

East Tennessee



Performing Arts Association

2019 PROPOSALS

BYLAWS

Amendment of current Bylaws and/or policy

Proposal 1

From: Tim Hudnall, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: Minimal

***Proposal:* Create a Scholastic AA class**

Cadet

Prep

Novice

Scholastic Regional AA

Scholastic Regional A

Scholastic AA

Scholastic A

Rationale: The creation of the AA class would allow for better placement and promotion thru the season of those guards who may be in one or two captions on the A sheet but not ready to be fully competitive on the A sheet. This promotion can be driven by an appropriate number or panel recommendation for promotion.

This proposal was consolidated into Proposal 2.

Proposal 2

From: Leza Carver, HIPE Red and HIPE Blue

Financial Impact: Minimal to Moderate

***Proposal:* Create a Scholastic AA class as a stepping stone between SRA and SA.**

Rationale: Creation of AA class to allow better promotion throughout the season for groups moving from SRA classes to the next class up. This class can help with groups who maybe be achieving in one or two captions on the A sheet but not fully competitive on the A sheet. Development of appropriate numbers for classification.

Scholastic AA Class units may attend any WGI regional competition. Understand there will be a difference in the WGI ability levels for this class. Any unit in the Scholastic AA Class that is named a finalist at any WGI Regional will be automatically reviewed for promotion to the Scholastic A Class. If a Scholastic AA unit competes in a at least one WGI regional AND World Championships, they will be automatically reclassified into Scholastic A.

Board Recommendation: Pass Proposal 2 as originally written.

Proposal 3

From: Alicia Sharp, Oak Ridge High School

Financial Impact: Minimal

Proposal: *Create a Scholastic AA class or Scholastic National A class.*

Rationale: Scholastic A class has grown significantly in the past two years, but there is a clear divide between groups who compete nationally and groups who are new to the A sheet. A SAA or SA and SNA classification would divide the groups and help the younger A class groups work towards being more competitive on the A sheet.

This proposal was consolidated into Proposal 2.

Proposal 4

From: Jimbo Crawford, Karns High School

Financial Impact: None (possibly Minimal)

Proposal: *Add a Regional A class for percussion.*

Rationale: Some groups are not novice, but due to budget, time, or other factors, cannot, or choose not to compete with the units who regularly compete at the WGI level. There is no in-between classification in our current circuit that allows for this. Currently, there might not be enough percussion units to sustain adding another percussion class. However, adding a class might encourage other schools to consider adding a percussion group in a division that aligns more closely with their situation. The only financial impact would be for show hosts having to come up with another trophy or two.

Board Recommendation: The Board recommends to pass Proposal 4 but amend the new percussion class name to Percussion Scholastic AA.

Proposal 5

From: Alicia Sharp, Oak Ridge High School

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: *Eliminate SRAA Class.*

Rationale: The class was originally created to divide the large number of SRA guards in the circuit. Because they're competing on the same sheet, and so many groups have promoted out of the class, that rationale is no longer an issue.

Board Recommendation: The Board does not recommend Proposal 5 as originally written.

The need for Scholastic Regional AA class for the 2019 season is not yet apparent, but the Board believes the class should remain on the Bylaws.

Proposal 6

From: Tim Hudnall, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: Eliminate “rule changes can only be proposed and addressed at the spring meeting” and amend to “Rules can be proposed, brought to the Board, and voted on at any general meeting”

Rationale: The current language limits the ability to create and enforce new policy in times like this spring where there wasn't a general meeting.

Board Recommendation: Pass Proposal 6 as originally written.

Proposal 7

From: Alex Rector, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: Remove the line in the Handbook that says proposals can only be made at the May meeting.

Rationale: This is unnecessarily limiting should there be something that needs to be adjusted any other time throughout the year. By removing this line, it doesn't require us to address all proposals at any time but allows the flexibility to make changes if necessary.

This proposal was consolidated into Proposal 6.

