

# **2021 RMPA Member Handbook**

*Revised 01/23/2021*



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## **HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY**

The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Percussion Association is to promote the growth of the percussive arts through competition, performance, and educational activities; and to encourage goodwill, good sportsmanship, and camaraderie throughout the association.

1993 – Percussion Ensembles across Colorado get together to perform for each other  
1994 – Ralph Hardimon, Joe Bartko, Steve Yates, and Charles Craig form RMPA

Since 1993 the Rocky Mountain Percussion Association has provided competition and training for more than 15,000 students, has become one of the premier percussion organizations of its kind in the country, and has served as a national model by which other organizations are administered and managed. This Association is a cooperative effort among the community of Ensemble Directors, Staff, and Volunteers, to increase student motivation and advance percussion performance opportunities.

## **ETIQUETTE**

### **COMMUNITY**

This activity thrives on teamwork, sportsmanship, and general good will toward all. Directors/instructors, students, parents, and RMPA staff/judges are all responsible for maintaining the highest level of courtesy and respect toward everyone involved.

We encourage directors to communicate and problem solve solutions before finding the RMPA Contest Administrator. Please send only the director/instructors of the ensemble (no parent or other liaisons) to find the RMPA Contest Administrator. For host-specific issues, report to Hospitality or Check-In locations for assistance.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

RMPA encourages a supportive environment through all media outlets. Social Media has become integrated into all aspects of our activity and we expect the community to use these outlets as tools for collaboration, communication, networking, and education. We ask that all RMPA members, staff, and instructors use social media outlets with the same etiquette that they would in person. Please communicate with the Board of Directors with any concerns and issues you may have.



**REGISTRATION, FEES, AND REFUNDS**

Registration is paperless. All applications and forms of payment are solely online in our online store at RMPA.org. All Payment will require either a credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover Card) or electronic check.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES**

1. All Access Package: \$500

*Access to all 2021 Virtual Events*

*1 Group Competition Entry at all applicable events*

*Unlimited Small Ensemble and Solo Entries*

*2 Season Kickoff Events, 3 Regular Season Competitions, Prelims, and Finals*

Additional Group All Access Package (Add-on Only): \$250

*Discounted Pricing for schools/ensembles that have more than one group*

2. Small Ensemble and Solo Package: \$250

*Unlimited Small Ensemble and Solo Entries*

*2 Season Kickoff Events, 3 Regular Season Competitions, Prelims, and Finals*

3. Feedback Only Package (Novice Class): \$250

*1 Non-Competitive Group Entry*

*Unlimited Small Ensemble and Solo Entries*

*2 Season Kickoff Events and 3 Regular Season Competitions*

4. Unaffiliated Solo Entry

*\*\*Option available for students who are not affiliated with an RMPA member group.*

*1 Individual Solo Entry*

*2 Season Kickoff Events, 3 Regular Season Competitions, Prelims, and Finals*

**REGISTRATION (online only):**

Registration will open November 11th, 2019 and close on February 1st, 2021.

**PAYMENT IS DUE BY 1 February 2021. There are no refunds.**

*All fees must be paid in full prior to the first event that a group participates in, or the group or individual will be disqualified from the event.*



**CLASSIFICATION**

RMPA follows the WGI guidelines for unit classification, with the addition of an entry-level Novice Class (Feedback Only), and competitive Standstill Winds and Standstill Percussion classes.

The RMPA Board of Directors may require any ensemble to compete in a higher classification.

The RMPA Board of Directors may advise but will NOT require any ensemble to compete in a lower classification.

Ensembles may be reclassified and awarded promotion based on their skill level at any time in the season up to the cutoff date (6 March 2021). Ensembles may be reclassified between prelims and finals at any event if the Board of Directors and/or Contest Administrator can modify the performance schedule.

If a group is asked to produce a current performance video for evaluation, the group has seven (7) days to deliver the media to the Board of Directors or the reclassification will automatically be made. If the ensemble does not agree with this ruling of reclassification, the ensemble has the right to appeal this ruling by contacting the Board of Directors within forty-eight (48) hours. The Board of Directors will then review the appeal. The final decision will be made within seven (7) days of this appeal.

**2021 CLASSIFICATIONS**

**CONCERT PERCUSSION CLASSES**

Concert classes are for scholastic ensembles who wish to concentrate only on the percussive element. 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.



**Scholastic Concert Junior - Middle School (PSCJ)** ensembles are for all concert ensembles that are associated with a middle school, regardless of skill level.

