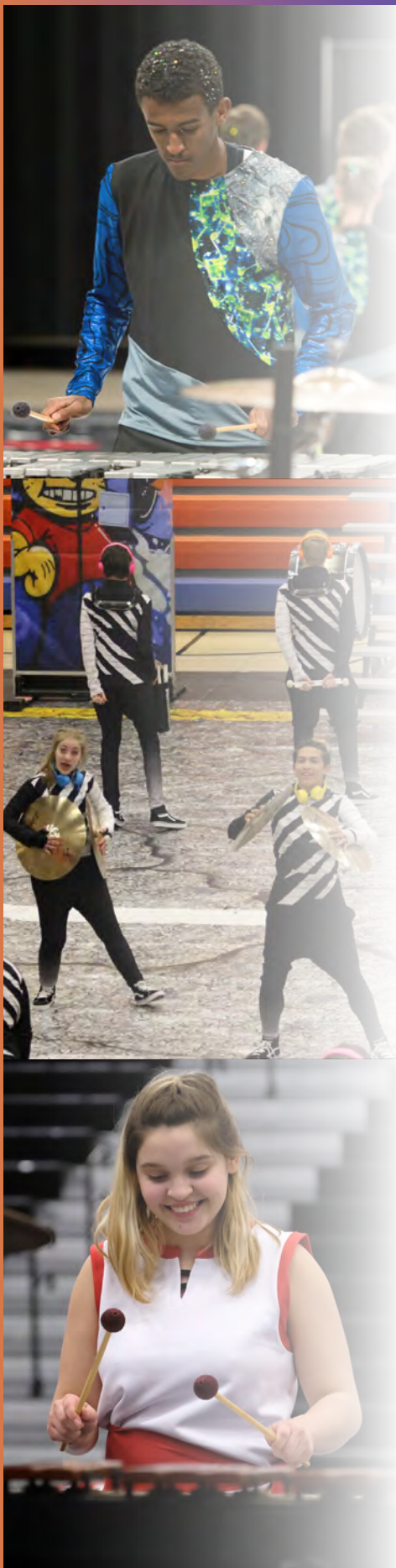




# MPA

MINNESOTA  
PERCUSSION  
ASSOCIATION

*OFFICIAL  
HANDBOOK  
2023*



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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Minnesota Percussion Association is a nonprofit educational organization that exists to further the development of the marching arts and percussion performance, working with scholastic music programs and independent organizations.

- MPA's operational strategy is the conduct of indoor performance opportunities, educational symposia, percussion ensemble festivals, and other activities deemed fit in keeping with the organization's mission.
- Competition is an inherent part of the MPA mission; however, education is the overriding objective of all MPA activities.
- MPA exists to serve and develop its participants, regardless of their existing levels of experience or skill. MPA will strive to serve all its participants equally and fairly without regard to performance levels, experience, artistic approach, or location.
- While one of MPA's primary operational vehicles is the conduct of marching percussion performance competitions, MPA will strive to present the marching percussion idiom in the context of total percussion skill development. MPA will regularly present educational opportunities outside the boundaries of marching percussion, such as percussion ensemble festivals, symposia, etc.
- MPA's adjudication systems exist to support the educational orientation of the MPA competitive activities. As such, those systems must address the educational needs of the competing groups in addition to providing fair and objective competitive evaluations.
- MPA expects only the highest integrity, sportsmanship, and ethical conduct from all its constituencies, including performers, instructors, directors, adjudicators, administrators, and spectators.
- MPA does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, creed, sexual orientation, origin, intellectual/physical ability, or cultural background.
- MPA must operate on a fiscally sound basis in order to provide a sustained service to its member groups. MPA will operate on a balanced-budget basis each year.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Vlad Boz  
vladislav.boz@gmail.com

### First Vice President

Erin VanBurkleo

### Second Vice President

Ellie Mehr  
mnpercsocial@gmail.com

### Secretary

Paul Connell  
mnpercsecretary@gmail.com

### Treasurer

Laura Connell

### Members at Large

Jack Donovan, Tiffany Kostuch, Patrick Lyons, Wyatt Martin, Craig Myers, Chris O'Connell, Sadie Odenbrett, Michael Thursby

## HEAD JUDGES

Steve Collins

smcollins.collins22@gmail.com

Matt Ferry

mfpercussion@gmail.com



## EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

MPA strives to be an inclusive community in which diversity is celebrated and everyone feels they are safe, valued, and treated with respect while getting equitable opportunities to be successful and enjoy everything MPA offers. MPA as an organization will continuously work toward our goals of equity, diversity, and inclusion in everything we do. And we encourage and expect everyone in the MPA community to do the same.

## COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Safeguarding the health and safety of all MPA participants is the highest priority at all times, and especially during the extraordinary circumstances around the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is expected that all MPA ensembles will follow applicable national, state, local, and district guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure safe participation for all. This includes, but is not limited to, guidance around social distancing, temperature and symptom screening, face coverings, duration of rehearsal and number of participants in a space, sanitization of surfaces, and hand washing. This applies to ensembles' activities outside of the performance venue (at rehearsal, on transportation to the venue, etc.) and all activities while at any venue holding an MPA event. Specific COVID-19 health and safety guidelines at MPA event venues will be disseminated closer to the event season and might change as needed. Everyone associated with any ensemble involved in an MPA event (performers, instructors, administrative staff, parent volunteers, fans, etc.) will be required to follow all applicable policies and cooperate with MPA and event staff and officials.

