



Judges

The OIPA Board will appoint a Chief Judge to assign judges, review judges performance and make recommendations. Any unit may request judges outside the local area. This request should be in writing and submitted to the Chief Judge. Once received, availability and issues of cost and current assignments will be considered and if possible the judge will be utilized. Preference for experienced judges in the color guard and or percussion activity.

Critique

Each unit performing in an event will have an opportunity to participate in a critique during or at the conclusion of the contest. Units will be called to critique based on a prepared time schedule. Whenever possible, all judges will be available for critique. Instructors must listen to judge(s) comments and complete a judge comment form prior to being admitted to critique. These forms will be collected following critique for educational purposes. Length of critique may vary by event, dependent upon number of units. Critique is optional for units and is provided solely as an educational opportunity for the instructors and judges. Disrespectful or poor behavior is not acceptable during a critique. Units who sign up for critique and do not attend may lose future critique access.

Instructor Recourse when a Judging Issue Arises

When any instructor has a judging concern, the first step is listening to the judging tape and then attending the critique to discuss the concern/issue. If after this process has been completed there is still an unresolved issue, the instructor may complete a complaint form that may be obtained from the Chief Judge. Once received, there will be communication from the Chief Judge to the Judge and then back to the concerned Instructor within 7 days. When necessary the Chief Judge will advise the OIPA Executive Board of concerns/issues and areas for future improvement.

Review Boards

Penalty Protests

Should a unit director wish to file a formal protest regarding penalties, the process is as follows:

1. Verbally notify the contest director immediately of your intent.
2. Write a formal letter of protest (e-mail) to the President of the OIPA.

Unit Review

The Review Committee will consist of the following individuals:

Judging panel at event where a unit is to be reviewed.
OIPA Chief Judge (this is a non-voting member, facilitator).

If the OIPA promoted a unit, from Regional A Class to A Class, Regional A Class time minimums and maximum's will remain in effect for the promoted unit in new next class. The intent of promotion is not to

destroy a program, but rather to reward growth and ensure that all performing units are in the appropriate class to the benefit of all participants. When groups change division on their own they will be redrawn in their number segment.

If a unit is promoted, a brief promotion ceremony will occur at the awards retreat at their next event.

Membership

Membership Fees

- \$450 - WGI Recognized Classes (A, Open, & World)
- \$425 - Other Color Guards (RA) / Drum lines (RA)
- \$400 - Lines / Exhibition

To be eligible for Circuit Championships, units must attend three (3) shows. OIPA Preview may count toward one of the three shows.

Any unit may enter one show for \$75. Units may perform in up to 2 shows (\$100) before being required to join the circuit. If a unit performs in one or more shows after which they join the circuit, performance fees previously paid will be applied to that seasons membership dues.

Surety Bond

Any member that withdraws from a contest within 10 days of the event will forfeit their surety bond to the OIPA. A new surety bond must be posted prior to their next competition.

Missed contests due to severe weather and or the decision by the School/Corporation to not allow the unit to compete will be exempt from this procedure once verification from the school is received and reviewed by the OIPA President.

All fines, fees, or bills of any kind must be paid prior to a unit being allowed to perform or compete in the OIPA Championships

Surety bonds for active members are carried over from year to year. Surety bonds are refundable if a unit is not competing for one year. The unit must make a written request prior to January 15 of each year. Surety bonds not requested for refund by January 15 of each year will be forfeited.

Membership/Eligibility

Eligibility to perform in the OIPA is based on classification. Any student enrolled in high school may perform with his or her high school unit until graduation.

Percussion units will recognize the WGI membership requirements in terms of membership number.

Members of independent units may perform until they reach the age of 23 at which time they are no longer eligible except with an Independent world-class color guard, which has no age limit.

Any performer meeting age requirements may perform with more than one unit in the following equation. Color Guard & Line/ Color Guard & Percussion /Percussion & Line. No performer may perform with two guards or two percussion units in the same season in the OIPA Circuit.

