

In affiliation with the  
*Northern California Band Association*



In partnership with  
*Winter Guard International*



## Winter Percussion Rules & Regulations

Updated Winter 2025  
M. Mills – VP of Winter Activities

### WGI Rules

As a WGI Circuit Partner, NCBA follows the WGI Percussion Ensemble Rules and utilizes the WGI adjudication sheets. For your convenience, the WGI Percussion Ensemble rules are linked [here](#), and the WGI adjudication sheets are linked [here](#). Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these documents. For a more detailed overview of the WGI system, it may be helpful for you to review the WGI Adjudicator Manual, which is linked [here](#).

Please note: All students that attend a school which competes in NCBA should participate in their school's competing ensemble and are strongly discouraged from leaving their school to join an independent ensemble.

### NCBA Specific Rules, Policies, and Procedures

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The Winter Activities Application will be posted on the NCBA Website on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### 1. Entry Fees

- a. The fee for regular season shows is \$100.00 per unit.
- b. The fee for Championships is \$130.00 per unit.
- c. Applications will not be processed until NCBA is in receipt of a competing unit's entry fee payment.

#### 2. Late Fees

- a. Applications received/postmarked after January 1<sup>st</sup> will be subject to a \$25.00 late fee.
- b. Applications received/postmarked after February 1<sup>st</sup> will be subject to a \$50.00 late fee.
- c. Applications received/postmarked after March 1<sup>st</sup> must be approved by the VP of Winter Activities and will be subject to a \$75.00 late fee.

- d. Late applications will not be processed until late fees are paid.
3. Payment Policy
    - a. Registered units must have paid in full no later than 3 weeks before an event in order to be added to the schedule.
  4. Refunds
    - a. Performing units will only receive a refund if they submit the Request for Refund Form via email to the VP of Winter Activities 14 days or more prior to the event in which they are requesting a refund.
    - b. There will be no refunds on late fees.
  5. Order of Performance in each Division
    - a. To the best of NCBA's ability, scheduling will be based on either the postmark date that payment is received via US Mail or the timestamp of payment received via PayPal, with the earliest postmarks/timestamps going on last in their division.
  6. Scheduling Accommodations
    - a. Scheduling accommodation requests must be submitted to the VP of Winter Activities for approval a month in advance via the electronic accommodation form. Every effort will be made to accommodate timely requests, but accommodations are not guaranteed.

## **CLASSIFICATIONS**

1. Both Scholastic and Independent groups are eligible to compete in NCBA.
2. NCBA will offer sub-classes within the Scholastic Regional A and Scholastic A classes. These sub-classes divide the larger classes to provide a more equitable distribution of groups at a similar developmental level. See Table 1.
  - a. A middle school entry can choose to compete in a higher class. For example, if a middle school is more competitive in Regional A, they can elect to move up to that class. Units can choose to perform in Exhibition Only.
3. Units that choose to perform in Exhibition Only will place themselves in the class they feel is most appropriate.
  - a. Units that choose to perform in Exhibition Only have three options.
    - i. Perform without receiving judges' comments or scores.
    - ii. Receive judges' comments only.
    - iii. Receive judges' comments and scores; however, the scores will not be published.
  - b. There will be no minimum performance time or authorized equipment time penalties for groups that perform in Exhibition Only; however, units that perform in Exhibition Only will be required to adhere to the internal time and maximum performance time.
4. At the beginning of each season, performing units will select the classification in which they wish to compete in. Judges – in consultation with the VP of Winter Activities, Chief Judge, and

Percussion Committee – may recommend that a unit be moved up or down. The VP of Winter Activities will make the final decision.

- a. Performing units will be classified based on the Class Descriptions.
  - b. A performing unit will be required to move up divisions if the VP of Winter Activities determines they should move up.
  - c. A performing unit can make the decision to stay in a higher division even if the VP of Winter Activities determines they should move to a lower division.
  - d. The second weekend in March will be the final weekend for classification changes to be recommended to the VP of Winter Activities.
    - i. The exception to this rule would be if a performing unit competes for the first time after the second weekend in March. In that instance, if the performing unit is scheduled to attend additional shows, they can be recommended moved up or down if it is deemed necessary.
5. Performing units can appeal a recommendation to move divisions in writing to the Percussion Committee. The Percussion Committee – in consultation with the VP of Winter Activities, Chief Judge from the contest, and judges from the contest – will make a decision after reviewing the show. The VP of Winter Activities will make the final decision.
6. Please refer to the WGI Adjudicator Manual for class descriptions. For clarification, the Regional AA class will consist of groups which fall between the bottom and middle of the Regional A class description, and the Regional A class will consist of groups which fall between the middle and top of the Regional A class descriptions. Similarly, the National AA class will consist of groups which fall between the bottom and middle of the National A class description, and the National A class will consist of groups which fall between the middle and top of the A class descriptions.

Table 1

<b>WGI Classification</b>	<b>NCBA Scholastic Sub-Classes</b>	<b>Independent Classes</b>
Regional A	Middle School	none
Regional A	Regional AA - lowest RA sub-class Regional A - highest RA sub-class	none
National A	National A	National A
Open	Open	Open
World	World	World
Concert	Concert*	Concert

\*NCBA defines the concert classification as percussion ensembles that perform concert percussion literature using concert percussion instruments. This classification is not intended for battery percussion without drill. NCBA does not have a “stand still” classification.

