2027 RMPA Member Handbook

Revised 06/30/2026

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

CODE OF CONDUCT

RMPA ensembles must have submitted a signed copy of the Code of Conduct TWO WEEKS prior to the first RMPA competition. Failure to complete this requirement will result in the ensemble being removed from ALL RMPA competitions without a refund.

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. Please use this Contest Etiquette 1-pager to share with parents.

JUDGES

We pride ourselves on the professional level of RMPA adjudication panels. Judges are the top professionals in our community who have valuable experience and knowledge to help every ensemble grow and develop. RMPA expects all directors and instructors to maintain the highest level of tact and respect toward our judges throughout each and every critique session.

ANY UNDESIRABLE BEHAVIOR MAY RESULT IN SUSPENSION OF THE ENSEMBLE AND/OR THE INDIVIDUAL(S) RESPONSIBLE FROM CURRENT AND FUTURE CRITIQUE SESSIONS.

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. All RMPA members, staff, and instructors are expected to 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, through CompetitionSuite. All payments will require a credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover Card) paid upon registration. Requests for invoices to be paid at a later date will be denied. There are no refunds.

Registration will open 16 NOVEMBER 2026
Registration will close on 18 DECEMBER 2026

MEMBERSHIP FEES

1. ALL-ACCESS MEMBERSHIP: $1,000

Includes:

2027 RMPA Membership
Entry to compete in all five (5) regular season competitions
Entry to compete in RMPA Championships Prelims & Finals
1 Director Badge that gives access to all competitions
1 additional badge provided for ensembles that attended our August meeting
6 Staff Wristbands
4 Pit Passes

EXTRA Pit Passes – $10/each (up to 8)

2. ADDITIONAL ENSEMBLES FROM SAME SCHOOL/ORGANIZATION: $800

Receives All-Access Membership

3. **NEW RMPA ENSEMBLE (INACTIVE FOR 4 SEASONS): $500**

TO QUALIFY, THE ENSEMBLE MUST NOT HAVE REGISTERED IN THE RESPECTIVE DIVISION (PERCUSSION/WINDS) OF RMPA IN 2023 OR LATER. Ie, any Winds Ensemble, Percussion Ensembles Active in 2023 or earlier

Includes:

2027 RMPA Membership
Entry to compete in all five (5) regular season competitions
Entry to compete in RMPA Championships Prelims & Finals
1 Director Badge that gives access to all competitions
1 additional badge provided for ensembles that attended our August meeting
6 Staff Wristbands
4 Pit Passes

EXTRA Pit Passes – $10/each (up to 8)

4. LIMITED MEMBERSHIP: $150

Includes:

2027 RMPA Membership
1 Director Badge that gives access to all competitions
1 additional badge provided for ensembles that attended our August meeting
6 Staff wristbands at every competition attended
4 Pit Passes at every competition attended

LIMITED ADD-ON OPTIONS

Regular Season Competitions – $200/each (5 available)
RMPA State Championships – $400

EXTRA Pit Passes – $10/each (up to 8)

5. NOVICE CLASS MEMBERSHIP: $50 per Show

Includes:

2027 RMPA Membership
Admission to RMPA Championships Finals (instructors & students only)
Exhibition performance in RMPA Championships Finals
4 Staff Wristbands at every competition attended
4 Pit Passes at every competition attended

ACCESS ACCOMODATION PASSES

Dedicated Allocation: RMPA will provide complimentary Access Accommodations Passes explicitly for credentialed Sign Language Interpreters or designated personal/medical support assistants traveling to support a rostered performer, instructor, or staff member.

Exemption Status: These passes would be completely separate from, and not count toward, the standard director, staff, or pit pass allocations, ensuring inclusive programs are not competitively, financially, or logistically penalized for providing required accommodations.

Verification and Integrity: To ensure the integrity of the pass system, participating groups should be prepared to readily provide official verification from their school administration documenting that the performer or staff member utilizes professional interpretation or 1:1 assistive services for their academic and school-sanctioned extracurricular activities.

Defined Scope: Individuals utilizing these passes would serve strictly in an access or medical support capacity, holding zero competitive design, instructional, or equipment-handling responsibilities on the floor. They would remain bound by all standard venue safety and performance boundary regulations.

PARTICIPANT CONFIRMATIONS AND CANCELLATIONS

Adjustments to registration must be made no later than 15 days prior to the day of competition. If an ensemble cancels participation in any RMPA competition less than 15 days prior to the competition, they will be subject to a penalty of $100 to be paid prior to the ensemble competing in their next scheduled RMPA competition. Ensembles may be ineligible for participation in subsequent RMPA competitions until the fee is paid. This fee applies to cancellations by any ensemble for any reason. The cancellation fee will be provided by RMPA to the host school to compensate them for lost revenues.

