



## Indiana Percussion Association, Inc.

# PERCUSSION CONTEST RULES

*(Revised 2/23/2010)*

IPA discourages independent percussion ensembles from utilizing membership composed of any high school students who were previously enrolled in an active high school program and have not yet graduated.

**All performers at an IPA event will be required to wear protective footwear while outside the performance area.**

## 1.0 ELIGIBILITY

1.1 Percussion ensembles from Indiana composed of members who have not reached their 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday on March 31st of any given year shall be permitted to compete in contests governed by IPA, Inc. Each unit appearing at an IPA Contest shall be prepared to show proof of age.

1.2 All members of any percussion ensemble competing in any scholastic class must be approved for participation by the principal of the sponsoring school. Each school shall be prepared to show proof of enrollment in sponsoring schools.

1.3 No percussion ensemble may compete with less than five (5) members on the floor of competition at any time including the student conductor (optional).

1.4 Marching and Concert percussion ensembles may use one optional student conductor positioned in or out of the competition area. The optional student conductor may not cross the front sideline during the performance.

<p><b>PENALTY: Disqualification – any units violating any requirements in the eligibility section shall be disqualified and its position and standing in the contest shall be forfeited</b></p>
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## 2.0 CLASSIFICATIONS

2.1 Scholastic Marching World Class (PSW) ensembles demonstrate a high degree of advanced development. All of the performers contribute to the consistent high levels of performance being demonstrated. World Class ensembles are trendsetters in the indoor percussion activity. Programs are unique and innovative and these components are important at this level. Some very sophisticated challenges will be placed on the performers.

**2.2** Scholastic Marching Open Class (PSO) ensembles have some experience in the indoor percussion arena. Open Class ensembles have several members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing and movement. Here is where the intermediate student explores new challenges through performance and realizes a greater sense of achievement as each more complex skill is learned.

**2.3** Scholastic A Marching Class (PSA) ensembles continue to explore the indoor percussion arena. Here is where the student develops and strengthens the basic musical skill sets. Members increase their understanding of the visual and performance responsibilities necessary for the success of the ensemble's production.

**2.4** Scholastic AA Marching Class (PSAA) ensembles are the younger, less developed participants. Here is where the beginning student discovers the joy of performing and realizes the sense of achievement as each skill is learned.

**2.5** Scholastic Concert World Class (PSCW) is for those scholastic ensembles who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert percussion. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or to allow for better presentation of musical performance only. One student conductor is allowed in the concert classes. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only. These performers are experienced and fully trained. Trend setting programs and performance levels are often displayed.

**2.6** Scholastic Concert Open Class (PSCO) is for those scholastic ensembles who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert percussion. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or to allow for better presentation of musical performance only. One student conductor is allowed in the concert classes. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only. Open Class ensembles have several members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing.

**2.7** Scholastic Concert A Class (PSCA) is for those scholastic ensembles who wish to concentrate on the percussive element only. Instrumentation must be oriented to the performance of concert percussion. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or to allow for better presentation of musical performance only. One student conductor is allowed in the concert classes. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only. A Class ensembles are for the younger, less developed participants. Here is where the beginning student discovers the joy of performing and realizes the sense of achievement as each skill is learned.

**2.8** Independent Classes (PIW, PIO, PIA) uses the same criteria as the scholastic classes. (IPA uses the WGI PIW, PIO, PIA sheets for these classes). Independent

groups competing in WGI must compete in the same respective class in IPA contests. Independent units can be reclassified at any time if deemed misclassified by the IPA Executive Board.

### 3.0 CONTEST SITE

3.1 **MARCHING DIVISIONS:** For the purpose of interpretation, the “contest floor” shall be indoors and measure 60’ x 90’ with the front sideline and centerline clearly marked. The competition area shall not include entry ramps, hallways, no any bleachers or seating area. Side and rear boundaries shall be the entire gym floor and surrounding area and shall be called the competition area. A diagram (floor plan) shall be sent to all competing units to identify the competition area.

3.2 All IPA contest sites must have a minimum of 65’ x 100’ to accommodate a “safety zone” of five feet on the sides and rear using the minimum competition area of 60’ x 90. No performers may enter the safety zone at any time during the performance. Depending on the performance venue, IPA can authorize additional competition area and will include that information in the diagram (footprint) to be made available to all competing ensembles to identify the competition area.

3.3 **CONCERT DIVISIONS:** For the purpose of interpretation, the “contest floor” shall be indoors and may be either a gym floor (same as marching classes) or a suitable auditorium stage.