Failure to comply with MPA and/or local school district, venue, or government COVID-19 health and safety guidelines/procedures/





mandates in place at the time or to cooperate with requests of these entities' representatives may lead to one or more consequences for the individual(s) and/or group in question, at the discretion of MPA and/or the local school district, venue, or government. Possible consequences include, but are not limited to: temporary removal from the event venue, removal from the show schedule, removal from multiple shows' schedules with or without conditional reinstatement, permanent removal from the event venue, scoring penalty, removal from the scores/rankings for that event, temporary loss of MPA membership with conditional reinstatement, loss of MPA membership for that season, loss of MPA membership for multiple seasons with or without conditional reinstatement, or another consequence determined by MPA or other appropriate entity.

## **WGI RULES AND THIS HANDBOOK**

MPA follows the Winter Guard International (WGI) Percussion and Winds Contest Rules, found at [wgi.org](http://wgi.org) when they are ready for the season. These govern aspects of our ensembles' performances and competition, including, but not limited to: member and ensemble eligibility, the competition/performance area, scoring, equipment/instrumentation, timing, penalties, and performance entrance/exit.

In addition, MPA utilizes WGI's scoring sheets and adjudication policies and philosophies.

MPA has two exceptions to WGI's rules.

1. MPA's interval times for performances are one minute longer than WGI's:
  - Regional A and A classes: 10 minutes.
  - Open classes: 11 minutes.
  - World classes: 12 minutes.
2. MPA excludes all vocal samples from WGI's rhythmic intent rule (4.2.1).

The rest of this handbook covers important MPA-specific information for ensembles to know to be successful members of the association. Please don't hesitate to contact the MPA Board of Directors with questions!



## **MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

In addition to regular-season competitions and MPA Championships, members benefit from the following.

### **MPA Postseason and Preseason General Membership Meetings**

In the spring and fall, MPA holds meetings during which MPA member and nonmember groups, and any other interested parties, gather to discuss rules proposals, MPA procedures, the MPA schedule, and other topics pertinent to our circuit. The MPA Board of Directors is elected by the membership at the postseason meeting. All member groups are required to have a representative (director, instructor, par-





ent lead volunteer, or other representative) in attendance at both general membership meetings. One person can represent only one group at the meeting. Attendance can be in person or through the provided online meeting option, though attendance in person is highly encouraged whenever possible. Because it is imperative to the success of the individual groups and the circuit as a whole that all member groups are aware of updates and changes in the circuit, and that they are able to voice their opinions and vote on proposals and for the Board of Directors membership, if a member group does not have a representative at either the postseason or preseason meeting, it will need to complete a membership review before it will be allowed to register for shows for the upcoming season. The membership review involves a series of questions the director will have to address about the meeting that was missed, using the meeting minutes, slideshow presentation, and other resources that were presented at the meeting.

### **Day of Percussion**

For this annual MPA event, 75 percent of the members of each member ensemble and at least one staff member are required to attend in order for the group to compete at MPA Championships. The Day of Percussion is a series of clinics on aspects of marching, world, and concert percussion. Students can choose clinics to participate in based on their areas of interest and skill level. Clinics are followed by a concert. The Day of Percussion is an excellent opportunity to interact with members of other ensembles.

Groups from more than 200 miles outside of the core of Minneapolis and winds groups are not required to attend Day of Percussion but are welcome to.



### **Solo and Ensemble Contest**

This competition is open to MPA member ensembles and their students. At the contest, students have the opportunity to be evaluated in solos or ensembles and to receive personalized commentary from judges. No scores or comments are made public. The individual or ensemble with the highest score in each category receives a medal at MPA Championships. Students may register for the contest by visiting the MPA website and filling out the application under the "Resources" tab, when it is available.



### **Scholarships**

MPA offers several scholarships each season for students and instructors (limited) of ensembles that pay MPA membership dues or are first-year member ensembles. These include the Drum Corps, Jordan Jergenson Memorial Cymbal, Future in Music, Kayla Koranda Memorial Spirit of MPA, Access to Education, and IDEAS scholarships, all of which have specific criteria. The IDEAS Scholarship is awarded in the fall/early winter, with the rest of the scholarships awarded at the end of the MPA season. Information about applying for the scholarships is provided through social media and emails to directors.



### **MPA 1 on 1**

This service provides each MPA member ensemble with a virtual consultation session from a top designer in the activity (selected from the available roster).

### **Dick Rausch Instructor of the Year Award**

Each MPA member ensemble is eligible to vote for the recipient of this award. The MPA secretary sends out an e-mail during the last month of the season asking for nominations, and a round of voting selects the Instructor of the Year from the finalists.

### **Volunteer of the Year Award**

Every MPA member group is eligible to nominate a volunteer that has made a great impact on their ensemble or the circuit in general through service and support. Nominations should include descriptive examples of the person being nominated. These nominations can be made year-round and submitted to the MPA secretary.

