



# HANDBOOK 2025



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# Purpose

Established in 2015, GIPA is an all volunteer non-profit public benefit corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person, or persons, or ensemble. Our purpose of this corporation is to promote the growth of the percussive arts through competition, performance and educational activities and to encourage goodwill, good sportsmanship, and camaraderie through such activities.

## Event Admission

- Regular Season Shows
  - \$10 for prelims
  - \$15 for finals
  - \$20 combo
  - Children 4 and under are free
  - Band Directors of performing schools are admitted for free with school district badge
- Championships
  - \$15 for prelims
  - \$20 for finals
  - \$30 combo
  - Children 4 and under are free
  - Band Directors of performing schools are admitted for free with school district badge

\*All seats are general admission and are first come, first serve

\*All tickets can be purchased online at [www.gipacircuit.com](http://www.gipacircuit.com)



# Spectators

- No flash photography during a performance.
- All forms of recording or live streaming of any performance are strictly prohibited. This is GIPA policy and is the only way to comply with United States copyright law.
- Out of consideration for the ensembles, please stay seated during a performance.

# Membership Fees

- Circuit Member:
  - \$650 if registered between November 1–December 15
  - \$750 if registered between December 15–January 15
  - Registration closes January 15
  - Participate in all regular season shows
  - Participate in Championships
  - 2 Director badges
  - 10 staff wristbands at each show
- Non-Circuit Member:
  - \$250 per regular season show, registration for all non-circuit members is between November 1–January 15
  - Non-Circuit members are not allowed to participate at Championships
  - 10 staff wristbands at each show

# Registration

- All registration is done online at [www.gipacircuit.com](http://www.gipacircuit.com).
- Registration opens on November 1st for the upcoming season.
- 2 regular season GIPA shows are required to attend Championships. Participating in both prelims and finals at each event is required to fulfill your show requirements for Championships. WGI Regional Competitions will not satisfy the 2 show minimum requirement.
- If your ensemble cannot attend 2 regular season GIPA shows due to school conflicts, please email [gipacircuit@gmail.com](mailto:gipacircuit@gmail.com) to request an exception. The executive board will make the final decision for your request.
- A show constitutes a prelims AND finals performance at the same show

# Plus Passes

- Plus passes will ONLY be available during the registration process as an add-on feature.
- Regular season shows: \$50 per show
  - 7 additional staff wristbands
- Championships: \$85
  - 7 additional staff wristbands

# Show Withdrawals

- An ensemble may withdraw from a show up until January 15th without penalty. If an ensemble withdraws after January 15th, the ensemble will be charged a \$500 withdrawal fee. This fee must be paid prior to your next performance. Any ensemble with outstanding fees will not be allowed to perform until all fees are paid. Penalty payments will be divided between the Show Host (\$300) and the Circuit (\$200) to cover expenditures incurred before the contest date.
- If an ensemble decides to withdraw or plans to not perform for a portion of a show (ie. prelims, or finals), the ensemble will be charged a \$300 withdrawal fee. This fee must be paid prior to your next performance. Any ensemble with outstanding fees will not be allowed to perform until all fees are paid. This penalty payment will be given directly to the Show Host to cover expenditures incurred before the contest date.
- If you need to withdraw from a show, please email [gipacircuit@gmail.com](mailto:gipacircuit@gmail.com)

# Classifications

- Concert Percussion Ensembles
  - Scholastic Concert A
  - Scholastic Concert Open
  - Scholastic Concert World

- Marching Percussion Ensembles:
  - Scholastic Non-Movement
  - Scholastic Novice
  - Scholastic A
  - Independent A
  - Scholastic Open
  - Independent Open
  - Scholastic World
  - Independent World
- Winds Ensembles
  - Winds Scholastic A
  - Winds Independent A
  - Winds Scholastic Open
  - Winds Independent Open
  - Winds Scholastic World
  - Winds Independent World

## Rules and Requirements

- As a Circuit Partner, GIPA uses the WGI rulebook and adjudicator sheets and highly recommends that every director and staff member read the WGI rulebook thoroughly. Please visit [wgi.org](http://wgi.org) for more information.
- Each GIPA ensemble is required to have a Participating Ensemble Master Agreement on file prior to the start of the season. This agreement is designed to be a single, comprehensive document that will cover items such as participant protection, copyright, liability, and scholastic eligibility. This agreement must be on file with GIPA by February 1st. Ensembles that do not have their agreement on file will not be allowed to compete at any GIPA event with no exceptions. If you have any questions regarding the master agreement, please contact [gipacircuit@gmail.com](mailto:gipacircuit@gmail.com).



