account of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, marital status, physical or mental disability, or any other basis or characteristic protected by applicable law on platforms controlled by IMPA.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Individual participants, staff, or volunteers who are found to in violation of this Code of Conduct will be subject to further investigation as conducted by IMPA Administration. Based on the circumstances considered, the decision to apply disciplinary action or dismissal can be at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.

In extreme circumstances, termination of a group's participation in IMPA may be considered if after a thorough investigation finds their management has recklessly or continually put participants, staff, or volunteers in unsafe situations or ignored flagrant violations of this Code of Conduct.

The type of action taken depends on the facts and circumstances surrounding each situation. Please note that the corrective action may vary, or steps skipped, depending on the circumstance. It's important to note that the type of action applied, as well as any prior notice of action, is at IMPA's sole discretion.

The policies of this Code of Conduct should provide all participants, staff, and volunteers with an understanding of what is considered appropriate or inappropriate behavior. While all possible circumstances are impossible to delineate, those participating with IMPA should not take any chance with the spirit and intent of these guidelines.

10 PARTICIPANT PROTECTION AND REPORTING POLICY

IMPA strictly prohibits all conduct which could pose a threat to the safety of participants in IMPA-sanctioned events. This policy sets forth IMPA's expectation that all individuals associated with IMPA-sanctioned events shall report certain kinds of misconduct without exception.

WHO IS COVERED BY THIS POLICY? Everyone associated with any IMPA-sanctioned event is covered by this policy, including without limitation all Participating Group personnel, IMPA personnel, Contest Judges, Event Administrators, volunteers, and performers.

WHAT IS EXPECTED UNDER THIS POLICY? Anyone who receives information of any kind (oral or written, “informal” or “formal”) suggesting that misconduct related to participant safety has occurred that is connected in any way to individuals or activities associated with any IMPA-sanctioned event or activity must report the matter immediately to IMPA management and the management of all Participating Groups or Circuit Partners with which the affected individual(s) are associated. A report to an appropriate law enforcement agency may also be appropriate and is always available, in the discretion of the person who receives information regarding potential misconduct. Misconduct related to participant safety that is covered by this policy includes:

- Any misconduct of a sexual nature or potentially classifiable as a sex offense under applicable law, including without limitation so-called “victimless” activities such as prostitution, pornography, and indecent exposure;
- Any misconduct in which actual or suggested sexual relations is an element;
- Any harassing conduct pertaining to, in whole or in part, an individual’s sex, gender, sexual orientation, or gender expression; and
- Any conduct involving harm to a minor.

WHAT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN? Upon receiving a report of any such misconduct, IMPA, the Participating Group, and/or the Circuit Partner shall conduct an effective internal investigation, report the matter to the appropriate law enforcement authorities as may be necessary, and take appropriate and effective remedial action under the circumstances.

Anyone found to have participated in misconduct that threatens the safety of a participant will be disciplined as IMPA finds appropriate, up to and including a permanent ban from association with any IMPA-sanctioned event in any capacity. IMPA will not retaliate against anyone for reporting suspected misconduct or for participating in an investigation or inquiry, and IMPA will not tolerate retaliation by any person or entity associated with any IMPA-sanctioned event.

Anyone under investigation for a violation of the Code of Conduct or Participant Protection and Reporting Policy will be barred from attending any IMPA event, until such time that the investigation has concluded. This includes, but is not limited to, judges, instructors, volunteers, IMPA personnel, performers, and spectators. Use of an IMPA credential or event ticket will not be permitted.

HOW CAN REPORTS BE MADE? A report can be made via IMPA’s website using the online by going to www.im-pa.org/safety, or directly to any member of the IMPA Board of Directors.

11 COMPETITION GUIDELINES

11.1. Ensemble Classification

- 11.1.1. Each ensemble shall be classified based on the skill level of the entire ensemble. The ensemble shall be placed in a division with other ensembles performing at the same skill.

The goal of classification is educational and should not be based on competitive advantage. Both Scholastic and Independent groups will follow the same classification guidelines.

11.1.2. Ensembles will place themselves in the division they feel best suits the educational needs of their ensemble. The Board of Directors, with the help of the competition judges, will review and reclassify ensembles based on the skill sets demonstrated by each ensemble. At no time is it appropriate to consider competitive outcomes against other ensembles when classifying one ensemble.

11.1.3. Those ensembles who have proven mastery of the skill set for their division will be moved to the next highest division.

11.1.4. Ensembles that are not yet prepared for the division they are in may be reclassified to the division most appropriate to their skill set. These decisions will be made by the Board of Directors.

11.2. **Competition Divisions**

11.2.1. IMPA has chosen to follow the model set forth by Winter Guard International. Groups will be classified on the skill sets they are currently working to achieve. The divisions are detailed below.

11.2.2. Novice Class – This is the entry level of competition for IMPA. Ensembles within the Novice Class will be made up of a many students just embarking on their journey as performers. Novice class is intended for new performers to experience the activity for the first time, outside of a focus of competition. As such, Novice class ensembles will receive commentary and a rating, but no score or ordinal will be given. The goal should be to help these groups advance to the A Class level as soon as it is beneficial to the education of the students.