## **BADGES, DUES, REGISTRATION, FEES**

### **Season-Long Badges**

Each member ensemble will receive 10 season-long badges for its staff and volunteers to gain free entrance into shows in which they are participating.

If a group would like more than 10 season-long staff/volunteer badges, it has to purchase them for \$20 each. This must be done and paid for by the Dec. 15 dues payment deadline.

### **Generating an MPA Invoice**

This will be accomplished through the director login on the MPA website. Please reference the 2023 Important Dates on page 16 for information on paying your group's dues on time. Questions regarding your director login or the MPA website can be directed to Vlad Boz, [vladislav.boz@gmail.com](mailto:vladislav.boz@gmail.com).

### **MPA Membership Dues**

For 2023, membership dues are \$600 (\$200 discount for groups more than 100 miles outside of the core of Minneapolis — board determines eligibility; \$100 discount for groups participating in the local WGI regional). This fee covers the cost of attending four or more shows, MPA Prelims, MPA Championships, Day of Percussion, and the Student Leadership Training; allows the member ensemble's students and staff to be eligible for MPA scholarships; pays for the MPA 1 on 1 service; allows the students to compete in the Solo and Ensemble Contest; and grants voting rights for the group. First-year member groups are exempt from MPA membership dues.

### **Nonmember Fees**

For 2023, the per-show fee is \$100, if attending three shows or fewer in a season. Nonmembers do not receive the membership benefits outlined above. Groups attending four shows or more must become members of MPA and pay membership dues (no membership dues for first-year member groups).





### **Registration for MPA Competitions**

This is accomplished through the MPA website director login and must be completed before the minimum performance registration deadline. If a member group has not registered for the number of shows required of it, it will incur a late fee of \$50 per week that this is not completed.

### **Adding Additional Shows**

Late registration for shows beyond a group's minimum is allowed up to four weeks before the date of any show. There is no fee to add additional shows after the minimum performance registration deadline has passed, provided that the group is an MPA member. Nonmember groups performing in fewer than two shows that wish to add shows past the minimum performance registration deadline must still pay the \$100 fee for each additional show. If a nonmember group adds enough shows after the minimum performance registration deadline to bring its show-attendance total to four shows or more, the group will be required to pay full MPA membership dues and will become a member.

After the minimum performance registration deadline, directors will not be able to sign up for shows themselves on the website. Groups adding a show after this date must email [vladislav.boz@gmail.com](mailto:vladislav.boz@gmail.com) in order to become registered for the show.



### **Withdrawal From Shows**

After the minimum performance registration deadline, withdrawal from performances is strongly discouraged. If a group wishes to withdraw from a show, it will pay a \$200 fee to MPA before being allowed to participate in any further MPA performances. If a group needs to withdraw due to an emergency situation that is not covered in the official MPA inclement weather/emergency policy and would like to avoid paying this penalty, the director of the group is invited to contact the MPA Board of Directors via email to discuss exemption from this fee.

### **Late Penalties**

There will be a \$50 penalty for each week that dues are late. Late forms will not incur late fees, but a group will not be scheduled for any show until all of its required forms have been received. In addition, groups must be up to date on all fees, including late fees, in order to be scheduled for any MPA competition.



### **Scholastic and Independent Division Classification**

All groups are classified into either the scholastic or independent division, under which they are further classified into competitive classes.

- Scholastic groups consist of performing members from the same high school or a school that feeds that particular high school. Students from a school that does not have its own drumline or winds group are allowed to join the group of another school in their school district, provided that their district policies and the schools' administrations allow this. Any exceptions to these scholastic eligibility rules must be approved



by the MPA Board of Directors every year and will depend on pertinent WGI policies.

- Independent groups consist of members who are not necessarily from the same school/district and can come from anywhere. Following WGI's age rules, independent percussion group members may not be over 22 years of age as of 12:01 a.m. on April 1 to be eligible to participate that season. Independent winds groups have no age limit.

### **Competitive Class Assignment**

Class assignment at the beginning of each season is the choice of the director for each ensemble. When updating the ensemble profile page on the MPA website, directors will indicate which competitive class they would like to be a part of.

Any director-initiated class change needs to be completed at least four weeks before any given show.

The Percussion Classification Committee is responsible for mid-season class changes. This committee consists of three judges: the head judge and two other judges assigned by the head judges. A WGI reclassification decision will automatically result in the same reclassification in MPA.

### **WGI REGIONAL, MPA PRELIMS, MPA CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Groups that register for the WGI regional will receive an MPA membership fee discount of \$100. Nonmember groups are eligible to register for the WGI regional but will not receive any discount from MPA. Groups that want to take advantage of this discount must register for the regional on [www.wgi.org](http://www.wgi.org) before the deadline to pay dues for the season (December 15). This discount will not be applied retroactively.

MPA Prelims determines the placement order for MPA Championships, except for the exemption policy below. Groups will perform at MPA Championships in reverse order of their Prelims finish. All groups that don't attend Prelims will perform before the lowest placement at Prelims.

The prelims exemptions listed below are only for groups that cannot attend prelims because of school-related events that affect the ensemble, such as a band trip. Directors need to ask the Board of Directors and provide a reason for the exemption. The board will make the final decision on exemptions.