3.4 Competition area shall have 110 Volt grounded power sources located near the front and back at the centerline of the competition area. Contest host will provide this power using 12 gauge extension cords, not to exceed 50 ft. in length. These cords are to maintain a direct connection to the outlet (no power strip between cord and outlet). Participants must provide their own extension cords to reach the centerline power sources.

### 4.0 SCORING

4.1 The elements to be judged are:

<b><u>MARCHING</u></b>		
<u>Caption</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u># of Judges</u>
Performance Analysis	<b>40%</b>	1
Composition	15%	
Performance Quality	25%	
General Effect	<b>40%</b>	1
Music Effect	20%	
Overall Effect	20%	
Visual	<b>20%</b>	1
Composition	10%	
Performance Quality	10%	
<b>Timing &amp; Penalty</b>	<b>Penalty</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4</b>

<b><u>CONCERT</u></b>		
<u>Caption</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u># of Judges</u>
Performance	<b>50%</b>	1
Composition	20%	
Performance Quality	30%	
Artistry	<b>50%</b>	1
Program	20%	
Fulfillment	30%	
<b>Timing &amp; Penalty</b>	<b>Penalty</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3</b>

4.2 The Performance Analysis Judge will be positioned low in the stands and may move in order to better appraise the individuals within the ensemble. Timing and Penalty Adjudicators will be positioned on the floor. The General Effect and Visual Adjudicators will be positioned higher in the stands.

4.3 Each level of classification has a set of score sheets unique to its classification.

## **5.0 EQUIPMENT**

5.1 Instrumentation is limited to those instruments typically utilized and recognized as part of a percussion section. Also allowed are electronic instruments recognized as normal stage and band rhythm section instruments. Conventional wind and/or string instruments (other than string bass and guitar) may not be used. Single tone, non-keyed horns (i.e. whistles, sirens, animal calls, etc.) may be used only if generating an effect, and may not be used in any melodic form.

**PENALTY: 10 Points**

5.2 No single, triggered, electronic sound may produce rhythmic intent.

**PENALTY: 10 Points**

5.3 If an electronic mixing board is used, only student personnel may operate it. No communicating devices may be used in order to assist the mixing operator.

5.4 All equipment and props must be placed anywhere in the competition area. The front sideline is inviolate at all time (**this includes all sound equipment**) except during set up and tear down.

**PENALTY: 0.1 to 5.0 points per violation at the discretion of the chief judge.**

5.5 Permission for use of copyrighted material is the responsibility of the participants.

5.6 No motorized vehicles will be allowed. Wheelchairs for disadvantaged performers are accepted.

**PENALTY: Disqualification**

5.7 No pyrotechnics, discharge of arms, pressurized canisters, dangerous materials, inflammable liquids or animals will be permitted in or around the competition area. Smoke machines will not be allowed. Electrical (plug – in or battery operated) or compressed air apparatuses, including lights, lasers, and flash cubes (electrical or chemical) will not be allowed. Amplification may be used in the competition area by performers playing musical instruments, singing or voice. The electrical source for electronic instruments must be a 115/120v typical wall outlet as noted on the footprint of the facility as supplied by the sponsor. Car/truck type wet batteries cannot be used. Gasoline, electric, or manual powered generators will not be allowed. Lighting cannot be turned off in the competition area by a unit.

**PENALTY: 10 points to disqualification.**

5.8 For the protection of the wooden competition floors, all equipment must be properly taped or otherwise be prepared to assure that damage to the floors will not occur. Inspection will occur at all Invitationals, Prelims, and Finals. Damage to the floor such as may occur by dragging the tympani; wheels on carts locking, carts used for instruments, props, etc. will be the responsibility of the units and is subject to penalty.

**PENALTY: 0.1 to disqualification at the discretion of the chief judge.**

5.9 The use of powder, dirt or any other airborne substance shall be strictly prohibited.

**PENALTY: 0.1 to disqualification at the discretion of the chief judge.**

5.10 Wireless mic transmitters may only be used during a unit's performance interval time.

**PENALTY: 0.1 to disqualification at the discretion of the chief judge.**

## 6.0 CONDUCT OF UNITS

6.1 An ensemble performance is limited to the designated "contest floor" (65' x 100') and surrounding area or auditorium, depending on class. The front sideline is inviolate.

6.2.1 A percussion ensemble will be scheduled to compete at a minimum of nine (9) minute intervals for "A" class units; ten (10) minute intervals for "Open" class units and eleven (11) minute intervals for "World" class units. The time interval will include set up, entrance, warm up, performance, exit and removal of all equipment, props, personnel, etc. This time schedule may be expanded at the option of the Contest Director, but not lessened.