Color Guards must have a minimum of 5 members, Lines units must have a minimum of 3,

The OIPA Board passed the following policy for Independent Units.

OIPA *discourages* Independent units from actively recruiting performers who were previously enrolled in an active high school winter guard or percussion unit.

Unit Classifications

- **Color Guard:**
 - Independent World
 - Scholastic World
 - Independent Open
 - Scholastic Open
 - Independent A
 - Scholastic A
 - Independent Regional A
 - Scholastic Regional A
 - Junior Regional A
 - Elementary

- **Percussion:**
 - Percussion Marching World
 - Percussion Marching Open
 - Percussion Marching A
 - Percussion Marching Regional A
 - Percussion Concert

- **Line Units:**
 - Senior Flag Line
 - Junior Flag Line
 - Senior Rifle Line
 - Junior Rifle Line
 - Senior Dance Line
 - Junior Dance Line

Contest/Event Policies

Ticket Prices & Staff Passes

OIPA Preview Show	OIPA Regular Season Shows	OIPA Championship
<i>All Spectators - \$8 Children 6 & Under – Free</i>	<i>All Spectators - \$8 Children 6 & Under – Free</i>	<i>Adults - \$13 Children 6 & Under – Free</i>

Staff Passes

All Units

7 Staff Wrist Bands

Premier Show

The OIPA Premier show will be the first event of each competitive season. While judges may be present for training or to make tapes, no scores will be announced. Instructors or invited guests *may* be present to make audiotapes for units to use in their development process and is provided solely as a service to the units.

Show Entries

Each season, units must complete an application for membership and make payment of season dues. Once the treasurer receives the application and fees, confirmation letter and password information will be sent to the unit. At that time, units will sign-in to the circuit website directors only area and sign-up for shows/events.

- *Dues Deadlines & Performance Draw Dates*
Draw 1 Deadline: November 18
Draw 2 Deadline: December 12
Late Fee: \$50 for all fees paid after December 12
- Order of Appearance will be determined by first and second live draws. Units entering after the draw deadlines will be placed in the contest line up in postmark order
- Show entry deadline closes at Midnight the Friday two weeks prior to the contest weekend.
- General Event Information and a time schedule will appear on the website 2 weeks before each event. Final Information will appear on website 7 days before each event.

Contest Site

- Circuit will provide a floor cover 65 x 95 feet.
- The competition area is a maximum of 60 x 90. No floors may be larger than 60 x 90.
- Performers will be assigned areas for changing and for personal and performance equipment. Male performers may only change in those areas designated for men and females may only change in those areas designated for women. Students are not permitted to change in open or public areas. Classrooms are preferred but cannot be guaranteed.
- Absolutely no cooking in any buildings used for the competition
- No smoking in any buildings used for the competition. Local laws apply.
- Footwear is required for all performers at all times at all events excluding the time spent during warm-up or on the performance floor. During travel between warm-up areas, to the performance floor, during floor folding and on free time students/performers must wear footwear that fully covers the entire bottom of the foot.
- The contest administration will comprise the administration area of the contest site. The Contest director and assistant will prepare all retreat awards, prior to the event when possible.
- **A tabulator will be hired for each contest. The tabulation area will be off limits to everyone except the chief judge and/or Contest Director who will check scores with the judges for accuracy and be aware of potential unit reviews based on

scores. A designated runner will take sheets to the tabulation area. Tabulators will approach the administration table if they have any issues/problems during the contest day. No scores will be known to anyone prior to the retreat except the chief Judge and Contest Director.

- The Timing & Penalty Judge will be located in the front row(s) of the performance side of the stands. All penalties must be signed off by the contest director.
- The Equipment and Movement Judges will be located in the lower front stands while the Ensemble, and General Effect Judges will be located in the top section of the front stands. Judging areas will be taped off and are not available for spectator seating.

Unit Check-in

Upon arrival at the show site, each unit should proceed first to the Unit Check in. At this time performers and staff will be admitted the show and last minute information will be distributed.