Proposal 8

From: Alex Rector, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: ***Divide the position of "Executive Secretary" into two board positions: Treasurer and Secretary. (Continue to pay stipend to Treasurer but Secretary could be a volunteer role). The Treasurer would handle all financial issues, while the Secretary could handle the "paperwork" (minutes, handbook, forms, documents, communication, etc.)***

Rationale: As the activities of the circuit have increased, there is an apparent need for more division of duties among the board. These are really two separate jobs that both take a significant time commitment. By splitting them, we allow each role to be done more efficiently and with less pressure on any one person.

Board Recommendation: The Board does not recommend Proposal 8 as originally written.

Of the duties performed by the Executive Secretary, the secretarial portion is the more time intensive. The Board believes that ETPAA does not currently need two persons to maintain these roles, but the Board is willing to review this matter again at the end of the Executive Secretary's term.

BYLAWS

New policy

Proposal 9

From: Tim Hudnall, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: ***Create a Festival class***

Rationale: This class is for guards that may not have any resources or finances to field a competitive winterguard. This is a NON COMPETITION class, and no scores would be announced or any promotions or reclassifications. The groups would be evaluated on Regional A sheets and only Bronze, Silver, or Gold rating announced on a score system of Bronze: 0-49.99, Silver: 50.00-59.99, and Gold: 60.00 and above. No trophies need be given, although a certificate would be simple enough.

Board Recommendation: The Board will engage discussion regarding this proposal at the general membership meeting.

Proposal 10

From: Tim Hudnall, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: Initiate a “Code of Conduct” clause in the Bylaws

Rationale: Most circuits now include a Code of Conduct clause in their bylaws that address such behaviors as:

- Group and/or instructor behavior
- Judge behavior (although this should be addressed in a Judges Association document)
- No smoking, drugs, or alcohol at competitions
- Sexual harassment clauses
- Anything else that would fall under this

Board Recommendation: The Board recommends to pass Proposal 10 and adopt WGI’s Code of Conduct and Ethics policy. The ETPAA Handbook will be updated to reflect this addition.

Proposal 11

From: Alicia Sharp, Oak Ridge High School

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: Create a circuit Code of Conduct

Rationale: Again, in light of recent events in our band world and in keeping with other circuits in our region, the circuit needs to create a Code of Conduct expected to be followed by board executives and members that covers issues such as tobacco and alcohol use at shows, as well as language and general behavior expected of us.

This proposal was consolidated into Proposal 10.

Proposal 12

From: Tim Hudnall, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: Provide a current up-to-date Handbook that includes new proposals on the website as soon as practical

Rationale: The current Handbook (or policy manual) is out of date. The listing of the last three years of proposals become confusing when trying to assimilate them into a document. If a current Handbook (or policy manual) that includes recent proposal changes, that would eliminate many confusing questions.

Board Recommendation: Pass Proposal 12 as originally written.

POLICY: CLASSIFICATION

New

Proposal 13

This proposal was withdrawn.

Proposal 14

From: Alex Rector, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: All color guards attend the Qualifier in one of the following classes: Prep, Novice, Regional A, A, Open, or World. After the Qualifier, color guards in Regional A are divided between Regional A and Regional AA, and color guards in A are divided between A and AA. This could be done through a combination of score, judge input, judges task force decision, and instructor/director decision. Groups are always permitted to choose to put themselves in the higher of the two classes, but not the lower of the two. The split could occur solely based on competitive outcomes, with regular promotions still happening throughout the season.

Rationale: Right now, we have quite a bit of overlap between classes. While most guards seem to be on the right sheet, there is some mixing in terms of competitive expectations. This policy would allow for some flexibility year to year in terms of membership, staff, and experience level while keeping groups in the proper competitive neighborhoods and on their desired sheets. The splitting of the classes (Regional A into two classes and A into two classes) could be done totally on the basis of competitive ability, and not based on skill sets (since they are on the same sheets and therefore the same skill sets).

Board Recommendation: Pass Proposal 14 as originally written.

POLICY: CONTESTS
Amendment

Proposal 15

From: Leza Carver, HIPE Red and HIPE Blue

Financial Impact: Minimal to Moderate

Proposal: Eliminate the use of certificates from the Show Host Information packet.