**ELIGIBILITY FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. To be eligible for the title of “Association Champion” in the middle school classification, units must compete in a minimum of 3 regular season NCBA Winter Activities contests. The virtual evaluation and Championships are not considered regular season contests.
2. To be eligible for the title of “Association Champion”, scholastic and independent units must compete in a minimum of 4 regular season NCBA Winter Activities contests. The virtual evaluation and Championships are not considered regular season contests.
  - a. Performing at a home show counts toward this minimum.
  - b. Competing in an NCPA event or WGI regional can count toward one of the minimum show requirements.
3. Should a performing unit who is not eligible for the title earn the highest score, the performing unit with the next highest score will become the “Association Champion”, while the performing unit that is ineligible for the title of “Association Champion” will receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> place trophy.
4. If a competing unit does not meet the minimum number of shows because an event was canceled, the eligibility requirement will be waived. However, before waiving the eligibility requirement, competing units will be encouraged to transfer to a different show.
5. To be eligible for the title of “Association Champion”, performing units must submit a video evaluation which will be due the last Saturday in January. There is no minimum time requirement, and the submissions will be free of charge.

#### **ELIGIBILITY TO HOST A SHOW**

1. Show hosts must attend a minimum of three regular season competitions during the winter season. The virtual evaluation and Championships are not considered regular season contests.
  - a. Each competitive group (percussion and guard and winds) must meet the requirements listed above.
  - b. Show hosts that do not meet the eligibility requirements will have their show pulled the next year. The vacant weekend will be open for other schools to apply to host.
2. Schools interested in hosting a winter competition for NCBA should fill out the online application.
  - a. After a review of all applications and evaluation of show host criteria, the Board will determine which school is best suited to host a winter event.
3. Contest hosts may be placed on probationary status or have their shows pulled for a poorly run show.

#### **CONTEST AREA**

1. The hosting school will provide an indoor facility with a 50' x 74' competition area.
  - a. The hosting school will provide a floor cover which will remain taped to the floor for the duration of the competition. If the hosting school does not have a floor cover, NCBA will provide one.
  - b. The competition area will be clearly marked with colored tape.
  - c. Show hosts must notify competitors of the timing line (horizontal or vertical) prior to the show. Competing units must fold their floors according to the timing line at each show.

- d. To assist with the flow of the show, hosts must choose just one timing line and competing units must follow the designated timing line. Competing units must follow the designated timing line.

### **TIME LIMITATIONS**

The interval and performance times listed below are for both marching & concert percussion groups.

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Interval Time</b>	<b>Minimum Performance Time</b>	<b>Maximum Performance Time</b>
World	11	4	8
Open	10	3.5	7
National A	10	3	6
Regional A [A - AA]	10	3	6
Middle School	10	2	6

The times indicated in RED are changes specific to NCBA. All other times are aligned with WGI times.

### **PERSONNEL**

1. For scholastic entries, all members of the competing unit must be enrolled at the school they perform with.
  - a. The VP of Winter Activities will consider exceptions to this rule on a case by case basis.
  - b. A Personnel Request Form must be submitted for consideration and approved by the VP of Winter Activities before a non-enrolled student can perform with a unit.
2. There is no minimum performer requirement.

### **ENTERING AND EXITING:**

1. Prior to each show, the hosting school will provide each performing unit with a diagram of the competition area which outlines the entrance and exit plan.
  - a. Performing units are expected to follow the directions sent by the hosting school.
  - b. Performing units should be set to unfold their floor according to the directions sent by the hosting school.
2. Performing units will enter the competition area when directed to do so by the Timing and Penalties judge.

- a. Performing units may be asked by the Timing and Penalties judge to enter the competition area up to the mid-court line prior to their performance.
- b. The Timing and Penalty judge will start the clock if a performing member, staff, or support personnel crosses the mid-court line prior to being given a signal to start.

### **WRISTBAND / STAFF BADGE POLICY**

1. NCBA will provide a director badge and 3 staff badges per participating unit. These badges must be presented at each show to get in. If a badge is lost or stolen, directors/staff must pay the show host the regular gate fee. Badges will be signed out and distributed at the first show that each participating unit attends.
  - a. Individuals entering through the performers entrance must also have a director badge, staff badge, or wristband indicating they paid at the gate. **Carrying an instrument or piece of equipment will not get someone through the performers entrance unless they have an NCBA Badge or wristband from the show host.** This policy will be strictly enforced.

### **ADJUDICATION**

1. One judge will be designated as the Chief Judge.
  - a. The Chief Judge will act on behalf of the Association to answer any questions that should arise.
  - b. The Chief Judge at each event will be assigned by the VP of Judges and VP of Winter Activities.
  - c. The decision of the Chief Judge will be final.
2. No judge will judge for more than 2 hours without at least a 15-minute minimum break.
3. Championships will use a single panel of judges for all events.

### **WAIVING A RULE IN EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES**

1. In extreme circumstances, any rule can be waived with approval from the VP of Winter Activities, the Head Judge, and an additional Board member.