Prop Area

Units may drop off their props/floor at anytime during an OIPA Event and as early as 1.5 hours prior to event start time. All props must be removed from the prop area within 30 minutes from the end of the awards ceremony. Units must check in prior to being allowed to unload props.

Performance DVD & Video Passes

Each unit will receive a high view DVD for every contest in which they participate. Directors may copy and distribute their performance DVD's as they choose however no video recording equipment will be allowed in any performance gym with the exception of Solo and Ensembles.

Penalty Assessment for Contests

The T & P Judge or the contest director may assess penalties. The contest director must sign off on any penalty assessed. Judges may also request that penalties be assessed.

In the event of rule or policy violation during an event or at an event location, the OIPA Executive Board may assess penalties at any time for current or future contests.

No timing penalties for incomplete shows will be assessed until week 3 on the season calendar. Units will be advised of potential penalties but the penalty will not count.

Judging Panels

Judging panels for each contest will be posted as soon as assignments are confirmed. This information will be available on the OIPA Site in conjunction with information for each event.

Judging Comments

Judging comments will be E-mailed to directors/instructors as soon as possible after each performance.

Retreat

There will be retreat at each OIPA Contest at which time scores/placements will be announced for all competitors. Captains for each unit will line up for retreat in a designated area immediately after the last performing unit. During OIPA Prelims, scores will be posted for all units and there is no retreat for prelims. OIPA Championships will feature a full unit retreat for every unit (no equipment).

Music

Music will be turned in at check-in/Sound check is available 30 minutes prior to show start and on breaks. MP3 players can be used, if you are using an MP3 player make sure you have a unit representative with the MP3 player at the sound table. Music files can be sent in advance of the show (48 Hrs Minimum) to OIPA President. Once we have your music downloaded you will not need to turn in music again unless it

changes. Please be sure your music is clearly marked with unit name and track you are using. Be sure to have a back-up music source with you in the contest gym at all events. Penalties may be assessed for delay of contest if unit is at fault for causing the delay.

Housing at Contests

Contest Sponsors may offer unit housing at their event when possible. Contest sponsors may charge a fee for this service. Please check the website for details regarding contest housing for a specific event. The OIPA will not offer any circuit sponsored housing at any time.

Practice at Contests

Contest Sponsors may offer unit practice at their event when possible. Contest sponsors may charge a fee for this service. Please check the website for details regarding contest housing for a specific event. The OIPA will not offer any circuit sponsored practice rentals at any time.

Tabulation and Judges

Unit directors or instructors should avoid placing themselves in situations with judges before or during a contest. Questions related to the actual contest should be directed to the Contest Director. For fairness to all units, No one other than official contest personnel will be allowed at the tabulation table during the contest.

Show Hosts

The fee to host a regular circuit show or circuit premier is \$2600 and includes trophy fees.

OIPA Championships

Show Requirements

Percussion Units

Percussion units will be required to attend Three (3) shows to be eligible for OIPA Championships. Preview may count as one of these shows.

Guard/Line & Exhibition Units

Color Guard and Line will be required to attend Three (3) shows to be eligible for OIPA Championships. Preview may count as one of these shows.

Championship Prelims Performance Draw

Performance order for Championships determined first by ranking followed by shuffling order in blocks of 3 to 5 based on following formula: Classes with 1-5 = all shuffled, 6 = 3's, 7 = 3+4, 8 = 4's, 9 = 3's, 10 = 3+3+4, 11 = 3+4+4, 12 = 4's, 13 = 4+4+5, 14 = 4+5+5, 15 = 5's, 16 = 4's, 17 = 4+4+4+5, 18 = 4+4+5+5, 19 = 4+5+5+5, 20 = 5's, etc.

Championship Prelims

A preliminary competition will be held for all classes Regional A through Independent World. Seeding for prelims will follow the above Draw. Finals will perform in reverse order of prelim placement.

If economically feasible a double panel of judges will be utilized for Championships.