Rationale: Requesting that the circuit adjusts the contest host guidelines for trophies. This past season some host did not provide trophies for placements. For those groups placing at the contest and not receive "hardware" was a disappointment in the eyes of the student membership.

Board Recommendation: The Board recommends amending this proposal to state that ETPAA will purchase awards for respective first, second, and third places for each contest. The host for Championships will have the opportunity to purchase awards for first, second, and third places in addition to the medals ETPAA already provides.

POLICY: CONTESTS

New

Proposal 16

From: Tim Hudnall, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: Moderate (to Significant)

***Proposal:* Add a sixth judge to the Qualifier**

Rationale: Many circuits now offer a “sixth” judge as overview judge for the smaller, less experienced units. They often have a much larger critique time with this judge, and that allows for more questions to be answered and advice given to those units in the Novice and Regional AA/Regional A classes. This judge would provide one-on-one critique rather than the remaining five judges having to do so for the younger classes.

Board Recommendation: The Board recommends to accept this proposal in part. For the 2018 season, a clinic was held for winterguards where each director received commentary and informal discussion from two clinicians. ETPAA would like to continue this clinic and offer something of similar value to directors of percussion and winds units.

Further discussion will be held by the Board in order to best accommodate education and instruction for all directors and staff in a manner that is financially feasible for ETPAA.

Proposal 17

From: Leza Carver, HIPE Red and HIPE Blue

Financial Impact: None

***Proposal:* Contest hosts place groups together in hallway if more one than one unit from a school**

Rationale: IE: HIPE Red and HIPE Blue placed next to each other in the hallway. As an instructor with 2 groups, it helps ensure that both groups are doing as they should on contest day. There can be so much to do at competitions that it is very helpful to have the full group placed together and decrease stress levels for everyone.

Board Recommendation: Pass Proposal 17 as originally written.

Proposal 18

From: Alex Rector, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: ***The circuit should provide an opportunity to provide weekly feedback on judging, both positive and negative.***

Rationale: To me, this is kind of a no-brainer and something that could very easily be accomplished digitally. There needs to be a method to provide feedback, both good and not so good. The judge coordinator could be the one receiving the feedback, giving he/she and the judge's task force the opportunity to decide which feedback was fair and which feedback might not be fair. Responses should be attached to a person (not anonymous) and would only be seen by the sender and judge's task force unless they decided it was something that needed to be shared with the judge.

Board Recommendation: Pass Proposal 18 as originally written.

Proposal 19

From: Alex Rector, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: ***Judge panels for all contests should be posted online prior to the start of the season and ideally before the draw in December.***

Rationale: Units have choices in the shows they attend and often the judging panel is one of the factors that influence those choices. I think it is fair to expect that if we are paying to attend a contest we know what we are paying for in advance. In order to secure quality judges we should be contracting them much earlier than this so I would think this could be easily shared with the membership.

Board Recommendation: The Board recommends to pass Proposal 19 as originally written with the notation and understanding that judge panels for each contest will be announced as soon as practicable with the exception of Championships, which will be announced the week of Championships.

Proposal 20

From: Alex Rector, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: Clarify and outline in the Handbook the circuit policy regarding judge communication with member units, instructors, and members of the board.

Rationale: In short, if every member of the board is expected to have a unit affiliation, then we can't say that judges can't communicate with instructors. This creates a double standard where it is acceptable for certain instructors (i.e. board members) to communicate openly with judges while some other instructors are "left out". I would recommend that we allow (and even encourage) dialogue between the teaching and judging community. We can certainly address issues as they arise, but if handled professionally, this is an opportunity to grow and learn from each other.

Board Recommendation: Pass Proposal 20 as originally written.

Proposal 21

From: Alicia Sharp, Oak Ridge High School

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: Host one or two "flipped" shows during which Open/A class would compete first and Cadet last.

Rationale: Oak Ridge Prep Guard exhibitioned at 2 shows during the 2018 season at the end of the day, and these students performed for packed gyms, while typically the Prep and Cadet class performs for gyms that aren't filled. Our youngest performers should have the chance to perform at the end of the day for those larger crowds.

