

# SAPA Proposals

## June 6, 2009

### **Proposal # 1:**

Unit Name: Walton HS  
Director's Name: Cyndi Church  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit

#### **Proposal:**

Add a stronger emphasis on judge training to the SAPA Circuit School. Offer many classes focused on training for new and existing judges to help in the circuit's efforts to develop a comfortable setting for the many qualified instructors in the area to make the transition into the role of "judge".

#### **Rationale:**

I believe that we have many talented persons in our circuit that could be a valuable resource to the circuit in the role of judging but many feel the transition is an intimidating one to make. By providing more opportunities for training and education, it might make the intimidation factor less. This would be an excellent resource to instructors as well to take some classes to get a better understanding of judging.

#### **Financial Impact:**

### **Proposal # 2:**

Unit Name: Northgate Independent  
Director's Name: Ginger Armstrong  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit

#### **Proposal:**

Establish a committee to oversee the scholarship process. This committee should be jointly overseen by the At-Large board members and should develop a written application process for the scholarships given each year at championships.

#### **Rationale:**

This has simply never been done since we started our circuit. A defined process needs to be put in place so that there are set criteria for the awarding of scholarships.

#### **Financial Impact:** None

### **Proposal # 3:**

Unit Name: Houston Co. Area Winter Guard  
Director's Name: Catreece Fritts  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit

#### **Proposal:**

Make a change on page 10 of Policy Manual under heading "SAPA MEMBERSHIP" to the following:  
All Membership Applications, Membership Fees, Contest Entries, Proof of Insurance, Music Licensing Forms, & Student Eligibility Letters are due by the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Units may not register for shows until administrative & financial obligations are met.

Also, remove the deadline for Championships because the cost would be included in the General Membership Fee.

#### **Rationale:**

All information is collected at the beginning of the season to ensure that units participating in any given weekend have fulfilled their obligation. Also, it would be easier record keeping for the SAPA Secretary.

#### **Financial Impact:** None

**Proposal # 3:**

Unit Name: Upson-Lee Winter Guard  
Director's Name: Jeremy Stanley  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit

**Proposal:**

Add a section to the Contest Handbook specifically outlining check-in procedures for each contest.

**Rationale:**

Currently, check-in is run at the discretion of the contest host. When two units arrive at the check-in table at the same time, the unit who has arrived at their assigned time should be given preference over a unit that has arrived earlier than their scheduled check in time. This should not necessarily be the case for a unit that arrives later than their assigned time.

**Financial Impact:** None

**Proposal # 4:**

Unit Name: Northview HS  
Director's Name: Bill Bocian  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit

**Proposal:**

Regarding Scheduling of Shows- have one consistent schedule for the season. Example: All percussion units from 11:00-3:00; all guards from 3:00-9:00 (or vice versa). Give units more time to plan their rehearsal schedule around the performance schedule. Set a standard schedule as in the Championships schedule with the blocks of time allotted to each guard/percussion classification.

**Rationale:**

More ease of planning for your unit- More opportunity for the younger guards (Cadet, Novice, SRA) to see the more advanced guards without holding them for the entire day. Younger students need to have the influence of the older students in order to see what they are working towards. Also, the younger students are more likely to be burned out if required to stay for the entire show day.

**Financial Impact:** None

**Proposal # 5:**

Unit Name: Forsyth Central Crimson Guard/ Forsyth Central Drumline  
Directors' Names: Sue Mashburn / Tom Tucker  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit

**Proposal:**

We propose that the admission price at the shows be increased to a percentage at least equal to any increase in judges fees.

**Rationale:**

The cost of running a show (judges, judges, judges, program printing, food for concessions and hospitality, facilities, security, housing, etc.) are in creasing each year but the revenues for show hosts are not. Judges fees increase each year. Show hosts are becoming much harder to find because they are not willing to put in the necessary man power when they are making minimal or no profits. We must make hosting a show more profitable for the schools that are willing to provide their facilities and personnel.

**Financial Impact:** None to SAPA.

**Proposal # 6:**

Unit Name: Milton High School  
Director's Names: Bobby Jones & Kelly Thielemann  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit

Proposal:

Make SAPA Championships at a facility closer to the Atlanta area. Retain the use of a local college facility or other arena in the area.