- Classes of 2–5: No change/exemption.
- Classes of 6–8: The class is divided in two halves. If the nonattending group has been competitively in the top half, it will go first in the second half.  
Nonattending groups would either go on first or fourth in a class of six.
- Classes of 9–11: The class is divided into three sections. The nonattending group is placed first in the third of the class that it has been competitive with.





Nonattending groups would either go on first, fourth, or seventh in a class of nine.

- **Classes of 12+:** The class is divided into four sections. The non-attending group is placed first in the quarter of the class that it has been competitive with. Nonattending groups would either go on first, fourth, seventh, or 10th in a class of 12.

Placements are based on score margins and rankings throughout the season compared to other groups in the class. Secondary consideration is given to total scores. The head judges have the final call on the above, if needed.

To be eligible for MPA Championships, groups must meet their show-attendance minimums of three shows, for which the local WGI regional and MPA Prelims count. For groups outside of 200 miles from the Twin Cities, the show minimums to attend MPA Championships are reduced by one.

## SHOW HOSTING

Please see the 2023 MPA Show-Hosting Manual for full information.

## PERFORMANCE ENTRANCE/EXIT

### Entering the Performance Area

- Enter the gym as soon as the previous performance finishes.
- Move into position as quickly as possible, filling the void left by the previous group without getting in its way as it exits.
- Be aware of the timing and penalty judge and the signals they are providing. The judge has the authority to direct you across the timing line and start your time before you voluntarily cross.

### Leaving the Performance Area

- As soon as possible after your performance, start to move out of the performance area.
- If the tarp/floor post-performance storage is outside of the gymnasium, the exiting group needs to make sure all equipment is clear of the performance and safety zones before hauling the tarp away. (This means that drums should not be left behind in a way that blocks the next group from getting set up. All of that equipment should be already put outside the gym, to the side, and in an orderly manner, or carried out with the tarp. There is usually not extra room at the back of the performance area/safety zone, and that is not a good area to leave equipment.)

Expectations for the timing and penalty judge:

- The judge will give and hold a thumbs up signal to indicate they are ready for the group to cross the timing line. This means the previous group has crossed the timing line *and* the performance/safety zones are clear of all of their equipment.
- The judge may also give a winding signal indicating that the group's timing will start within the next 30 seconds. This may be the case if the previous group took a long time to clear the space, the entering group has taken a long time to set up, and/





or if the show is running behind.

- Groups will still have the standard couple minutes to move in and get set. They will not be asked to cross the timing line in an unreasonable time.
- Depending on the order to which groups bring items into the gym, they may be asked to cross the timing line before they have partially unfolded the tarp/floor.
- The judge may start the timing before the group crosses the line after the winding signal has been given for 30 seconds.

### General Guidelines

- Groups will never be asked to cross the timing line before their posted performance time — for the sake of proper transition time after warm-up as well as audience considerations.
- If a group has large/oversized/numerous props, it is on the group to consider that as far as it pertains to timing. It will not be given extra time in normal circumstances. If something about the venue is causing a delay in the props entering, the timing and penalty judge will consider that (e.g., the doors to the performance area are smaller than normal and props need to be shifted/alterd to be able to enter).
- More urgency will be applied to timing at large events such as Prelims and Championships, where multiple groups taking extra minutes can result in very delayed shows by the end.

### UNLOADING/LOADING

- All groups and drivers are expected to be familiar with the available unloading/loading zones before arriving on site, as indicated in the information for that show on the MPA website.
- Parking for buses and trailers/trucks will be chosen and designated to be separate from unloading/loading areas whenever possible and will be clearly explained to bus and trailer/truck drivers upon their arrival.
- All groups and drivers are expected to comply with requests by on-site volunteers from MPA and/or the co-hosting group. It is the volunteers' job to make sure unloading/loading happens in an efficient way to help the show run on time and for the participants to have a great experience.
- All zones are meant *only* for active unloading and loading. Please do not pull up until your ensemble members are ready to unload/load your trailer/truck.
- Be aware of the clear zones and make sure they are clear at all times.
- There will be multiple zones designated whenever possible. The priority when creating zones is to create the most possible viable zones, as opposed to having one very convenient zone close to an entrance.
- Groups are encouraged to come earlier to shows to unload (while respecting the earliest-arrival time designated for that show) as well as load as early as possible after their performance (while still leaving space for groups that are present to unload before their performances).
- All unload/loading zones are first come, first served. But priori-



ty will always be given to groups that are unloading before their performance. If multiple groups are waiting to unload and it is feasible to do so, groups that are scheduled to perform earlier should be allowed to unload before groups performing later in the show.

- Whenever possible, buses picking up or dropping off students will be directed to stop in such a way that minimizes blocking the unloading/loading of equipment.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER/PANDEMIC/EMERGENCY POLICY**

In the event that a portion or all of the state of Minnesota/Upper Midwest is struck by inclement weather on a day of a scheduled MPA competition, it may be necessary to cancel the competition for the safety and ultimate well-being of our membership. Other emergency situations beyond weather may fall under these policies as well, including, but not limited to: terror situations, acts of god, public health concerns/pandemics, and unforeseeable events not listed.