Contest Awards

Regular Season Shows:

- Plaques to top 3 in each division for independent Guard units
- Trophies to top 3 in each division for Scholastic Guard units.
- Plaques to top 3 in each division for Percussion units.
- Trophies to top 3 in each division for Scholastic Units, Line Units, Jr. Units and Elem. Units
- Plaques to all participating Exhibition units.
- A bag of Candy (Starbursts or similar) to all units
- Minimum Sizes for trophies: 1st Place (24 inch), 2nd Place (18 inch), 3rd Place (12 inch)

Circuit Championships:

- Medals to top 3 units in each division
- Traveling Championship Trophy to winners of each class
- Plaques to all finalists in Independent Divisions
- Trophies to 2nd and 3rd place Scholastic Units, Line Units, Jr. Units and Elem. Units
- Plaques to all finalists (4th and below) in Scholastic Divisions
- Plaques to all finalists in Percussion Divisions
- Plaques to all participating Exhibition units.
- Championship Banners to champions in each class
- A bag of Candy (Starbursts or similar) to all units
- Medals to top 3 Solo and Ensemble performers in each class.

Medals at Circuit Championships will have coordinating ribbon colors to reflect the placement:
Gold medal/Blue Ribbon; Silver medal/Red Ribbon; Bronze medal/White Ribbon

Scholarships

Each year the OIPA will award scholarships to deserving students who apply prior to set deadlines with all requested information. Criteria for awarding scholarships will be set by the Executive Board. Individuals that are not directly involved with the OIPA or any unit will review scholarship applications. Scholarships will be awarded at OIPA Championships.

Miscellaneous Policies

Code of Conduct – Instructors & Performers

The OIPA Executive Board feels it is important to enforce an instructor code of ethics. If judges and OIPA Staff are expected to adhere to a professional code of conduct, then it is appropriate that this standard is exacted from the instructional community.

If undue or unfair pressure is applied to any judge(s) through inappropriate behavior, then this places the competitive experience at risk. Examples include, but are not limited to: instructors shouting at judges in public (including critique), inappropriate conduct of any instructor while accompanying the guard onto the contest floor, inordinate and unauthorized telephone calls to judges. Disruptive or rude behavior in any warm-up area, dressing facility, retreat or contest venue from staff or instructors toward judges or toward other staff or performers will not be tolerated. Behavior of this type will result in loss of the privilege that has been violated and possible additional action from the Executive Board of the OIPA. For example, instructors could be barred from critique, warm-up or the contest venue or performance floor.

The OIPA President, Event Chief Judge and OIPA Executive Board will determine the appropriate course of action.

Unit Insurance

OIPA requires that each Independent unit have liability insurance, which can be easily attained by joining the Boy Scouts of America. All Independent units will be required to have and provide proof of \$1,000,000 liability insurance.

Equipment Padding

All equipment must be padded. Each unit assumes responsibility if they scratch a floor or damage any property before, during or after a contest.

Guard & Line Unit Timing Overview

Class	Maximum Performance Time	Minimum Performance Time	Minimum Interval Time	Equipment Time
World	7 ½ Minutes	4 Minutes	10 Minutes	3 ½ Minutes
Open	6 ½ Minutes	4 Minutes	9 Minutes	3 ½ Minutes
A	5 ½ Minutes	4 Minutes	8 Minutes	3 ½ Minutes
Regional A	5 ½ Minutes	4 Minutes	8 Minutes	3 ½ Minutes
Jr. Regional A	4 Minutes	3 Minutes	7 Minutes	2 Minutes
Elementary	3 Minutes	1 ½ Minutes	5 Minutes	1 ½ Minutes
Lines	4 Minutes	2 Minutes	5 Minutes	2 Minutes

Percussion Unit Timing Overview

Class	Maximum Performance Time	Minimum Performance Time	Minimum Interval Time
World	8 minutes	4 Minutes	11 Minutes
Open	7 Minutes	4 Minutes	10 Minutes
A/ Regional A	6 Minutes	4 Minutes	9 Minutes
Concert	6 Minutes	4 Minutes	9 Minutes