Rationale:

The majority of the color guards and drumlines in the SAPA circuit are in the central Atlanta area, or right around the perimeter. With Championships being at such a far distance, use/ renting a bus becomes an issue, and finances for those color guards increases.

Financial Impact: Difficulty finding a facility to use.

**Proposal # 7:**

Unit Name: Northgate Independent  
Director's Name: Ginger Armstrong  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit

Proposal:

Circuit championships should be held over the course of two days.

Rationale:

This is a logistical necessity at this point for our circuit. This proposal is put forth for discussion and information gathering purposes (Saturday/Sunday, Friday/Saturday, two weekends?). Since it involves financial decisions, the executive board will make the final decision, but it is important for the membership to give input so that their decision can be as informed as possible.

Financial Impact:

Additional expense to circuit for venue rental, hotels for judges, etc.

**Proposal # 8:**

Unit Name: Pike County HS Winter Guard  
Director's Name: Chad Reynolds  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit

Proposal:

Offer end-of-the-year critique for directors at circuit championships.

Rationale:

Allows the instructors to talk to judges about the progression of the show, design, and execution. Will help instructors plan future shows and will allow the judges to offer suggestions. Not every instructor will want to participate, but it will give the younger, or less experienced instructors, an opportunity to get an evaluation of the season from an adjudicator's standpoint. This end of the year critique will have no influence on the championship scores since championships are based on the performance of the day.

Financial Impact: None

**Proposal # 9:**

Unit Name: Pike County HS Winter Guard  
Director's Name: Chad Reynolds  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit  
Proposal:

Have walkie-talkies or some other form of communication device available for the staff working Circuit Championships.

Rationale:

Allow better communication between the staff in the warm up areas and the staff on the floor. At circuit championships, Piracy Percussion was told by the warm up area staff that the group that had been stuck in traffic and missed their performance time, would go on before Piracy. We waited a few minutes and decided to head to the ready area and wait behind the late group. Once the late group came out to perform, they were sent back to the warm up area and told they would perform during the break. Piracy then had to rush to get ready to perform because of the sudden change. If we had not been early to the ready area, we would have been penalized for the miscue in communication between the SAPA staff on the floor and the staff in the warm up area.

Financial Impact: None, I'm sure there's a member group that would allow the circuit to borrow a set of walkie-talkies.

**Proposal # 10:**

Unit Name: Northgate Independent  
Director's Name: Ginger Armstrong  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit  
Proposal:

If any non-Premier percussion show has 6 or fewer registered units, the show will be cancelled. The registered units would still get credit for that show toward championship, as it may not be feasible for them to reschedule another show and it is not their fault that the show did not reach viability. If a Premier percussion show has 6 or fewer units, the circuit will cover the costs of the judges fees.

Rationale:

There has been no official policy in our circuit dealing with shows that are too small to be financially viable for the hosts. This will put in place a set policy as to when the circuit will step in so that all show are handled the same.

Financial Impact:

The cost of judges fees for one show per year. There is only the possibility that one premier show per year would fall into this situation since all percussion units must sign up for one of the two weekends. The financial security for the show hosts would be improved, as they would have a predictable way to tell if their percussion show would be financially viable or would end up being cancelled.

**Proposal # 11:** (Similar suggestion to Proposal #10 submitted by Ginger Armstrong)

Unit Name: Houston Co. Area Winter Guard  
Director's Name: Catreece Fritts  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit  
Proposal:

If any given contest has 6 or less units participating on Saturday, the show will be cancelled (percussion or color guard). IF it is a Premier or Preview weekend, and this occurs, the show will still be held, but SAPA will pay for the judges.

Rationale:

Prevents Show Sponsors from losing so much money on judges and encourages Sponsors to continue to host shows.

Financial Impact:

Cost of judges for a Preview / Premier weekend.

**Proposal # 12:**

Unit Name: Houston Co. Area Winter Guard  
Director's Name: Catreece Fritts  
Proposal Applies to: Entire Circuit

Proposal:

Allow a maximum of 2 persons per unit in video area. Directors must show Unit Staff Badge to enter video taping area.

Rationale:

Proposal allows one extra camera for optional view of unit's performance. One camera views entire area and optional second camera can focus in on a particular unite member. This allows for video taping of an individual for an audition or scholarship video.