**PENALTY: 0.5 points for each five (5) minutes of lateness (missing scheduled performance time) or part thereof up to the conclusion of the contest.**

**PENALTY: 0.05 points for each second or fraction thereof. (Interval Time)**

6.2.2 The maximum performance time ceases when a unit quits playing or leaves the floor, whichever comes first, and shall not exceed six (6) minutes for "A" class units; seven (7) for "Open" class units; eight (8) for "World" class units.

**PENALTY: 0.05 points for each second of over time or fraction thereof. (Performance Time)**

6.2.3 Percussion ensembles, with all competing personnel, shall remain within the competition area and be judged in all captions for a minimum of four (4) minutes.

**PENALTY: 0.05 points for each second of under time or fraction thereof. (Performance Time)**

6.2.4 All captions will be judged for the maximum performance time or until the unit ceases playing or leaves the floor, whichever comes first. Timing and penalty will continue until performers and equipment are off of the floor. The contest director will place an appropriate line defining when an ensemble has left the floor for timing purposes.

6.3 Units competing at IPA contests cannot be required to perform before the time set in the latest schedule for the contest, distributed by IPA.

<b>UNIT TIMING OVERVIEW: Marching &amp; Concert Ensembles</b>			
<b><u>Class</u></b>	<b><u>Min. Perf. Time</u></b>	<b><u>Max Perf. Time</u></b>	<b><u>Interval Time</u></b>
<b>World</b>	<b>4 Minutes</b>	<b>8 Minutes</b>	<b>11 Minutes</b>
<b>Open</b>	<b>4 Minutes</b>	<b>7 Minutes</b>	<b>10 Minutes</b>
<b>A Class</b>	<b>4 Minutes</b>	<b>6 Minutes</b>	<b>9 Minutes</b>

6.4 In the case of a Director/Staff Personnel must be removed from a critique/competition setting, the IPA Executive Board will be contacted and the following will occur: 1) The IPA Executive Board will evaluate the problem. 2) A letter will be sent to the building principal and band director (if not the offending person). 3) A \$250.00 fine will be assessed and must be posted before the unit’s next performance. 4) Critique privileges will be suspended from one (1) critique to one (1) year. Suspensions handed down will be for the unit as a whole, as well as the offending individual. Each case will be discussed and evaluated on a case by case basis.

**7.1 ENTRY & EXIT**

7.1 An ensemble may enter the contest floor over any line. However once the performance begins, the front sideline and its vertical plane becomes inviolate and subject to boundary penalty.

**PENALTY: 0.1 points for each offense of the front boundary line violation.**

7.2 Units may enter with a “tap” prior to introduction or may include a playing entrance as a part of the performance following introduction.

7.3 Any equipment or props may be placed within the competition area by anyone prior to the start of competition. (Adults are not permitted to stay in the competition area during a performance.)

7.4 The unit will line up at a ready line (preferably side and back line if facility allows) to be designated by the Contest Director. From this point, the unit should move directly and immediately into the competition area when directed by the starter (T&P judge or contest director). They may set up anywhere in the competition area.

7.5 Performance time begins with the first note or step following the introduction.

7.6 Exit may be over any line at the conclusion of the performance

7.7 All personnel, equipment, and/or props must be off the contest floor, clear of the 50/50 line at the conclusion of the interval time. For purpose of timing, equipment and props are considered removed when they have been moved across a center line either horizontal or vertical depending on the contest site. After the equipment/props have crossed this line, they must be removed from the area immediately and taken to an area designated by the Contest Director. Failure to remove equipment and props to the designated area in a timely manner is subject to a penalty at the discretion of the Contest Director. Backside and sideline usage

will be at the discretion of the contest director, as defined by the facility. A map of the “contest floor” will be included in the unit’s packet defining the 50/50 line as vertical or horizontal. Facilities may designate how units will unfold and fold their floors whether it be front to back, back to front, left to right, or right to left depending on entrance and exit doors.

7.8 There will be no flying of tarps (also known as “ballooning”) to clear the floor at the conclusion of a unit’s performance.

**PENALTY: Disqualification**

7.9 During a performance, adult or non – performing student personnel may not coach, cue, etc. any performing members.

**PENALTY: 0.1 to disqualification at the discretion of the Chief Judge.**

## **8.0 PENALTIES**

8.1 Only the Chief Judge may assess a penalty. Judges report all violations to the Chief Judge.

8.2 General: Any unit violating any rule or part of a rule or committing any breach of contest etiquette for which no specific penalty is provided shall be penalized for each such violation, not less than 0.1 points, not more than disqualification from the contests at the discretion of the Contest Director.