**Scholastic Concert Regional A Class (PSCRA)** For less experienced students and directors who are still developing their ensembles skills and performance presence. Performers in this classification are just beginning to discover the skills needed to perform in the indoor activity.

**Scholastic Concert A Class (PSCA)** 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.

**Scholastic Concert Open Class (PSCO)** ensembles have several members who understand the skills required to perform intermediate levels of playing.

**Scholastic Concert World Class (PSCW)** - ensembles have several performers who are experienced and fully trained. Trend setting programs and performance levels are often displayed.

## MARCHING/STANDSTILL PERCUSSION CLASSES

**Junior (Middle School)** ensembles are for all marching and standstill ensembles that are associated with a middle school, regardless of skill level.

**Percussion Scholastic Regional A (PSRA)** For less experienced students and directors who are still developing their ensembles skills and performance presence. Performers in this classification are just beginning to discover the skills needed to perform in the indoor activity, and the simultaneous responsibility of the visual and musical responsibilities.

**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 basic visual and performance responsibilities necessary for the success of the ensemble's production.



**Scholastic Marching Open Class (PSO)** ensembles have moderate 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.

**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.

#### INDEPENDENT CLASSES

Performers within one ensemble can range from 12 to 22 years of age and follow the same criteria as the scholastic marching and concert classes (*A Class, Open Class, World Class*).

#### WINDS CLASSES

Performers within one ensemble of any age and follow the same criteria as the Percussion classes (Scholastic/Independent).

*\*Regional A Class is not offered for Winds*

#### NOVICE CLASSES (PNOVICE and WNOVICE)

Performers within one ensemble of any age regardless of skill level.

*\*Ensembles are non-competitive and will receive Feedback Only*

***\*\*The Cutoff Date for class changes is Monday, 8 March 2021\*\****



## **SCHEDULING**

### **REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS**

Once the cap of 35 ensembles has been met, or the deadline has been reached (whichever comes first), registration for that event will be closed and the schedule for the event will then be set.

Judges will be provided with a viewing order in a schedule by class, order within each classification will be determined by random draw. All Feedback Only groups submissions will be scheduled together regardless of division. Performance order viewing on FloMarching is at the discretion of the viewer.

### **STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

A Championships primer will be released on the website ten (10) days prior to RMPA Championships Finals. The primer will contain detailed information on Championships schedules and performance order.

## **RULES, ADJUDICATION, AND COPYRIGHT**

RMPA has obtained permission from WGI to use their policies, rules, and score sheets as they are. It is highly recommended that every director and instructor read the WGI Policy Manual, Rules, and Score Sheets thoroughly.

A copy will be available on the RMPA website. Please view and download the PDFs from WGI's website:

### **WGI POLICY MANUAL**

[https://wgi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/WGI\\_Policy\\_Manual\\_v2updatedFebruary2019.pdf](https://wgi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/WGI_Policy_Manual_v2updatedFebruary2019.pdf)

### **WGI PERCUSSION RULES**

<https://wgi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2020-Perc-Rules2.pdf>

### **WGI PERCUSSION SCORE SHEETS**

<https://wgi.org/percussion/percussion-score-sheets/>



## ADJUDICATION

An RMPA adjudication panel will consist of two adjudicators for every Competitive Group, and one adjudicator for every Small Ensemble and Solo entry.

Our adjudicators are some of the finest in the country. We draw from the WGI pool of judges as well as respected instructors past and present from high profile programs throughout the country. An adjudication panel of qualified individuals from all regions of the United States helps to alleviate regional inflation of scores as well as maintain a sense of national relativity for ensembles traveling to WGI World Championships.

If the number of season participants warrants, RMPA State Championships will have a “double” panel of adjudicators.

## SCORE SHEETS

RMPA will be using the digital WGI scoring/evaluation sheets, available [here](#).

## COMMENTARY

Judges’ commentary is issued by COMPETITION SUITE. Please download the mobile app to your device to access all judge commentary and recaps.

After registration closes and prior to our first event, RMPA will add the primary contact for each registered ensemble to Competition Suite.

*\*\*It is the responsibility of the Primary Contact to add their staff to Competition Suite so they can access your ensemble’s commentary.\*\**

## COPYRIGHT AND TRADEMARK POLICY

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

All content included on the RMPA website and social media pages is the property of the Rocky Mountain Percussion Association, and is protected by U.S. and international copyright laws. All rights are reserved. Materials copyrighted or trademarked by the Rocky Mountain Percussion Association,





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including, but not limited to, audio recordings, video recordings, logos, graphics, photographic images, print materials; event results, score reports, and recaps; trademarks, and service marks (whether or not the material is included on this site) may not be used without express written permission from the Rocky Mountain Percussion Ensemble. This includes audio and video recordings of performances at Rocky Mountain Percussion Association events.

