



**NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA
PERCUSSION
ALLIANCE**

2019 Participant Handbook

INTRODUCTION & OUR PHILOSOPHY

The mission of NCPA is to provide a competitive and educational performance outlet for Northern California indoor percussion ensembles, with a continual goal of enriching the lives of young performers. NCPA commits to delivering the best venues, hosts, adjudicators, clinicians, sponsors, and volunteers in tandem with contributing to this mission.

ADJUDICATION

NCPA adjudication panels consist of five judges: Effect-Music, Effect-Visual, Music Analysis, Visual Analysis, and Timing & Penalties (T&P). Our adjudicators are some of the finest in the country, selected from the WGI pool of judges alongside other respected educators and adjudicators known for their excellence and professionalism.

ADMISSION

Event Admission (final cost determined by host):

NCPA recommendation for in-season events: \$13

NCPA recommendation for championships: \$15 - \$25 (depending on seat location)

(Admission is free for children 5 years of age and under at any event.)

RULEBOOK

As a WGI Partner, NCPA follows the WGI rulebook and utilizes WGI adjudication sheets. NCPA highly recommends that every director and staff member read the WGI rulebook and adjudication sheets thoroughly. Please visit wgi.org for more information.

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

It is the responsibility of each independent ensemble to provide proof of general liability insurance to NCPA. Please email documents to info@nc-pa.org. You may also bring them with you to check-in.

All students that attend a school which competes in NCPA should participate in their school's competing ensemble, and are strongly discouraged from leaving their school to join an independent ensemble.

NCPA-Specific Rules

1. Outdoor use of performance floors (tarps) is not permitted. Penalty amount will be determined by circuit administrators.
2. Equipment left behind after an ensemble has left the competition area will result in a 1 point penalty if said equipment is left for 1 interval length, 2 points for 2 or more interval lengths. Penalty amounts are static and not associated with the number of equipment items left behind.
3. Judge Conflict of Interest
 - a. If a judge has worked with an ensemble in the current season and that ensemble is competing against other ensembles in their class at a competitive event, that ensemble's scores will not be published and they will not be eligible for official ranking at that event.
4. Performance Order
 - a. Standard season event (non-championships) performance order is based on registration date. If payment is received before December 1, NCPA will honor the original registration date (the date the ensemble registered for the event[s] [vs. the payment date]). The payment date will be used as the registration date for registrations/payments received on or after December 1. Performance order will be determined by most recent registration date first. Any ensembles with the same registration date will have a randomized order for each

event. The postmark will serve as the registration date for ensembles that pay via check after December 1.

- b. Championships order is seeded based on highest current-season score. Additionally, ensembles who have competed at an NCPA event in the current season will receive 1 “bonus point” per performance. Example: Main Street HS attends events 1, 2 and 4, and has a best score from the 4th event of 82.7. MSHS will therefore have a seeded score $82.7 + 3$ (events) = 85.7. Any ensembles attending championships as their first event will be ordered by registration date, latest first. The order for ensembles with the same seeded score, or registration date stamp if championships is their first event, will be randomized.

CLASSES

Each ensemble may select the class they wish to compete in. With the exception of our PSJ and PSCJ classes (which follow the same rubric as WGI’s A class), NCPA class assignments mirror WGI class assignments, and are outlined in the WGI rulebook.

The PSJ and PSCJ classes are for Junior High Schools (including Middle Schools). Judges are asked to use the A class sheets, but to have a more generous tolerance than they would use for an A class ensemble using those same sheets. In short, expectations are tempered for PSJ and PSCJ groups.

While there is no requirement that an ensemble competes in the same class for an NCPA event as they do in a WGI regional, it is highly encouraged. NCPA reserves the right to reclassify ensembles on an as-needed basis. Appeals must be sent to info@nc-pa.org within 48 hours of notification. All class changes are approved and finalized by NCPA.

Ensembles wishing to request class changes during the season may do so, according to the following rules:

- An ensemble may request to move up a class at any point in the season (e.g. A to Open)
- An ensemble may request to move down a class as long as the request is made by March 1 or the third event date, whichever happens first

Requests for class changes (either up or down) should be emailed to info@nc-pa.org.

EVENT REGISTRATION

Registration for each event closes 4 weeks prior to the event date. Performance schedules will be distributed approximately 3 weeks prior to the event.

Refunds for canceled events or membership will be granted up to January 1st of the current season. After that date is reached, no refunds will be provided.

VENUE POLICIES

- Open flames/BBQs are prohibited in ALL areas, including the parking lot.
- There is NO smoking anywhere on campus.
- Warm-up areas are first come, first served. Please be considerate of others, and use common sense regarding this policy.
- Outdoor use of performance floors at NCPA events is not permitted. Non-performance floors -- at

the discretion of the host venue -- may be used, but must be clearly labeled. NCPA will be policing the use of performance floors in the parking lot and may issue penalties. Note that this rule exists to ensure that dirt/asphalt/etc are not brought into a host's gymnasium with a performance floor. In addition, please leave nothing behind in the warm-up zone when you depart for your performance.