### **Regular-Season Shows**

- The decision to cancel a scheduled MPA competition may be made by the MPA Board of Directors or by the school administration of the co-hosting school. MPA will avoid canceling shows as long as a viable number of groups can still attend and the safety of MPA personnel, audience members, and competing groups is not compromised.
- All performing ensembles must have a “day of contest” emergency cell phone contact number on file with MPA. It is the responsibility of the MPA Board of Directors to communicate the decision to cancel or not cancel to the directors of the performing ensembles via the emergency cell phone number contact.
- In the event an MPA competition must be canceled, every effort will be made to communicate this decision via the official MPA website and other communication channels as well.
- In case of any emergency cancellation of an MPA event, it is essential that MPA and all performing groups share the responsibility of communication and cooperation needed to ensure safety, well-being, and convenience for everyone.
- The director of a group needing to miss a show because of a weather- or other emergency-related reason must notify the MPA Board of Directors as soon as possible the day of or before the show that the group will need to miss and the reason. If the director does not submit this communication or simply chooses not to attend, the group will be subject to the same penalty as any group that fails to attend a show it is signed up for, which is a \$200 penalty.
- Those ensembles that are scheduled to participate in an MPA competition but are unable to fulfill their performance responsibility due to inclement weather/an emergency will have the opportunity to enroll in any other MPA scheduled competition without any extra fee or penalty. The deadline for entry into the next event is 72 hours after the conclusion of the contest where inclement weather/an emergency was experienced.



- Groups that had to miss a show because of inclement weather/ an emergency are not required to sign up for more shows to meet their performance minimums. The canceled show or show they could not attend still counts for them.
- Nonmember groups will be refunded their single-show fee if the show is canceled or the group cannot attend because of inclement weather/an emergency.

### **MPA Prelims/Championships**

- Regular-season rules regarding cancellation are still in effect.
- All policies regarding inclement weather/emergencies for regular-season contests are still applicable for MPA Prelims (i.e., day-of-contest emergency cell phone contact number, etc.).
- In the event that MPA Prelims is canceled, groups will perform in MPA Championships following the guidelines that have been established previously for groups exempted from Prelims for a school function. For more information, see the portion of the handbook that references this guideline.
- In the event that MPA Championships is canceled, the Board of Directors will make every effort to reschedule the event. If this cannot be accomplished, the results from MPA Prelims will act as our final placements for the season.

### **MPA PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT**

MPA feels it is essential to enforce a code of conduct for groups participating in any MPA-sanctioned event.

Definitions:

- Participant: A person who is performing with a participating group.
- Staff member: A person who is engaged by a participating group in an instructional or administrative capacity.
- Volunteer: A person who gives of their time freely to a participating group as a chaperone or provides support in any capacity.

All groups participating in any MPA-sanctioned event must accept and act under the policies and procedures outlined within this code of conduct.

MPA will not tolerate conduct that impacts negatively on the organization or the experience of our performers or others involved in MPA.

All participants, staff, and volunteers should consider themselves as ambassadors of MPA.

All parties are not only expected to uphold these policies but should help remind others of them when necessary.

Further, MPA reserves the right to discipline, discharge, or suspend participants, staff, or volunteers who engage in or are alleged to have engaged in unlawful activity at an MPA-sanctioned event to the extent consistent with applicable law.





### **Alcohol and Controlled Substances**

MPA participants have the right to participate in an environment free of alcohol and controlled substances. MPA participants are not to possess, distribute, or be under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances including, but not limited to, narcotics, inhalants, marijuana, or other dangerous drugs. It is unlawful to bring alcohol and controlled substances onto any school grounds and most arena facilities.

### **Sexual Misconduct**

MPA strictly prohibits all conduct which could pose a threat to the safety of participants of an MPA-sanctioned event. If the participating group receives information of any kind (oral or written, “informal” or “formal”) suggesting that misconduct has occurred that is connected in any way to individuals or activities associated with the participating group, and if the suggested misconduct meets any of the following criteria, then the participating group shall inform MPA of the information in writing immediately:

- Any misconduct of a sexual nature or potentially classifiable as a sex offense under applicable law, including without limitation so-called “victimless” activities such as prostitution, pornography, and indecent exposure.
- Any misconduct in which actual or suggested sexual relations are an element.
- Any harassing conduct pertaining to, in whole or in part, an individual’s sex, gender, sexual orientation, or gender expression.
- Any conduct involving harm to a minor.



Scholastic groups will follow all applicable school district policies and procedures, and independent groups shall maintain effective internal policies and procedures, for the protection and safety of its participants, staff, and volunteers, including without limitation the ability of any individual to report suspected misconduct to the leadership of the participating group without reprisal. Participating groups shall conduct an effective internal investigation, report the matter to the appropriate external authorities as may be necessary, and take appropriate and effective remedial action under the circumstances.

Anyone found to have participated in misconduct that threatens the safety of a participant will be disciplined as MPA finds appropriate, up to and including a permanent ban from association with any MPA-sanctioned event in any capacity.