- It is the responsibility of each ensemble to secure necessary permissions and licenses to arrange and perform any copyrighted material performed at an GIPA event.
- Combined Schools must be from the same school district. Combined Schools must also have the master agreement signed by every head band director with participating students in the combined ensemble.

## **Schedules**

- All schedules will be released no later than 12 days prior to the performance date.
- All regular season prelims events typically start at 10am. This is subject to change depending on how many ensembles are registered for the event and any conflicts with the host school.
- All regular season finals performances conclude around 9pm.

## **Seeding and Eliminations**

- All GIPA events are prelims/finals format
- Seeding for prelims at regular season February shows is done by order of registration
- Seeding for prelims at regular season March shows is done by random draw
- Seeding for all finals events is based on score order from prelims with the highest score performing last in each class.
- Seeding for prelims at Championships is based on the average of each ensemble's two highest scores during the season. If any class has more than five ensembles then the class will be split into rounds based on the average of each ensemble's two highest scores. Each round will then be randomly drawn for prelims performance order.



- IF any show, including Championships, exceeds 25 total performing groups then WGI elimination protocols will go into effect for the finals portion of the show.
- WGI Protocol – Finals would consist of 50% of Novice Class, 50% of A Class, 75% of Open Class, 100% of World Class
- In cases where applying the finalist percentages would eliminate only one (1) percussion ensemble, all would advance to Finals.

## **Timing and Penalties**

- Timing penalties will not be enforced at the February 8th show
- Timing penalties will begin to be enforced at the second circuit show of the season and each show thereafter.
- All non-timing penalties WILL be enforced at EVERY circuit show.

## **Reclassification**

- The GIPA Executive Board reserves the right to reclassify an ensemble if their skill-sets are not in-line with their current classification.
- The Director of the ensemble will be notified if their ensemble is being evaluated for reclassification.

## **Evaluation Forms**

- All participating Directors will receive an evaluation form for each show the week following the show. This is for each Director to give feedback on the show location and quality of the judges comments.

# Etiquette

- Directors and instructors should remind their boosters and parental support that we must always conduct ourselves at the highest levels of professionalism. Confronting host volunteers, GIPA Staff, or other ensembles is not in line with the values we try to strive for within and around the alliance. Although confrontations are the exception and not the rule, please note that it is a sure-fire way to be penalized or disqualified from the competition.
- Proper protocol for conflict resolution: The director or instructor of the ensemble (no parent or other liaisons, please) should report to Tabulation and inform an GIPA staff member that you need assistance. For host specific issues, report to Hospitality or Check-In locations.
- We at GIPA pride ourselves on the professional level of our adjudication panels. In order to ensure their return for future shows/seasons, we must maintain a level of tact and common-sense etiquette throughout the critique session. Any undesirable behavior will suspend the ensemble and the individual(s) responsible from critique.
- All groups are encouraged to patronize the show host concessions and pre-order services.

# Recaps and Critique

- Prelims Recaps will be available on Competition Suite approximately 15 minutes after the last performance.
- Finals Recaps will be available on Competition Suite following the awards ceremony.
- Critique usually begins approximately 30 minutes after prelims. A critique schedule will be included with the prelims schedule at least 12 days prior to each performance date.

# Awards

- The awards ceremony for regular season shows will take place approximately 20 minutes following the last finals performance. Leadership for each performing ensemble will line up in order of finals performance in the staging hallway.
- The awards ceremony for Championships will take place approximately 30 minutes following the last finals performance. Championships is a FULL retreat. All ensemble members will line up in the staging hallways in order of finals performance.
- One staff member must accompany the group to the staging hallway or they will not participate in retreat
- All ensembles are required to be in uniform for all awards ceremonies and personal items are not to be brought on the floor

# Executive Board

- The executive board are lifetime positions until a member chooses to leave their position. At that point, the executive board will choose their replacement. The Member-at-Large position is a two-year position that is voted on by the membership.
- Current Board Members:
  - Alan Sears
  - Mark Kapral
  - Kevin Kenney
  - Josh Robichaux
  - Chris Romanowski
  - Tom Tucker
  - Nick Tucker
  - Alex Shive - Percussion Member-at-Large



## Contact

All contact should be done through the website -[www.gipacircuit.com](http://www.gipacircuit.com) or by emailing the circuit at [gipacircuit@gmail.com](mailto:gipacircuit@gmail.com)

## WGI Rulebook

- The GIPA Handbook is an amendment to the WGI Rulebook. The WGI Rulebook should be referenced for additional performance guidelines not included in the GIPA Handbook.

