

II. RULE BOOK:

Indiana Percussion Association, Inc.



PERCUSSION CONTEST RULES

(Revised 1/30/17)

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. IPA reserves the right to refuse participation to any independent unit that violates the spirit of this request.

IPA also discourages ensembles from utilizing membership who have outstanding monies owed to a previous ensemble.

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 not over 22 years of age as of 12:01 a.m. on April 1st of any given year shall be permitted to compete in contests governed by IPA. Each ensemble appearing at an IPA contest shall be prepared to show proof of age.

1.1.1 U.S. Military veterans may be granted one (1) year of eligibility immediately their end of active service. To qualify, individual must have enlisted prior to their 19th birthday, served for no less than four (4) years, and must have been honorably discharged or medically separated. Veteran must submit a copy of their discharge papers and separation documents to IPA prior to December 1 to qualify

1.2 All performers 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. Participation of home schooled students in a scholastic ensemble shall be at the discretion of the unit's principal.

1.2.1 Percussion ensembles may combine students from multiple schools within their district, provided the percussion ensemble competes under the name of a single school or the school district name. **The purpose of this exception is to encourage smaller districts to combine students to create a percussion ensemble, not for larger districts to create multiple groups.**

Percussion ensembles may not combine names or use any other fictional name.

Combined scholastic percussion ensembles may only use students that are in their district and/or home-schooled students that would be zoned for those schools. Percussion ensembles combining students from different schools may be asked for additional information on reasons for combining students. The Director of Percussion in consultation with the Board of Directors will make the final decision on whether a percussion ensemble will be allowed to combine students.

1.2.2 The IPA Code of Conduct form must be signed by a director and the Non-Liability and Consent Release form must be signed by both the director and school administrator of the schools involved and filed with the IPA BOD.

1.2.3 A letter from the district superintendent that allows combining students from multiple schools within the district must be provided to the satisfaction of IPA.

1.3 No percussion ensemble may compete with less than six (6) members on the floor of competition at any time, including the student conductor (optional).

1.4 Marching percussion ensembles may use one optional student conductor positioned in the competition area. Concert percussion ensembles may use one non-student conductor positioned in the competition area.

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

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 B Marching Class (PSB) ensembles are the younger, less developed participants. Here is where the student develops and strengthens the beginning musical skill sets. Members begin developing visual and performance responsibilities necessary for their ensemble's production.

2.5 Scholastic Concert World Class (PSCW) is for those scholastic ensembles that 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 that 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 that 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) use 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.

Non-competitive

2.9 Festival Movement (FM) is where the beginning student discovers the joy of performing and realizes the sense of achievement as each skill is learned. This class will be comprised of the traditional performing ensembles found in the competitive movement classes.

2.10 Festival Non-Movement (FNM) is where the beginning student discovers the joy of performing and realizes the sense of achievement as each skill is learned. This class will be comprised of the traditional performing ensembles found in the competitive concert classes. A stand still ensemble comprised of a non-moving battery and a front ensemble will be permitted in this class.

3.0 CONTEST SITE

3.1 MARCHING DIVISIONS: For the purpose of interpretation, the “competition area” shall be indoors and measure a minimum of 60’ x 90’ and does not include entry ramps, hallways, nor any bleachers or seating area. Percussion ensembles are permitted to utilize the entire designated competition area for their performance. All performers must be in the designated competition area when performance time begins. Depending on the performance venue, IPA will authorize additional competition area space whenever possible and include that information in the diagram (footprint) to be made available to all competing percussion ensembles to identify the competition area. No competition area may exceed the maximum size of competition area 72’ x 106’ offered at the world championships. While the competition area will be increased whenever possible, all percussion ensembles must be prepared to perform within the minimum sixty by ninety foot area.

3.2 All IPA contest sites must have a minimum of 70’ x 100’ to accommodate a “safety zone” of five feet from any spectator seating. No performers may enter the safety zone at any time during the performance. If no spectators are seated on the sides, then the safety zone may be measured from the left and right walls of the competition area. This will ensure the minimum 60’ x 90’ competition area within the minimum 70’ x 100’ of the contest site.

3.3 Once performance timing begins, no performer may enter the safety zone. All equipment and props (including all sound equipment) must be grounded within the competition area, except during setup and teardown. No props or equipment may be staged within the safety zone and no choreography outside the competition area, including the safety zone, is allowed.

3.4 The front boundary line shall be considered to extend the full width of the competition area and shall be clearly marked at a minimum of five (5) feet from the first row of spectator seating.