### **Harassment and Discrimination**

Behavior that may be considered inappropriate or may be deemed as harassment or discrimination is not allowed. Harassment refers to a full spectrum of offensive behavior. When the term is used in a legal sense, it refers to actions that can be found to be threatening or disturbing and are beyond those that are sanctioned by society. Conduct that creates a hostile environment is prohibited. Such conduct may include:

- Any harassing behavior about, in whole or in part, an individual’s sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, race, ethnicity, or any other representation of diversity.





- Repeated unwanted sexual flirtations, advances, or propositions.
- Verbal abuse of a sexual nature.
- Inappropriate verbal comments about an individual's body.
- Sexually degrading words used to describe an individual.
- Unwanted physical contact.
- Cyber-bullying or social media abuse.
- Any other behavior that is not socially acceptable in a professional environment.

MPA defines discrimination as any unfair treatment of an individual or group on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, age, or disability.

Any participant, staff member, or volunteer who is found after an appropriate investigation to have harassed or discriminated against another participant, staff member, employee, contractor, volunteer, customer, or other associate of MPA per the definitions set forth in this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions, including suspension.

### **Anti-Retaliation and Whistleblower Policy**

In an effort to protect all interested parties and address our commitment to integrity and ethical behavior, MPA will not tolerate any retaliation against anyone who makes a good-faith report, or threatens to make a good faith report, regarding MPA, another organization, or an individual whose suspected violation of the law or other violation endangers the health or safety of a participant, any personnel of MPA or a participating group, or the public.

### **General Conduct**

Our reputation depends on the conduct of all parties involved in MPA. Good manners, courtesy, and common sense are generally all required to ensure appropriate conduct and behavior. Conduct or language that could be perceived by a reasonable person as being rude, inappropriate, abusive, disorderly, derogatory, immoral, or threatening will not be tolerated.

If an undue and unfair pressure is applied to MPA judges or staff through inappropriate behavior, then this places the competitive experience at risk. Examples include, but are not limited to, participants or staff of a group verbally abusing MPA personnel, the inappropriate conduct of any participants or staff members on the contest floor, or inordinate or unauthorized communication to judges or the head judge.

Disruptive or rude behavior among participants, staff members, volunteers, or personnel from any group or MPA will not be tolerated.

Anyone found to have participated in misconduct will be disciplined as MPA finds appropriate, up to and including loss of the privilege that has been violated. For example, staff could lose all critique privileges with judges, be barred from contest floor or venue, or lose the right to use the warm-up venue.





### **Disciplinary Action**

Individual participants, staff members, or volunteers who are found to be in violation of this code of conduct will be subject to further investigation as conducted by MPA. Based on the circumstances considered, the decision to apply disciplinary action or dismissal can be at the sole discretion of the MPA Board of Directors. In extreme circumstances, termination of a group's participation in MPA may be considered if a thorough investigation finds its management has recklessly or continually put participants, staff members, or volunteers in unsafe situations or ignored flagrant violations of this code of conduct. The type of action taken depends on the facts and circumstances surrounding each situation. Please note that the corrective action may vary or steps may be skipped, depending on the circumstance. It's important to note that the type of action applied, as well as any prior notice of action, is at MPA's sole discretion.

The policies of this code of conduct should provide all participants, staff members, and volunteers with an understanding of what is considered appropriate or inappropriate behavior. While all possible circumstances are impossible to delineate, those participating with MPA should not take any chance with the spirit and intent of these guidelines.



### **Disseminating the Code of Conduct**

It is the responsibility of directors to disseminate the information within the Code of Conduct to all of their group participants, including staff members and volunteers that will interact with performers throughout the season, parents, and performers.

In addition, MPA will provide a short presentation to each member group that it is required to present to its performing members before the season begins. The director will indicate that this requirement has been fulfilled, and on which date, when turning in the signed combined form for the season (Dec. 15, 2022, for the 2023 season).

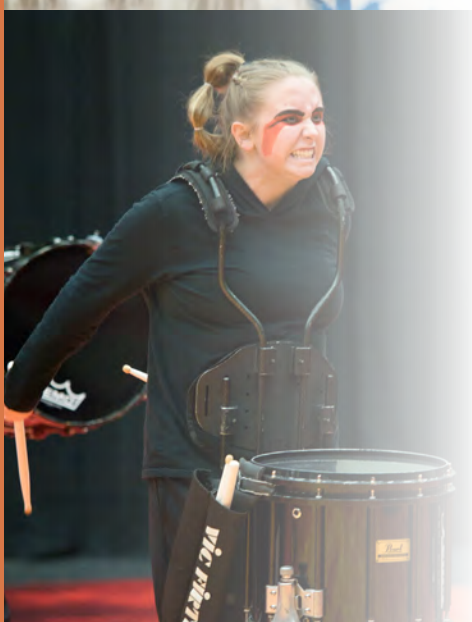
### **Background Checks**

All participating groups will need to certify they have obtained a national criminal history background check for those in regular contact with their participants. This includes at least the instructional staff but could also include drivers, chaperones, pit and/or prop crew members, clinicians, and others who have more than a casual contact with performing members.

Such background checks shall be performed at the discretion of the group's director but in no event less than every two years.

For scholastic groups, those requirements may be fulfilled by following the requirements imposed by the school district/educational institution; however, if a school district/educational institution does not have a requirement for such background checks, the group will still have to comply with the background check requirements herein.

