

# RULES AND REGULATIONS

## COLOR GUARD / INDOOR GUARD

### Classification

Color Guards will be classified according to ability levels. All performers must be members of the school's student body.

Units will select their own classification as follows:

- HS NOVICE – A low level of competitive experience
- HS INTERMEDIATE - A mid level of competitive experience
- HS ADVANCED – A high level of competitive experience
- MIDDLE SCHOOL

### Competition Area and Floor – when not at Universal Orlando

“Competition Area” shall be interpreted as the entire gym floor and surrounding area in which the unit competes. The “Contest Floor” shall be part of the Competition Area (55' x 80') with the outside lines clearly marked. There shall be visible markers at all corners and the front center line shall be clearly marked. All measurements shall be made from the center of the floor and the center line shall be clearly marked.

### Competition Area and Floor at Universal Orlando

The “Contest Floor” shall be 35' x 70' (**this is not a complete gym floor, please make changes to program accordingly**) with the outside lines clearly marked. There shall be visible markers at all corners and the front center line shall be clearly marked. All measurements shall be made from the center of the floor and the center line shall be clearly marked.

### Timing

The total time for a Guard in the competition area including entry and exit of the last member from the competition area is seven and one-half (7 ½) minutes. The Guard will line up at ready lines and, when designated by the Chief Judge to set up, will place themselves anywhere in the competition area, not judged, by moving immediately and directly to position. When the Guard is in position, the Chief Judge will then ask if the judges are ready and then if the Guard is ready. The initial commanding officer's salute will follow. After the commanding officer salutes to acknowledge that the Color Guard is ready to enter competition, timing for the seven and one-half (7 ½) minutes will begin with the first step or body movement, the first move of equipment, or the first note of music, whichever comes first. This includes the commanding officer. (No music is allowed until after the salute.)

### Uniforms and Equipment

1. All sound equipment and instruments (if used) must remain out of bounds. The festival will provide a sound system for cassette tapes.
2. No cleats are permitted on boots. Only rubber-soled shoes, gym shoes, or taped boots are allowed on the competition floor.
3. No spear or eagle tops are permitted on working equipment.
4. All set-ups (pre-grounding equipment, props, etc.) must be done after the preceding unit has exited the floor and before your unit has begun its performance.
5. Props, floors and/or authorized equipment may be utilized or placed in the competition area by unit numbers at any time during the “maximum performance time” or may be placed in the competition area by other than marching members prior to the start of competition.
6. No pyrotechnics, discharge of arms, pressurized canisters, dangerous materials, inflammable liquids, or animals will be permitted in or around the competition area. Smoke machines will not be allowed. Electrical (plug-in or battery operated) apparatuses, including flash cubes, microphones or other forms of amplification, will not be allowed (except the musical sound system and musicians). Lighting cannot be turned off in the competition area by a unit.
7. The use of taped music and/or live musical instruments is optional. Proficiency of playing shall not be judged. Musician’s age must be consistent with age of school group.

### **Entrance and Exit**

A unit may enter the contest floor over any line except the front side line, or may start its program anywhere within the competition area or contest floor.

### **General Information**

JUDGING: Three judges will evaluate all performing groups in this category. Written and taped comments will be provided by all judges.

EQUIPMENT:

Rifle-must approximate a military rifle and have a bolt or simulated bolt.

Sabre/Swords-must have rounded or taped tips. All other parts are optional.

Flags/Poles-length and design are left to the discretion of the instructor.

All equipment must be padded or taped to protect the members and the floor. Equipment must be used in a safe manner.

DROPPED EQUIPMENT: Dropped equipment will not be penalized. Retrieval by a member or runner is also permitted without penalty. Drops may still result in a lower score in the General Effect category.

### **National Colors**

Use of the National Colors is optional. Should you opt to use the National Flag, the following should be adhered to:

1. The flag bearer shall never engage in dance or theatrical steps while in possession of the flag.
2. The National Flag shall not be permitted to touch the ground.
3. The National Flag shall always be afforded the general respect associated with it.