3.5 All floor coverings (tarps) must fit in the designated competition area at each particular contest site and cannot enter the safety zone.

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

3.6 The center of the front boundary line shall be marked by a six (6) inch tape line at the front and back of the competition area. The outer edges of the competition area shall also be marked by six (6) inch tape lines at the corners to designate the safety zone.

3.7 110 volt grounded power sources shall be available at the front and back of the center line of the competition area. Ensembles must provide their own extension cords. Power specifications will be available on the competition area footprint for each event.

3.8 Power sources must be dedicated for ensemble use only and have no other electrical devices using designated power sources.

3.9 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.

3.10 A video recording area will be provided at all IPA shows. All recordings are for educational purposes only. Units will be responsible for all consequences resulting from any other use of the video recording.

4.0 SCORING

4.1 The elements in Marching Percussion to be judged are:

- 4.1.1** Music = 30%, one judge
 - Composition = 10%
 - Performance Quality = 20%
- 4.1.2** Effect-Music = 30%, one judge
 - Overall Effect = 15%
 - Music Effect = 15%
- 4.1.3** Visual = 20%, one judge
 - Composition = 10%
 - Performance Quality = 10%
- 4.1.4** Effect-Visual = 20%, one judge
 - Overall Effect = 10%
 - Visual Effect = 10%
- 4.1.5** Timing and Penalties = Penalties assessed per rules

4.2 The elements in Concert Percussion to be judged are:

- 4.2.1** Music = 50%, one judge
 - Composition = 20%
 - Performance Quality = 30%
- 4.2.2** Artistry = 50%, one judge
 - Program = 20%
 - Fulfillment = 30%
- 4.2.3** Timing and Penalties = Penalties assessed per rules

4.3 The Effect, Artistry, and Visual judges will be positioned low in the stands and may be moved by the Chief Judge in order to better appraise the individuals within the ensemble. The Effect and Visual Adjudicators will be positioned higher in the audience viewing area. Timing and Penalty Adjudicators will be positioned in the competition area.

4.4 The PSB class will be adjudicated on the PSA sheets. The Festival classes will be adjudicated on the PSA and PSCA sheets, respectively, with a rating system of: Gold, Silver, and Bronze.

5.0 EQUIPMENT

5.1 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 (dragging the timpani, wheels on carts locking, etc.), will be the responsibility of the ensembles and is subject to penalty.

PENALTY: .1 Points to Disqualification at the discretion of the Timing and Penalty judge.

5.2 Definitions of authorized equipment:

5.2.1 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

5.2.2 “No single, triggered, electronic sound may produce rhythmic intent. Lyrics with rhythmic intent may be triggered on a per word basis. Spoken word phrases without rhythmic intent may be performed with a single trigger.”

PENALTY: 10 Points

5.2.3 Ensembles may manipulate their soundboard by using a remote controlled wireless device through a self-supplied wireless network. IPA will provide an area in or near the GE & Visual judging area for one designated staff member to adjust the mix using wireless technology. The soundboard must remain in the competition area. All lighting must be controlled by a performer in the competition area.

PENALTY: 0.1 to Disqualification at the discretion of the Timing and Penalty judge.

5.2.4 Ensembles may use any electrical device within their program deemed safe by the Contest Administrator. The Contest Administrator has the ultimate decision regarding safety of any Device, in consultation with the IPA President. Ensembles should consult with the Board of Directors prior to using any equipment not specifically defined in these rules. Ensembles will assume any liability for issues arising out of the use of said electrical devices.

PENALTY: 0.1 to Disqualification at the discretion of the Timing and Penalty judge.

5.2.5 Battery operated devices using common off-the-shelf flashlight batteries (AA, AAA, AAAA, C, D, N, 9V and button cells) are allowed. Devices using dry-cell secondary “rechargeable batteries”, including cell phones, cameras, MP3 players and computers are also allowed. Car and/or truck batteries are not permitted.

PENALTY: 0.1 to Disqualification at the discretion of the Timing and Penalty judge.

5.3 The following are NOT allowed in the Competition Area:

5.3.1 No pyrotechnics, discharge of arms, pressurized canisters, dangerous materials, flammable liquids or gas will be permitted in or around the competition area. Smoke machines and/or compressed air apparatuses.