The director will indicate compliance with the background check requirements when signing the combined form for the season.





### **Additional Requirements**

All MPA member ensemble directors and staff members for the 2023 season must furnish the downloadable certificate showing they have successfully completed the required SafeSport training course within the past two years.

Groups that do not furnish proof by Dec. 15, 2022, that all of their instructors have completed this requirement will not be allowed to participate in 2023 MPA events, including Day of Percussion, until their full staff roster has completed the course and furnished proof of completion. For competitions, the deadline will be three weeks before the competition or the group will not be added to the schedule for that show. If a staff member is added to a group's staff past the Dec. 15, 2022, deadline, they have 30 days to get their certificate in to MPA or the group will be considered in noncompliance.

The director of all MPA groups will need to submit a complete list of all instructional and administrative staff working with that group for the season in the ensemble info form (due Dec. 15, 2022). Each staff member will fill out a Google form that indicates they have read and agree to abide by the Code of Conduct.

### **DISTANCE EXEMPTIONS**

#### **MPA Membership Dues**

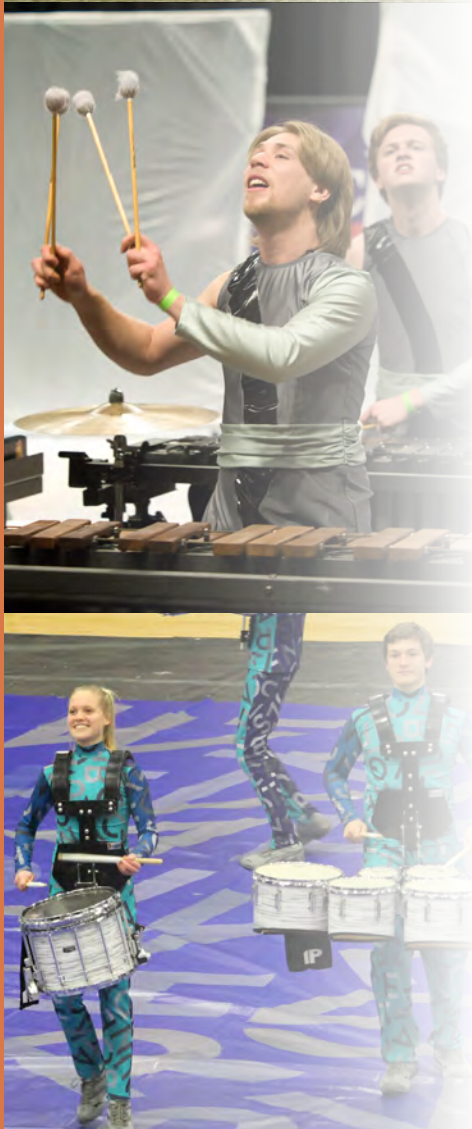
A \$200 discount for groups more than 100 miles outside of the core of Minneapolis exists — board determines eligibility.

#### **Show-Attendance Minimums**

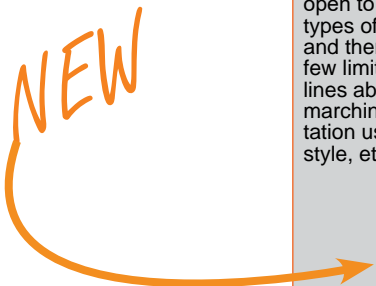
Groups outside of 200 miles need to attend only two MPA-sanctioned shows to be eligible for MPA Championships.

### **2023 IMPORTANT DATES**

- **Oct. 2, 2022:**  
MPA Preseason General Membership Meeting
- **Oct. 3, 2022:**  
Show registration begins
- **Dec. 1, 2022:**  
Minimum performance registration deadline — all groups must be signed up for show-attendance minimums
- **Dec. 15, 2022:**  
Membership dues and show-hosting fees, ensemble info form (with combined form included), show fact sheet form, show-hosting contract, and Wi-Fi form due
- **March 18, 2023:**  
WGI Minneapolis Regional, MPA Solo and Ensemble Contest
- **March 25, 2023:**  
MPA Prelims
- **April 1, 2023:**  
MPA Championships
- **May 7, 2023:**  
MPA Postseason General Membership Meeting