8.3 All timing penalties shall be 0.1 points per three (3) seconds or fraction thereof. All boundary penalties shall be 0.1 points per offense.

## **9.0 IPA INCLEMENT WEATHER/TERROR ALERT POLICY**

9.1 In the event that a portion or all of the State of Indiana is struck by inclement weather on a day of a scheduled IPA competition(s), it may be necessary to cancel the competition(s) for the safety and ultimate well being of our membership.

9.1.1 The decision to cancel a scheduled IPA competition may be made by the members of the IPA executive board if 50% of the scheduled units fail to attend the event. If however, a simple majority of the scheduled units are in attendance, IPA will allow the scheduled competition to take place. The final decision, though, will always rest with the administration of the host school. Once this decision has been made by the host school’s administration, every attempt will be made to communicate this information to the directors of the competing ensembles in a timely fashion.

9.1.2 All competing members of IPA must have a “day of contest” emergency cell phone contact number on file with IPA. It is the responsibility of the contest host to communicate the decision of the host school administration to the directors of the competing ensembles via the emergency cell phone number contact. In the event an IPA competition must be cancelled, every effort will be made to communicate this decision to the membership via the official IPA Inc. web site. [www.indianapercussion.org](http://www.indianapercussion.org) In case of any emergency cancellation of an IPA event, it is essential that IPA Inc. and its entire membership share the responsibility of communication and cooperation needed to insure the safety, well being, and convenience of our entire membership.

**9.1.3** Those ensembles that are scheduled to participate in an IPA Inc. competition but are unable to fulfill their performance responsibility due to inclement weather or terror alert status, are required to submit a letter of explanation from their building administrator or school superintendent explaining that their absence was the result of a school administrative decision. The letter must be written on school letterhead and submitted to IPA Inc. within one week of the event. Units will not be allowed to participate further in IPA events until the letter is received by IPA Inc.

**9.1.4** Those ensembles that are scheduled to participate in an IPA Inc. competition, but are unable to fulfill their performance responsibility due to inclement weather and/or terror alert status, will have the opportunity to enroll in any other IPA Inc. scheduled event without fee or penalty. The deadline for entry into the next event is 72 hours after the conclusion of the contest where inclement weather and/or terror alert was experienced. In the event that this 72 hours includes a Monday holiday, the deadline shall be extended by an additional 24 hours.

**9.1.5** Units choosing to exercise the option outlined in rule 9.1.4 will automatically be scheduled to perform at the beginning of their respective class based on the post mark date of the units original membership application.

**9.1.6** When a unit's participation in an IPA Inc. event is cancelled due to inclement weather and/or terror alert, that unit's State Preliminary performance time will be determined by averaging the remaining two highest scores from their competitive season.

**9.1.7** If a unit is unable to meet the two show minimum requirement for the State Preliminary seeding process, IPA Inc. will determine that unit's State Preliminary performance time based on the raw score established by the group during the current competitive season.

**9.1.8** Units that are unable to attend any IPA Inc. scheduled events due inclement weather and/or terror alert, will be schedule at the beginning of their respective class based on the post mark date from units original membership application.

**9.2** In the event that a portion or all of the State of Indiana is struck by inclement weather on the day of IPA State Preliminaries, it may be necessary to cancel the competition for the safety and ultimate well being of our membership.

**9.2.1** All policies regarding Inclement Weather/Terror Alert for regular season contests are still applicable for State Preliminaries (e.g. 9.1.2: "day of contest" emergency cell phone contact number, etc...)

**9.2.2** The board of directors will determine an appropriate course of action, taking into consideration the best interest of the students involved.

**9.2.3** In the event that State Preliminaries is cancelled, then all units will perform at state finals. Entry fees to this contest will not be refunded if cancellation is weather/emergency related.

**9.3** In the event that a portion or all of the State of Indiana is struck by inclement weather on the day of IPA State Finals, it may be necessary to cancel the competition for the safety and ultimate well being of our membership.

- 9.3.1** All policies regarding Inclement Weather/Terror Alert for regular season contests are still applicable for State Preliminaries (e.g. 9.1.2: “day of contest” emergency cell phone contact number, etc...)
- 9.3.2** The board of directors will determine an appropriate course of action, taking into consideration the best interest of the students involved.
- 9.3.3** In the event that State Finals is cancelled, the results from State Preliminaries will act as our state finals. Overall scores will be used for final placement in the event that rounds are used. Entry fees to this contest will not be refunded if cancellation is weather/emergency related.
- 9.3.4** In the event that State Preliminaries and State Finals are cancelled, the WGI Preview show will function as state finals.