5.3.2 Gasoline, electric, or manual powered generators

5.3.3 Lasers and flashcubes (electrical and chemical) will not be permitted.

5.3.4 Live animals.

5.3.5 Use of powder, dirt or any other substance that lingers in the competition area past the interval time.

5.3.6 Use of helium, including helium-filled balloons, shall be strictly prohibited.

5.3.7 Motorized vehicles except for motorized wheelchairs used by disabled performers.

5.3.8 Use of glass objects that may break and/or leave shards of glass in the competition area.

5.3.9 Drones or any use of remote-controlled airborne device.

5.3.10 Hoverboards

Directors are encouraged to contact the Board of Directors to inquire about the use of particular equipment or materials when its permissibility under this section or at specific sites may be in question.

The Board of Directors shall at all times have the authority to prohibit the use of any prop or equipment that presents an unreasonable or unacceptable risk of injury or harm to participants or others or potential danger to a venue or its property.

PENALTY: 10 points to disqualification for use of any prohibited equipment

5.9 Props built and/or used, including drum major podiums, that measure over 6' high and are used in such a way that result in a participant whose feet are more than 6' above the competition area must have appropriate safety railings in place. Participants are prohibited from jumping or leaping off any prop that exceeds 6' in height unless protective padding is in place or other adequate safety precautions are taken. If a prop is moved with a performer on that prop, a safety rail or harness must be utilized by the performer.

PENALTY: At the discretion of the BOD, including (but not limited to) prohibition of the use of the over height/unsafe prop(s) or disqualification

6.0 Timing

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

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

6.2 Interval time will include entrance, setup, performance, exit and removal of all performers, props, floors and equipment from the competition area.

6.3 Each percussion ensemble, with all competing performers, shall remain in the competition area and be judged in all captions for a minimum of four (4) minutes.

6.4 The end of the maximum performance time is at the obvious conclusion of the show. All captions will be judged until the obvious conclusion of the show.

6.5 Percussion ensembles cannot be required to perform before the time set in the most recent contest schedule.

PENALTY: 0.05 points per second for any timing violation.

6.6. Any unit unable to make their scheduled performance time will be rescheduled to perform at the next logical performance slot in their class. Schedule adjustments will be made at the discretion of the BOD.

PENALTY: 0.5 points for each class interval time of delay.

6.7 Any ensemble creating a delay in the schedule will be subject to penalty.

PENALTY: 0.05 points per second for any timing violation.

6.8 Timing for the “maximum performance time” will begin with the first step of body movement, first move of equipment, or the first note of music whichever comes first after the announcement ends. Judging will also begin at this time.

7.0 ENTRY

7.1 All performers must enter the competition area through the designated entry door, tunnel or ramp. Prior to the actual start of the performance time, percussion ensembles may utilize the competition area for set up and pre-show preparations.

PENALTY: 0.5 points for failing to use designated entry door, tunnel, or ramp

7.2 All props must be able to fit through designated entry door, tunnel or ramp. No timing exceptions will be made for oversized props. Props will not be allowed in the performance area before the ensemble’s performance time.

7.3 The ensemble will line up at a ready line to be designated by the Contest Director.

7.4 Authorized equipment and/or props may be placed anywhere in the competition area by ensemble performers or anyone prior to the start of the performance. Any non-performers involved in set up must exit the competition area prior to the start of performance time.

PENALTY: 0.1 for each non-performer failing to exit competition area prior to performance time.

7.5 Units may include a playing entrance as a part of the performance following introduction.

7.6 Once the performance begins, performers must remain in the designated competition area for the entire performance.

PENALTY: 0.5 for each non-performer failing to remain in competition area for the entire performance

7.7 The front boundary is inviolate at all times except for performers involved in entrance set up or tear down at the end of the performance. Boundary line violations (including first aid cases) do not constitute permanently leaving the floor. No penalties shall be assessed for broken sticks, mallets, or hardware falling over the front boundary accidentally.