11.2.3. A Class -These are the younger or less developed participants. The goal is to assist in their training and development and to reward achievements in a logical learning progression. These ensembles are consistently aged 14-17 and show beginning skill sets as they relate to movement and performance. Like most high school students, the ensembles show a tendency to be similar to one another. From group to group, their choice of equipment, the formatting of their shows and the depth of their training and skills are comparable in many cases. In A class many students and staff already have experience with the activity and are ready to begin exploring new avenues of creativity.

11.2.4. Open Class -These ensembles have mastered A class and have a strong desire to grow and explore. Most will have achieved the level of training set in Class A and welcome the challenge of greater creativity while they attempt to master the intermediate skill set. There should be sound development in a logical growing progression of challenges while maintaining the premise that growth requires new and additional training. The average age of Open Class ensembles varies, especially in the Independent Class. This is where the intermediate student explores new challenges through performance and realizes a greater

sense of achievement as each more complex skill is learned. They experience a freedom in their process as creativity takes on a greater importance in their development.

11.2.4.1. Unlike A Class, these ensembles have discovered a much stronger personality and are not usually like one another. The depth of their training and skills are still comparable in many cases, primarily due to the similarity of their age and the similar number of hours put into their development. Their programs are often freshly unique and original. Open class ensembles will still contain a wide range of age and some skill difference. Performers within one ensemble can range from 12 to 22 years of age. There is greater consistency in the range of skills and physical development. Programs are unique. A few individuals will demonstrate a high level of skills. Some advanced challenges will exist.

11.3. **Competition Entry**

11.3.1. Ensembles who wish to compete in IMPA sanctioned competitions must fill out an entry form and submit it to IMPA. Ensembles will not be considered entered until their fees are paid in full.

11.3.2. Entry fees will be proposed by the Board of Directors and voted on by the circuit in the pre-season circuit meeting.

11.3.3. Deadlines will remain the same from year to year. No extension will be granted if a deadline falls on a weekend or holiday. Any ensemble may petition the Board of Directors for an extension of the fee deadline. The Board will approve or deny extensions on a case-by-case basis.

11.3.4. The deadline to submit entry forms will be December 1st of each year.

11.3.5. The deadline to submit payment will be January 15th of each year.

11.3.6. Penalties -The following penalties will be assessed if an ensemble fails to meet the above deadlines or successfully obtain an extension from the Board of Directors before the deadline has passed.

11.3.7. Any ensemble who fails to meet the entry form submission or entry fee payment deadlines will be required to compete first in their class at each competition.

11.3.7.1. If more than one ensemble in a class misses these deadlines, postmark or credit card payment date will be used to determine performance order.

11.3.8. Any ensemble who fails to pay their fees in full by the first IMPA competition will be assessed a \$100 late fee and will be barred from competition until payment of entry and late fees is made.

11.3.9. Payment of fees can be made via check, money order, or purchase card.

11.3.9.1. A \$25 fee will be assessed to all purchase card transactions.

11.4. **Performance Order**

11.4.1. Performance order for all regular season shows will be determined by a random draw performed by the Board of Directors at a meeting approximately one month before the start of the competitive season. If an ensemble enters after the entry form deadline or pays after the payment deadline, they will be the first to perform in their class.

11.5. Event Start Times and Ticket Prices

11.5.1. All regular season events should start at 4:00pm

11.5.2. Tickets to regular season events will be \$6, \$25 for a family of 5.

11.5.3. Tickets to IMPA Championships will be \$10, \$45 for a family of 5.

11.6. IMPA Championships

11.6.1. IMPA Championships will be held at a venue chosen by the Board of Directors. Championships will be split into two contest rounds: Preliminaries and Finals. This format will give each ensemble the opportunity to perform in the arena prior to their final performance. The goal is to allow ALL ensembles to perform in both prelims and finals, if time allows.

11.6.2. **Performance order**-Performance order for the preliminary round will be determined by a random draw. Performance order for finals will be set in reverse order of placement from prelims.

11.6.3. **Eligibility**-To qualify for IMPA Championships, an ensemble must attend 3 of the 5 regular season IMPA competitions. Ensembles with large distances to travel may petition the IMPA Board of Directors for an exception to this rule.

12 ANNOUNCEMENT PROCEDURE

Prior to the ensemble entering the floor to setup, the Timing and Penalty judge will announce the start of the interval time. During this time, music will be played through the PA system.

- As the ensemble is setting up, the Timing and Penalty judge will periodically announce the setup time to the director. The Timing and Penalty judge will also monitor the judges to be sure they are ready for the start of the performance. During this time, music will be played through the PA system.
- If at any time the judges are not ready, the interval time will be suspended, and the ensemble will be notified of the suspension of the interval time by the Timing and Penalty judge.
- If the ensemble has any pre-show music, the house music will be faded out at the start of the preshow music.
- When the ensemble is ready, the director will notify the Timing and Penalty judge and he/she will cue the announcer. The music will be faded out and the announcer will say: "Please welcome from (city and state/country), (name of ensemble). (Pause) Performing their program (program title), IMPA is proud to present (name of ensemble)."

- At the conclusion of the performance, the announcer will say, “(Name of ensemble) from (city and state/country), under the direction of (director’s name).” Music will fade in as the ensemble leaves the floor. IMPA announcer will make no other announcements.
- Ensembles must plan on this announcement as part of their interval time.