The Rocky Mountain Percussion Association may grant permission to use the foregoing on a case-by-case basis. Requests for permission must be made in writing. Requests for use of copyrighted music or other images owned by composers or others require you to secure copyright permission from the owner prior to your request to the Rocky Mountain Percussion Association. This release must be included with your written request. Should permission be granted, the release is on a one-time basis. Further use or reuse without permission is prohibited. All materials must be given appropriate credit; for video or still images, credit must be given to the Rocky Mountain Percussion Association as well as the photographer or video production agent.

### **AWARDS & CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION**

There are no trophies or plaques given at regular season RMPA events.

#### **CHAMPIONSHIPS PRELIMS**

Prelims will be scheduled by class with performance order determined by electronic randomization.

Prelims scores will determine performance order for RMPA State Championships Finals

All ensembles are required to attend Prelims. If an ensemble cannot attend Prelims they will be required to petition the RMPA Board to be approved to be seeded into Finals based on their regular season scores.

#### **CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS**

**NOTE:** 100% of ensembles competing in Prelims will advance to Finals for the 2021 Season

Performance order will be by class and in order of Scores (low to high) from Championships Prelims.



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Every school or organization will receive an RMPA Championships digital award.



**PARTICIPATING ENSEMBLE MASTER AGREEMENT**

Each RMPA 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. Please familiarize yourself with all the details of this agreement, including the requirement to share the RMPA Etiquette with all those associated with your ensemble.

*\*This agreement must be on file with RMPA prior to the start of the season.*

**NOTIFICATION OF NON-LIABILITY, CONSENT AND RELEASE**

Rocky Mountain Percussion Association, its board members, Foundation team, all local show hosts, venues and their respective employees, agents, staff and representatives will not be held responsible for any injuries sustained by any performing members, staff or support personnel of the above named ensemble during or in conjunction with participation in any of the Rocky Mountain Percussion Association events.

Furthermore, the ensembles and sponsoring organizations hereby agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Rocky Mountain Percussion Association and all local show hosts, venues and their respective employees, agents, staff and representatives from any and all claims which might be brought by any person(s) associated in any way with the above named ensemble, including performing members, in any way arising out of or during any performance of the ensemble at any RMPA event or in any way arising out of or connected with the attendance of said ensemble at any RMPA event.

This specifically includes, but is not limited to, any injuries sustained by performing members, staff or support personnel caused by equipment utilized by the ensemble including props, flats, set decorations, scaffolds or similar equipment or devices. By registering for RMPA Membership you do hereby certify that you have read the above provisions and are duly authorized to execute and approve this document on behalf of the above named ensemble. Furthermore, you hereby acknowledge that all of the performing members, their parents, staff and support personnel will be notified of the provisions of this Notification of Non-Liability, Consent and Release Form and will be provided with a copy of this form upon request.

**LINKS**

The Rocky Mountain Percussion Association is not responsible for the content of any other sites to which it links.



**PRIVACY POLICY**

All information provided to the Rocky Mountain Percussion Association is for the sole use of RMPA and affiliated groups. RMPA may send you promotional offers or information about upcoming events, merchandise offers, or general information regarding the percussion activity. Information will not be provided to third parties for any reason. On occasion, an individual show promoter or sponsor may request to send similar information to our customers. These requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. If they are approved, the information will be included with an RMPA mailing; third parties do not have access to your information. RMPA does collect email addresses from individuals and organizations that request electronic communications and other services.

RMPA uses Squarespace and Stripe web services to protect the security of payment transactions. Both Squarespace and Stripe are PCI-DSS Compliant. PCI-DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) is a framework for developing a robust payment card data security process—including prevention, detection and appropriate reaction to security incidents. PCI-DSS compliance is a security standard for companies and organizations that handle payment information from consumers. Both of Squarespace’s payment processors, Stripe and PayPal, are PCI compliant.

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Mailing Address:

Rocky Mountain Percussion Association  
2536 West 99th Place  
Denver, CO 80260

For questions please contact:

[RMPABoard@rmpa.org](mailto:RMPABoard@rmpa.org)

Visit us on the web:

[www.RMPA.org](http://www.RMPA.org)

Find us on facebook:

[www.facebook.com/TheRMPA](http://www.facebook.com/TheRMPA)