PENALTY: 0.1 points penalty for each member per front boundary violation

7.8 Floor coverings (tarps) may not cover the front boundary line at the beginning of performance time.

8.0 EXIT

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

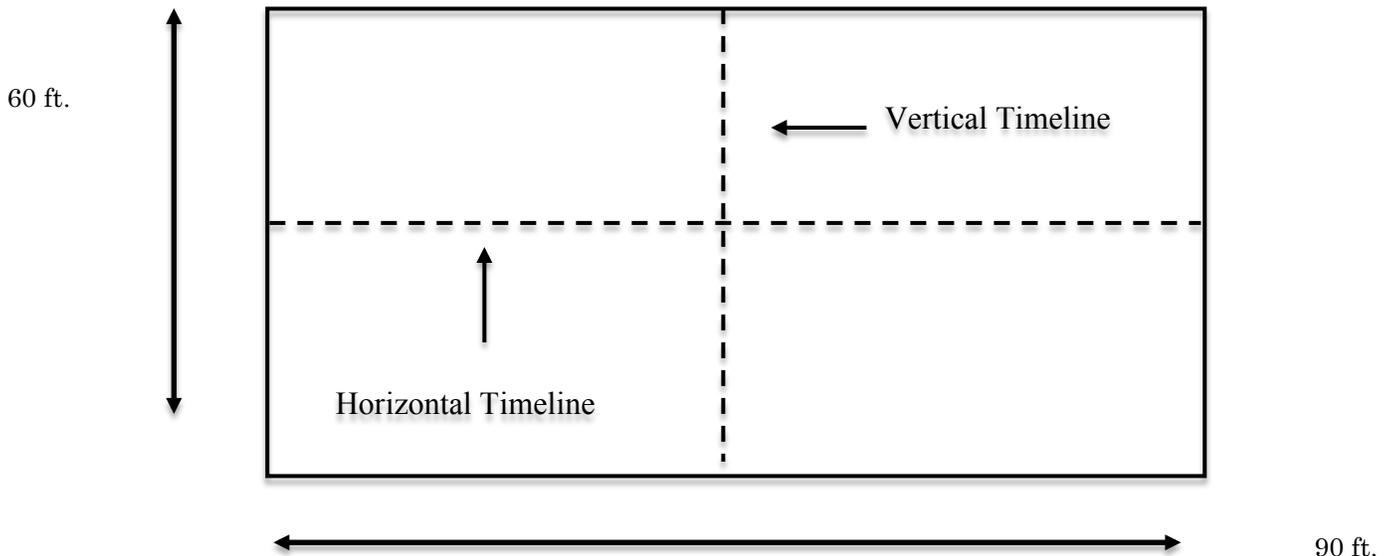
8.2 All performers must exit the competition area through designated exit door, tunnel, or ramp.

PENALTY: 0.5 points for failing to use designated entry door, tunnel, or ramp

8.3 All personnel, equipment, and/or props must be clear of the centerline at the conclusion of the interval time. The timing line shall be for visual use by the Timing and Penalties judge and not designated by tape.

8.4 For purpose of timing, equipment and props are considered removed when they have been moved across the vertical or horizontal centerline. After crossing the timing line, all equipment and/or props must continue to make forward progress out of the competition area in a timely manner or receive a penalty at the discretion of the Timing and Penalty judge.

PENALTY: 0.5 points for seconds



8.5 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

9.0 PENALTIES

9.1 Timing and Penalty judges will assess all penalties for infractions that take place in the competition area. Contest Administrators may not waive competition area penalties. An ensemble has a right to challenge any penalty in consultation with the Chief Judge but any final decision regarding penalties will remain with the

Timing and Penalty Judge.

9.2 General: Any unit violating any rule or part of a rule, breaching standard contest etiquette or failing to comply with directions from the contest personnel for which no specific penalty is provided, shall be penalized for each such violation, not less than 0.1 points, up to disqualification from the contest, at the discretion of the Contest Director, Chief Judge, or IPA Executive Board of Directors.

9.3 All timing penalties shall be 0.05 points per second. All boundary penalties shall be 0.1 points per offense.

9.4 During a performance, adult or non-performing student personnel may not coach, cue, etc., any performers or control any wireless lighting events outside the competition area.

PENALTY: 0.1 to disqualification at the discretion of the Timing and Penalties Judge.

9.5 All programs, soundtracks, thematic and costuming choices must reflect the qualities that would be acceptable for performance at a scholastic venue or suitable for marketing to sponsors on a national level.

PENALTY: Denial of performance or possible disqualification as determined by the Chief Penalties Judge or IPA Board of Directors.

10.0 Conduct

10.1 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.

11.0 IPA INCLEMENT WEATHER/TERROR ALERT POLICY

11.1 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.

11.1.1 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.

11.1.2 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. 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.

11.1.3 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.

11.1.4 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.

11.1.5 Units choosing to exercise the option outlined in rule 9.1.4 will perform at the beginning of their class, then have their performance order for the added event determined by the postmark date that applied to the application for the cancelled show. If multiple units share the postmark date, performance order will be determined by a draw among those units.

11.1.6 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.

11.1.7 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.

11.2 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.

11.2.1 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...)

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

11.2.3 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.

11.3 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.

11.3.1 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...)

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

11.3.3 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.

11.3.4 In the event that State Preliminaries and State Finals are cancelled, the WGI Preview show will function as state finals.