Board Recommendation: The Board does not recommend Proposal 21 as originally written.

The Board believes one of the perks of competing at a higher level within our circuit is to inspire and show younger groups what can be achieved through practice, hard work, and determination.

Proposal 22

From: Alicia Sharp, Oak Ridge High School

Financial Impact: None (possibly Moderate for the circuit)

Proposal: All contest sites must have accessible restrooms available to staff and audience.

Rationale: Oak Ridge parents had to change their paraplegic daughter in the floor of a restroom at one of our shows because the accessible bathroom was blocked off. Not only is that unacceptable, it's against the law. Show sites must have accessible restrooms available.

Board Recommendation: The Board does not recommend Proposal 22 as originally written.

The passing of this proposal could have a detrimental effect on our circuit with respect to show hosts. All current and past show hosts have had handicap accessible bathrooms.

Proposal 23

From: Alicia Sharp, Oak Ridge High School

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: Two to four seats be roped off at shows for staff of performing groups.

Rationale: We had a continued issue this year of having to ask people not to sit in the floor in front of bleachers, however when groups perform there was nowhere except the floor or side for staff to watch to watch the performance. I'm the spirit of being able to get a decent vantage point to observe performances and continue to grow, staff needs a dedicated viewing space downstairs.

Board Recommendation: The Board does not recommend Proposal 23 as originally written, but every effort will be made to accommodate this request.

Proposal 24

From: Alicia Sharp, Oak Ridge High School

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: Groups or directors with multiple units should have the option to attend critique for all units at the end of the day.

Rationale: Groups with Cadet, Prep, or Novice class groups should have the option of attending critique at the end of the day rather than mid-day when they may need to be warming up their SRA or SA class groups or attending the performance of their school's Percussion group.

Board Recommendation: The Board does not recommend Proposal 24 as originally written.

Critique times are assigned as a means of maintaining structure and as a courtesy to our judges. When units are grouped appropriately, judges can better compare and contrast and discuss within class ranks rather than shuffle back and forth across classes. The time necessary for a thirty-unit critique is approximately four hours.

Proposal 25

From: Alicia Sharp, Oak Ridge High School

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: **Show hosts must include a rain plan in their applications to host.**

Rationale: We had severe weather for multiple shows this year and show sites were not all adequately prepared. Percussion units need tents or dry spaces to warm up, and students should be able to move around the show without getting wet or tracking in water that quickly becomes a safety issue on the tile floors. This is an extra burden on the show hosts, but it is a safety and liability issue for performers and instruments.

Board Recommendation: The Board does not recommend Proposal 25 as originally written, but show hosts should make every effort to establish a rain plan when completing a Show Host Application.

POLICY: CIRCUIT BUSINESS

New

Proposal 26

From: Tim Hudnall, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: **Provide online feedback forms for directors to evaluate each host site and adjudicator.**

Rationale: Having the ability to immediately respond to issues is paramount to the growth of the circuit. This online form could be construed using Google Docs or even a Survey Monkey format. Being able to address any show site issues before a lapse in time would assist in circuit being able to address them.

Evaluation of adjudicators would allow the Judges Task Force to address any concerns in a timely manner. These forms would be focused to allow for specific feedback as it relates to the commentary and use of criteria, not meant to “complain” about a score.

This proposal was consolidated into Proposal 18.

Proposal 27

From: Tim Hudnall, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: None

***Proposal:* Set the spring general meeting date at the fall meeting.**

Rationale: There has been no spring meeting which is the meeting to vote on proposals and nominate officers. By setting the meeting ahead of time, everyone can plan on it.

Board Recommendation: The Board recommends to pass Proposal 27 but amend the time frame to December rather than fall.

Proposal 28

This proposal was withdrawn.

Proposal 29

This proposal was withdrawn.

Proposal 30

From: Alicia Sharp, Oak Ridge High School

Financial Impact: Minimal to Moderate

***Proposal:* All board members and judges should submit a background check.**

Rationale: With all that is happening currently, in the interest of protecting our circuit members and performers, and in keeping other circuits in the region, all members of the executive board and all judges should submit background checks before working with or around students.