## MPA PERFORMANCE/COMPETITION OPPORTUNITIES

	Festival Class	Concert Classes	Marching Classes	Evaluation Group	Exhibition
<b>Class Qualifications</b> 	This class is very open to different types of ensembles, and there are very few limits or guidelines about including marching, instrumentation used, show style, etc.	This is for groups that want to perform without any marching while utilizing concert and marching percussion, <i>and wind</i> , instruments; various classes (Regional A, A, Open, World) are available within Concert Class	This is for groups that want to do a full indoor marching percussion <i>or indoor winds</i> show; most groups competing for the first time (or near the beginning of their existence) compete in Scholastic Regional A or Independent Regional A, though groups can compete in A, Open, or World classes	This is for groups that want to get judge commentary and see how they would compare in a concert or marching class without a public ranking or score announced	This is only for groups such as a color guard affiliated with the show co-host, other ensemble with a close affiliation to the co-host, or special situation approved by MPA
<b>Judge Commentary</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Public Score</b>	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Ranking</b>	No, rating only	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>Critique With Judges</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Instrument Limitations/Expectations</b>	None	Concert, marching percussion, electronics (all instruments for concert winds groups)	Usually marching percussion, concert percussion, and electronics for percussion classes, with all instruments for the winds classes; other instruments allowed	Same as the class the group is evaluated within	None
<b>Movement/Drill/Marching/Choreography</b>	Optional	Allowed but not judged	Yes	Yes (if being evaluated within a marching class)	Optional
<b>Judging</b>	2 judges (entertainment and music)	2 judges (music and artistry)	4 judges (covering music and visual categories)	4 judges (covering music and visual categories)	None
<b>Performance Order</b>	First at the competition	After any Festival Class groups	Depends on the class and random draw, but after Festival and Concert class groups	At the beginning of the class the group is evaluated within	Varies, at the discretion of MPA
<b>Performance Interval Time (Total Time Alloted in the Show Schedule)</b>	8 minutes (no minimum or maximum performance time)	10 minutes (6 minutes maximum performance time) for Regional A and A classes; 1 minute added for classes above those	10 minutes (6 minutes maximum performance time) for Regional A and A classes; 1 minute added for classes above those	Same as the class the group is evaluated within	10 minutes (no other limitations)
<b>Floor (Vinyl Mat That Fits Your Show Theme)</b>	Optional	No	Optional, but most marching groups use one	Same as the class the group is evaluated within	Optional
<b>Props</b>	Optional	No	Optional, but many groups use props	Same as the class the group is evaluated within	Optional
<b>Contest Entry Restrictions</b>	May perform at any regular-season MPA show; must be a member to perform at Championships	May perform at any regular-season MPA show; must be a member to perform at Championships	May perform at any regular-season MPA show; must be a member to perform at Championships	May perform at any regular-season MPA show; must be a member to perform at Championships	Usually restricted to the show at the school the exhibition group is from; at the discretion of MPA
<b>Cost to Perform (for the 2023 Season)</b>	\$100 per performance up to 3 regular-season shows <i>or</i> full MPA membership for \$600 (membership free for first-year groups)	\$100 per performance up to 3 regular-season shows <i>or</i> full MPA membership for \$600 (membership free for first-year groups)	\$100 per performance up to 3 regular-season shows <i>or</i> full MPA membership for \$600 (membership free for first-year groups)	\$100 per performance up to 3 regular-season shows <i>or</i> full MPA membership for \$600 (membership free for first-year groups)	Free, but inclusion in the show is at the discretion of MPA
<b>Options for Scholastic (Students All From the Same School/District) and Independent (Not Tied to a School) Groups</b>	Scholastic and Independent groups allowed, though they participate in one Festival Class	Scholastic only	Scholastic and Independent divisions	Scholastic and Independent divisions	Scholastic and Independent divisions

## CHANGE LOG

DATE	PAGE	CHANGE
September 2019	3	Added requirement for member groups to have representation at general membership meetings or have to go through a membership review before being allowed to sign up for shows for the following season.
September 2019	6	Added definitions of the scholastic and independent designations.
September 2019	6	Added that a WGI reclassification automatically results in the same reclassification in MPA.
September 2019	13	Added information about the required MPA Code of Conduct presentation for students.
September 2019	13	Added information about the background check requirement.
November 2020	2	Added a section on equity, diversity, and inclusion.
November 2020	4	Added COVID-19 guidelines.
November 2020	4	Clarified differences between MPA and WGI rules for the 2021 virtual season.
November 2020	5	Updated 2021 membership dues and per-show fees.
November 2020	8–10	Clarified definitions of harassment and added EDI-related language.
November 2020	N/A	Removed distance exemptions.
November 2020	Multiple	Removed all sections dealing with in-person events.
November 2020	Multiple	Changed show-attendance minimum for members to two shows before Championships.
November 2020	Multiple	Edited list of membership benefits for the 2021 season.
September 2021	4	Updated the COVID-19 section.
September 2021	6	Simplified the scholarships section language.
September 2021	7	Updated the 2022 dues amount.
September 2021	8	Updated the ageout definition for 2022.
September 2021	9, 10	Added a note about following the latest guidelines at the time of the show for unloading/loading and performance entry/exit.
September 2021	11	Added COVID-19 and other public health concerns to the emergency policy.
September 2021	17	Updated important dates for 2022.
September 2021	19	Added a table of performance/competition opportunities.
September 2021	Multiple	Deleted references to Day of Percussion for 2022.
October 2022	3	Removed mask requirement.
October 2022	5	Added Day of Percussion back in.
October 2022	5	Updated information about scholarships.
October 2022	6	Added MPA 1 on 1 information.
October 2022	6	Updated 2023 dues amount.





DATE	PAGE	CHANGE
October 2022	6	Added Day of Percussion and MPA 1 on 1 to dues information.
October 2022	8	Updated 2023 independent class ageout rules.
October 2022	9, 10	Deleted COVID-19 statement from performance entry/exit and unloading/loading information.
October 2022	16	Added all staff members of member ensembles to SafeSport requirement and added info about Code of Conduct attestation form.
October 2022	16	Updated list of 2023 important dates.
October 2022	17	Updated dues amounts.