Financial Impact: None

**Proposal # 13:**

Unit Name: Ola High School  
Director's Name: Merrell Holmes  
Proposal Applies to: Color Guard Only

Proposal:

I believe judges should go through a new training process to ehlp them better understand the direction winter guard is going.

Rationale:

I agree with part of a WGI proposal put forth by Byron K. Valentine, from Zydeco, where he states that "[He] firmly believes that with [proper training], the risk of being rated and ranked inappropriately would be lessened; and would provide units that work so hard through out the season peace of mind knowing that the judges are [confident and fair in their adjudication]."

Financial Impact:

I believe there would be a moderate financial impact. To be as effective as possible, I think the circuit should bring in well-known/trained WGI judges to train SAPA judges.

**Proposal # 14:**

Unit Name: Forsyth Central Crimson Guard/ Forsyth Central Drumline  
Directors' Names: Sue Mashburn / Tom Tucker  
Proposal Applies to: Color Guard Only

Proposal:

We propose that the Sunday shows be dropped from the SAPA schedules due to facilities issues.

Rationale:

It is becoming increasingly more difficult to receive permission to use decent facilities for housing units. Many school systems have begun to charge for facilities use. The revenue gained on Sundays, versus the cost of running the show, is not profitable because the number of groups participating has become fewer and fewer. The man power needed to supervise, set up, and clean up is overwhelming to a school!

Financial Impact:

There will be no financial impact to SAPA.

**Proposal # 15:**

Unit Name: Pike County HS Winter Guard  
Director's Name: Chad Reynolds  
Proposal Applies to: Color Guard Only  
Proposal:

Offer critiques for the cadet, novice, and regional A guards on Saturday of 2-day guard and percussion contests during the percussion competition. Critiques can be a 5 minute round table with some or all of the judging panel so that every guard is allowed to get fresh feedback and the judges still get a break before judging the later groups.

**Rationale:**

The cadet, novice, and regional A guards are always the first groups on at any competitions. At a Saturday/Sunday show, critiques are only offered on Sunday mornings. It is impossible to expect a judge to watch 25 or more guards in one day and then give specific feedback to a group that they may have seen as much as 24 hours before the critique. The cadet, novice and regional A classes are the developmental level winter guards that in many cases have the younger or less experienced instructors that can use the information from the judges to create a better product for their students.

**Financial Impact:** None, judges are at the contest site all day.

**Proposal # 16:**

Unit Name: Orpheus Cadet & IRA Color Guards  
Director's Name: Clayton Duggan  
Proposal Applies to: Color Guard Only  
Proposal:

Remove the statement "Members must attend schools that are feeder programs to the same High School" from the cadet class color guard classification of the policy manual.

**Rationale:**

The current definition of the cadet class excludes middle school students who are enrolled at the schools, or school districts, that do not sponsor their own color guard. Expanding the class to include all interested middle school students would allow interested color guard instructors, and directors, to include more students who would otherwise not have the opportunity to participate in the activity.

**Financial Impact:**

I perceive no financial impact to the circuit, but each guard with members from more than one school system would have to consider purchasing its own insurance since the hosting school's insurance would likely not cover students outside the school or school system.

**Proposal # 17:**

Unit Name: East Cobb Middle  
Director's Name: Kerry Gaskins  
Proposal Applies to: Color Guard Only  
Proposal:

For at least 2 competitions per season, the Cadet class would not be required to compete first, but compete between higher classes later in the event.

**Rationale:**

In the world of Color Guard, because there are so many classes and performing groups in a given day, virtually nobody gets to see the early performers- the Cadets. This leaves the Cadet class without an audience! These kids practice and work just as hard as the higher groups and it is disheartening to perform to an empty gym. As the youngest performers and the rookies, it would be awesome for them to (once in a while) feel the support of the "experts" behind them!

**Financial Impact:** None

**Proposal # 18:**

Unit Name: Northgate Independent  
Director's Name: Ginger Armstrong  
Proposal Applies to: Color Guard Only  
Proposal:

Do away with the "Field Day" classification process. All units would still be required to perform on one of the first two weekends, but classification would be done by all directors and then changed through the review and promotion processes.

Rationale:

This process was well intended when put in place, but is not as effective as it should be. Many units do not perform enough of their show at the first two contests for it to be possible for an accurate classification to be determined.

