Georgia Indoor Percussion Association Handbook 2027

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GIPA 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
  - $25 all day pass.
  - Children 4 and under are free
  - Band Directors of performing schools are admitted for free with school district badge
- Championships
  - $35 all day pass
  - 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.gipaciruit.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/Entry Fees

- GIPA Membership fee:
  - $750 if registered between October 1st. 2026-December 17th 2026
  - $800 if registered between December 17th 2026-January 15th 2027
    - Registration closes January 15th
  - Participate in all regular season shows
  - Participate in Championships
  - 2 Director badges
  - 10 staff wristbands at each show

- Non-Circuit Member Fee:
  - $250 per regular season show, registration for all non-circuit members is between October 8th 2026 -January 15th 2027
  - 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.
- Registration opens on October 8th 2026 at 10am for the upcoming season. Registration closes Janurary 15th 2027
- 2/13 - GIPA Clinic Show
- 2/27 - GIPA Show #1
- 3/13 - GIPA Show #2
- 3/27 - GIPA Show #3
- 4/3 - GIPA Champs
- 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 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
- An A-La Carte video option ($100 for the season) will be available to add to unit registration. Videos are provided by Devin Witt and are available immediately concluding each prelims and finals performance.
- If a middle school unit registers for the GIPA season, they will receive comments only for both prelims and finals performances. They will perform first overall in both prelims and finals.
- Additionally, if a middle school ensemble wishes to perform at championships, they will perform after the conclusion of prelims only. This performance is considered an "exhibition" and will receive no commentary from judge personnel.
- Season registration payment is due at the closure of the season registration (January 15th) If a unit does not pay the registration fee in time, an additional $1,000 late fee penalty will be invoiced to the unit along with the suspension of the unit in performances until all dues/fees are paid. Once the suspension is lifted, the unit will perform first in their debut prelims show regardless of classification and/or travel.
- After registration, units are expected to fill out the proper paperwork for eligibility and copyright. If a unit does not have their paperwork turned in by the deadline, the unit will undergo a suspension period. Suspended ensembles will not be allowed to perform in any GIPA event. A $500 late paperwork fee will be invoiced to the ensemble as well. Once the suspension is lifted by turning in all paperwork and paying the fee, units will perform first in their class at their debut prelims show. Regardless of classification and/or travel.

Classifications:

- GIPA offers the following classifications for marching percussion ensembles:
  - Scholastic Non-Movement
  - Scholastic Novice
    - Clarification of Novice class: Scholastic Novice is designed as an introductory level classification for ensembles and entry into the GIPA Circuit. Novice Class is also a unique class specific to GIPA as WGI classifications begin in A class across all divisions. Please be aware of possible reclassification during the regular season to better suit the ensembles and the circuit. Please also understand the skill sets of Novice class are to build into the A classification. Reclassification will be considered if the skill sets are deemed as "basic" in accordance with the WGI judge handbook.
  - Scholastic A
  - Independent A
  - Scholastic Open
  - Independent Open
  - Scholastic World
  - Independent World
- GIPA offers the following classifications for concert percussion ensembles
  - Scholastic Concert A
  - Scholastic Concert Open
  - Scholastic Concert World
- GIPA offers the following classifications for wind ensembles:
  - Winds Scholastic A
  - Winds Independent A
  - Winds Scholastic Open
  - Winds Independent Open
  - Winds Scholastic World
  - Winds Independent World

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.
- 2 weeks prior, if a unit is outside of a 150 mile range of the show site, they may petition the GIPA Board about concerns for withdrawals.
- If you need to withdraw from a show, please email gipacircuit@gmail.com

Combined Schools:

The combined policy has been tailored from the WGI Combined Schools rules to better suit GIPA growth:

Each combined school must adhere to these GIPA policies for the 2027 season:

- Principals from all participating schools must sign off on the acknowledgement of students participating.
- All units will be labeled "combined schools" in announcements and competition suite names.
- All units combining must stay within the same school system. I.E. Forsyth County Schools. County and City school districts are not within the same school system.
- An ensemble must accept all students who audition for the ensemble. Disallowing a student to participate from another school is against GIPA Policy.
- Unit Directors will need to submit separate scholastic eligibility forms for each school represented in the ensemble to kevin@gipacircuit.com by February 3rd 2027.