Board Recommendation: The Board does not recommend Proposal 30 as originally written.

The majority of those who serve on the Board are currently educators or individuals who have been previously been educators. Those who are not have submitted background checks to work with their respective programs. Judges are not in direct communication with students and many of our judges are educators.

Proposal 31

From: Alicia Sharp, Oak Ridge High School

Financial Impact: Moderate to Significant

Proposal: Schools with multiple units should be offered discounted member fees.

Rationale: Schools who are participating with multiple guards and percussion units should be offered a discount on member fees. For example: unit one's member fees are \$300 (the standard), unit 2 of the same category (guard for example) pays \$250. Unit three pays \$200. So a school who has three guards and 1 percussion would pay \$300 for percussion and \$750 for guard for a total of \$1050 rather than \$1200. This is minimal in the grand scheme of the circuit but it shows the schools and directors that the circuit is invested in helping them grow their programs through offering minimal financial forgiveness.

Board Recommendation: The Board does not recommend Proposal 31 as originally written.

Compared to other circuits nearby, ETPAA has relatively low membership dues. The Board believes it is in the best interest of the circuit to continue with the current fee structure.

Proposal 32

From: Jana Hanson, ETPAA Executive Secretary

Financial Impact: Moderate to Significant

Proposal: ETPAA pay fees and mileage related to Contest Coordinator, Tabulator, and Sound Technician

Rationale: Currently, show hosts are paying for all judges, contest coordinator, sound technician, and tabulator fees and mileage. For shows to be financially viable for hosts, ETPAA should pay the fees and mileage associated with the contest coordinator, tabulator, and sound technician. The financial impact for the circuit would be significant in a season or two unless fundraising or sponsorship is implemented to offset these additional, not currently budgeted expenses.

Board Recommendation: Pass Proposal 32 as originally written.

POLICY: OTHER New

Proposal 33

From: Tim Hudnall, Hardin Valley Academy

Financial Impact: Minimal

Proposal: Create an ETPAA Judges Association

Rationale: The creation of a bona fide judges association would allow for a more complete and comprehensive outline and format for the training and use of local judges as well as define by requirements how a prospective judge becomes a “certified” local judge.

This is open-ended, but it is suspected the Judge Coordinator would oversee this organization (until it is up and running and has its own officers). Training requirements for both experienced and prospective judges can be determined and therefore enforced in a manner that will allow for a consistent approach to the training of the association judges and any prospective judges.

This association will be responsible for the monitoring by criteria of all the members and be responsible for the discipline and remediation needed as situations arise.

Board Recommendation: The Board does not recommend Proposal 33 as originally written.

Currently, our local judging pool is too small to support a judges association. It would not be financially beneficial for the circuit at this time.

Also at present, ETPAA benefits from being able to recruit judges from a number of established judging associations. This gives the circuit a more flexible approach to recruiting judges with broader views of the activity.

Proposal 34

From: Leza Carver, HIPE Red and HIPE Blue

Financial Impact: None

Proposal: Creation of online Election Nomination Form to submit nominees for open board positions within ETPAA prior to ETPAA Championships. Nominees will be shared with general membership at ETPAA Championships. All eligible nominees will be elected at the Spring Membership Meeting.

Rationale: Provide a method for ease of nomination for open board positions. Nominees can be shared with general membership at Championships and then voted on during the Spring Membership Meeting.

Online form to include the following format: Submitted by, Group Association, Your Email, Position you are nominating, Nominee Name, Nominee Email, Nominee Phone, Agreement

Agreement clause could include such wording as: Participation on the Board of Directors requires frequent attendance at meetings, as well as continuous communication throughout the year. Members of the Board may be asked to participate in committees as well as help staff Circuit Championships.

By checking below, you certify that you have discussed the nomination with the nominee listed above. You also certify that the nominee has given you permission to include them in this election cycle. You also certify that the nominee has reviewed the ETPAA Membership Handbook (link below) and has a general understanding of his/her responsibilities, and is capable of fulfilling these responsibilities.

Board Recommendation: Pass Proposal 34 as originally written.