Financial Impact: None

**Proposal #19:**

Unit Name: Walton HS  
Director's Name: Cyndi Church  
Proposal Applies to: Color Guard Only  
Proposal:

To do away with the process of "promotion ceremonies" or set more guidelines for when, and how, it takes place.

Rationale:

It seems that there has been some abuse to the process and many groups have been misclassified, rather than a situation where a group started in the correct class and had a substantial growth, creating a need for a promotion to the next class. Before anyone bites my head off...this is just a thought and not implied that all promotions that take place are not justified. It seems like promotions should be few and far between in the season...if groups are classified correctly at the start, it seems that it would be a hard goal to reach to take the next step in classification. Or is this a sign of too many classes and a very gray line of what each class specifications are. My thought to do away with the whole "promotion ceremony" instead of setting more guidelines is because I think it would be hard to set up a way to determine what is "misclassified" and what is "growth". Just a thought and maybe worth some discussion?

Financial Impact:

None really, except the loss \$ of promotion pins already purchased.

**Proposal # 20:**

Unit Name: McEachern Visual Ensembles  
Director's Name: Ricardo R. Robinson  
Proposal Applies to: Color Guard Only  
Proposal:

Require that for promotion in Novice, SRA, IRA, SAAA< SAA classes be done only when there is a high box 4, or box 5 score, in both IA captions within the first 6 weeks of competitions.

Rationale:

If the judging system is truly working, groups that should be promoted will be scoring extremely high numbers early. If there is still ample room to grow on a sheet within a class, there is no need for promotion. The promotion should be determined mostly from IA numbers because these captions are directly related to the training and skill level of the performers.

Financial Impact: None

**Proposal # 21:**

Unit Name: McEachern Visual Ensembles  
Director's Name: Ricardo R. Robinson  
Proposal Applies to: Color Guard Only  
Proposal:

Promotion ceremonies should only be done after a consultation with the director of that group.

**Rationale:**

Holding the promotion ceremony without giving unit directors a chance to protest promotion denies instructors a chance to dispute the promotion. It does not help the growth of the activity when you tell kids that they are being "demoted" after they have been through the pomp and circumstance during the awards ceremony.

Financial Impact: None

**Proposal # 22:**

Unit Name: Orpheus Winter Guard  
Director's Name: Clayton Duggan  
Proposal Applies to: Color Guard Only  
Proposal:

I propose that the maximum performance time for Regional A groups be raised from 4 to 4.5 minutes to correlate with the WGI requirements.

**Rationale:**

The other times (3 minute minimum performance time, 3 minute minimum equipment time, and 7 minutes interval time) are already in line with WGI and do not need to change. The benefits for groups performing in Regional A classes are that those competing in WGI regionals will have the same rules for both circuit and regional, and it provides an overlap of time, should a group be bumped from a Regional A class to A class. Currently, the maximum time for Regional A is 4 minutes, and the minimum time is also 4 minutes, requiring those units bumped into a higher class to potentially need to add time to their show mid season.

**Financial Impact:**

There should be no financial impact, considering that the 7 minute interval time will not change.

**Proposal # 23:**

Unit Name: East Coweta JV & Varsity Winter Guards  
Director's Name: Teddy Sullivan  
Proposal Applies to: Color Guard only  
Proposal:

The description of cadet class would follow the same guidelines of the novice class. These two classes would have the same criteria which includes all timing requirements. The two classes would follow the timing requirements as stated under the Regional A sheets. All rules and guidelines of these two classes would follow the same format. No restrictions would be placed on the cadet class in any area. This class would still fall under the middle school umbrella.

**Rationale:**

The cadet class is judged on the regional A sheet and only makes sense to align the description of the class with this classification. If the class is judged on the same sheet, then all aspects of the two classes should be the same. The timing and penalties sheet does not have an interval time for cadet class. This would eliminate any confusion in this class in scoring as well as the timing requirements.

Financial Impact: None

**Proposal # 24:** (Similar suggestion as Proposal #23 submitted by Teddy Sullivan)

Unit Name: Houston Co. Area Winter Guard

Director's Name: Catreece Fritts

Proposal Applies to: Color Guard Only

Proposal:

Change Color Guard Timing Requirements for Cadet Class to match those of those of the Novice Class.

Rationale:

Unit will already meet time requirements if they are promoted.

Financial Impact: None