Plus Passes

- Plus passes will ONLY be available during the registration process as an add-on feature.
- Regular season shows: $100 per show - 7 additional staff wristbands ontop of the standard 10.
- Championships: $150 - 7 additional wristbands on top of the standard 10.

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 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.
- It is the responsibility of each ensemble to secure necessary permissions and licenses to arrange and perform any copyrighted material performed at a 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.

Timing and Penalties

- Timing penalties will not be enforced at the first circuit show of the season.
- 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.

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, including WGI regionals. 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.

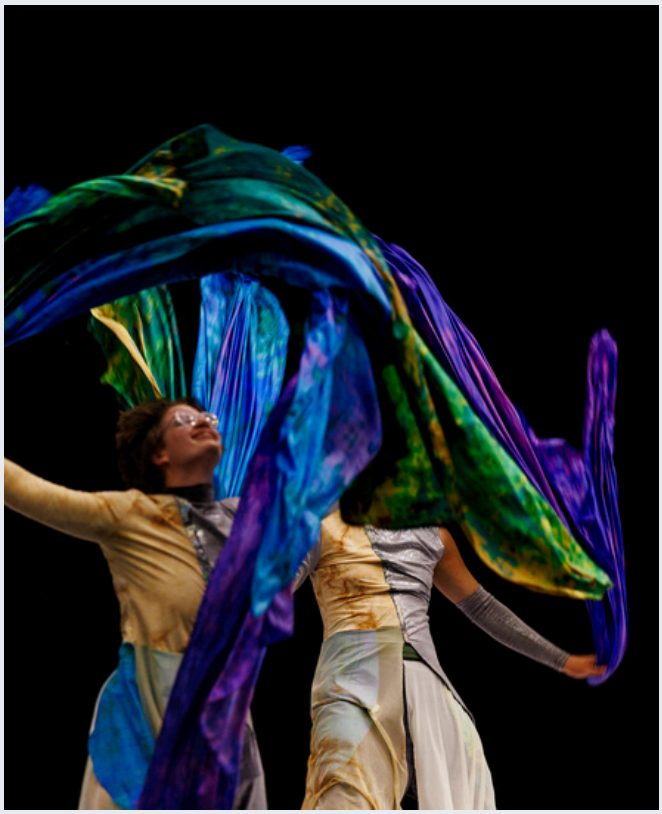
Recaps and Critique

- Prelims Recaps will be available per classification on Competition Suite approximately 15 minutes after the last performance.
- Finals Recaps for the full show 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.

Chamipniship Prelims recap will be released following the conclusion of each class.

Awards:

- The awards ceremony for regular season shows will take place approximately 20 minutes following the last finals performance. Leadership/Captains for each performing ensemble will line up in order of finals performance in the staging hallway Usually 2 members per ensemble.
- 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, the staff member does not need to stand on the floor with them.
- All ensembles are required to be in uniform for all awards ceremonies and personal items are not to be brought on the floor.



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.
- If a unit is reclassified between prelims and finals, they will perform in the middle of the new classification.
- A unit will not be reclasassified in the pinultimate regular season show.
- If a unit is reclassified, championships seeding scores are based off of the unit scores in the new classification ONLY.

Judging:

- Each local, regular season show has a single panel of judges
- Championships prelims is single panel, FINALS is double paneled shows.

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.

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.
- As unit director, please abide by indoor warm up times. Do not enter indoor warm up areas prior to your specified warm up time even when empty.
- 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.
- Please contact the Contest Administrator for all competition inquiries.

E-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 2026 Board Members:
  - Alan Sears- Founder/ Information
  - Kevin Kenney-Show Host Liaison
  - Chris Romanowski-Judges/Sponsors
  - Tom Tucker- Founder
  - NickTucker-Operations/ Communications/Website
  - Alex Shive-Information
  - Sean Phillips-Percussion Member at Large

Contact:

gipacircuit@gmail.com

gipacircuit.com