- The performance area will have at least 60' from the front boundary line to the back stands. The exact available dimensions will be provided in the Event Information Packet. The entrance and exit doors for performers will be double-doors, without the middle insert bar, with at least 5' of width and 6'6" of height clearance. There will be a grounded 110v outlet centered on the front and back boundary lines. There will be a floor folding area near the exit of the gymnasium. A covered or indoor area will be provided in the event of rain.
- A Hospitality Room will be available for directors and staff members only. This room is not for boosters or performers.
- There will be concessions with sufficient food for lunch, dinner, and snacks.
- There may be raffles for competing ensembles as part of the awards ceremony at the end of each event. Past examples have included cymbals and a drum set. A competing ensemble needs to be present to win any raffle. Any staff member or performing member may collect a winning raffle prize on behalf of a competing ensemble.

CHECK-IN

An adult representative should check the group in upon arrival to an event. There is no need to bring your performers to Check-In (see #7 below). **Do not arrive more than 2 hours before the start of the event.** Check-in packets will include the following:

1. A map clearly illustrating the layout of the warm-up zones, silent zones, Hospitality, Tabulation, restrooms, etc.
2. The floor layout document for the gymnasium.
3. Any promotional material from our award sponsors.
4. An event schedule.
5. Ten (10) "spectator/staff" wristbands for admission. There will be no exceptions to this set amount.
6. One (1) "Video Pass." This pass is for designated seating only, and is not valid for admission.
7. Performer wristbands. The amount of wristbands received is based on the amount of members you declare at check-in. The number of performers will be verified by T&P. Abuse of the wristband policy may result in disqualification. Performer wristbands **MUST BE WORN** in order to perform.

All performers must sit in the designated area for performers. Only those with a spectator/staff wristband are allowed on the Spectators' area. There will be no warnings, and your ensemble may be penalized for each infraction. *Note:* Due to room capacity at certain events, SEATING FOR PERFORMERS IS NOT GUARANTEED.

Retreat will be ensemble leaders only, not to exceed 3 representatives per ensemble. The exception to this is NCPA Championships, which will include a full retreat ceremony with all participating performers.

COMMENTARY

Judges' commentary will be issued via [ShowDay](http://showday.net) (showday.net) and will be available as soon as they have been uploaded. NCPA will do everything possible to load judge commentary ASAP after each performance so that it may be reviewed prior to attending judge critique.

JUDGE CRITIQUE

At the conclusion of each non-championships event, every ensemble has the option of attending judge critique – ensembles attending WGI Championships will have the option of attending critique at NCPA Championships. The location and timing of the judge critique will be provided at check-in, and marked with signage. Critique is optional, and must be signed-up for when your ensemble checks in. There will be no critique after NCPA Championships. Important points to note and make aware to your staff members concerning critique:

- It is expected that each ensemble has listened to each judge tape prior to critique. Critique is not meant to rehash the comments made on the tape
- The most productive critiques are those in which an ensemble is prepared with a list of clarifying questions derived from the tape comments. It is an opportunity to get more insight into these comments, provide background into the design choices being made, and/or discuss new ideas
- Ensembles are encouraged to limit the number of staff members attending critique to keep it more personal and not overwhelm the judge
- An NCPA board member or the T&P judge will be facilitating the timing of critique. The amount of time to speak with each judge is limited, and every ensemble must follow the direction of the critique facilitator
- Every staff member must be respectful and non-confrontational during critique. Anyone violating this will be asked to leave, and not welcome at future critiques

ENSEMBLE MANAGEMENT

Directors and instructors should remind their boosters and other parental support that each ensemble must always conduct itself at the highest levels of professionalism and common courtesy to others. Confronting event host volunteers, NCPA Staff, or other ensembles is not in line with the values we strive for within our organization.

Should a conflict arise, please have your ensemble's director or instructor representative find an NCPA Board Member. For host-specific issues, report to Check-In for assistance.

WEATHER

Each ensemble is responsible for their own "rain plan." The host will provide as much protection from the elements as possible, but there are no guarantees. However, every NCPA event host will provide a protected area in which to fold your floor following your performance (either covered or indoors).

The following is a list of items to always have on hand:

- Tarps
- Clamps
- Ponchos
- Towels
- EZ-Ups

Note: It is always recommended to pad your timing when creating itineraries to compensate for any inclement weather.

SPECTATORS

Out of consideration for performing ensembles, NCPA asks that you remain in your seats for the duration of each performance. Keep the aisles clear until the breaks between each performance.

All cell phones and 2-way radios should be turned off while inside the performance venue.

The use of flash photography is strictly prohibited. Sales and/or public display of any photos from NCPA events are strictly prohibited.

Without proper credentials issued by NCPA, all forms of video and sound recording of any performance are strictly prohibited. This is NCPA policy and is the only way to comply with United States copyright law. This policy is at the ensembles' request, and we ask that you please honor their wishes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address

Northern California Percussion Alliance
231 Market Place #178
San Ramon, CA 94583

Board of Directors

Please see: <https://nc-pa.org/about-us/>

Online

www.nc-pa.org
facebook.com/NCPA
twitter.com/NCPAInfo
instagram.com/ncpa_ig/