WGI REFUND

All ensembles (excluding newly created ensembles*) that compete in the Denver WGI Percussion & Winds Regional will receive a $300 refund check from RMPA at their next competition. Newly created ensembles will receive a $150 refund check from RMPA at their next competition.

OUT OF STATE ENSEMBLES

A video link must be submitted to RMPA at least 7 days prior to the competition - this will be reviewed for classification purposes.

CLASSIFICATION

RMPA follows the WGI guidelines for unit classification, with the addition of Novice Class, Standstill Percussion, Regional A, and Independent Concert classes. The RMPA Board of Directors, in consultation with the Judge Coordinator, may require any ensemble to compete in a higher classification. They may also 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, or composition level at any time in the season up to the cutoff date (15 March 2027). 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.

Ensembles may move divisions one (1) time per season, up to the cutoff date (15 March 2027).

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.

CLASSIFICATION DESCRIPTIONS

SCHOLASTIC

Performers within one ensemble who attend the same school or feeder schools.

SCHOLASTIC COMBINED SCHOOLS

RMPA will follow all aspects of the WGI policy regarding combined schools with the exception of the Marching Band rule. RMPA *will* allow students from schools in the same district with marching band programs the opportunity to still partner with another school to form a combined ensemble, provided that the number of participating students does not exceed a number that would allow for that school to form their own ensemble (15 from any one school or 35 total in the combined group). There will be opportunities for ensembles to petition for an exception, contact the Board of Directors for details.

INDEPENDENT

Performers within one ensemble can range from 12 to 23* years of age. Regional A is not offered for Independent Ensembles. *RMPA follows WGI age restrictions for Independent Ensembles

DIVISION DESCRIPTIONS

CONCERT PERCUSSION

Concert classes are for 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 class. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only.

STANDSTILL PERCUSSION

Standstill classes are available to percussion units that intend to compete with a front ensemble as well as a stationary battery percussion unit. The class will be evaluated using the concert percussion sheets. Movement will be permitted in order to allow performers to change equipment or to allow for better presentation of musical performance only. This is not a marching/visual class. Credit will be given for musical elements only.

MARCHING PERCUSSION

Marching classes are available to percussion units that include marching/visual elements. Movement and visual design and coordination are adjudicated, as well as the contribution of visual components to the general effect of the show.

NOVICE PERCUSSION

Novice Division is open to any scholastic percussion ensemble, regardless of RMPA membership. Novice class will be invited to perform in exhibition at Regular Season RMPA Shows and State Championships Finals. Novice Class ensembles will not receive scores, but will receive judges commentary.

WINDS

Winds classes include regular marching band wind instrumentation, and may or may not include percussive elements. Movement and visual design and coordination are adjudicated, as well as the contribution of visual components to the general effect of the show.

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

REGIONAL CLASS A

Ensembles that are just beginning to discover the skills needed to perform in the indoor activity. A place where beginning students discover the sense of achievement as each skill is learned. Regional A classes exist to promote competition across different stages of development within the A class paradigm and lower the barrier of entry for our younger ensembles and is defined by "Beginning Concepts and Skills." Regional A scores are NOT compatible with A Class scores, and are ranked and rated more *achievement based* than *designed based*.

A CLASS

Ensembles that have less developed participants. A place where students and directors are still learning basic ensemble skills and performance presence. Defined by "Basic Concepts and Skills."

OPEN CLASS

Ensembles that have several members who understand the skills required to perform at intermediate levels and performance presence. Defined by "Intermediate Concepts and Skills."

WORLD CLASS

Ensembles that have majority performers who are experienced and fully trained with skills required to perform at advanced levels and performance presence. Trend setting programs and performance levels are often displayed. Defined by "Advanced Concepts and Skills."

VOLUNTEERS

Each ensemble is required to provide (2) Volunteers for State Championships Finals. As gratitude for their service, volunteers will receive *Free Spectator Admission to the 2027 RMPA State Championships Finals*. Volunteers will be scheduled for 2-4 hours shifts including a variety of duties during set-up, tear-down, and during the show.

ADMISSION

All ticket and merchandise sales are final.

Regular Season Competition admission: $14
Seniors (65+), Students(9-18): $10
Split day FIRST BLOCK price: $10 and $8

Championships-Prelims admission: $15
Seniors (65+), Students (9-18): $10

Championships-Finals admission: $25, Combo $40
Seniors (65+), Students (9-18): $15, Combo $25
*(Combo tickets include parking for **both** days)*

No charge for those eight (8) years of age and under at any RMPA event

SCHEDULING

REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS

Tentative schedules will be published by 15 JANUARY 2027.
Finalized schedules will be published fourteen (14) DAYS PRECEDING THE EVENT.

Ensembles will be scheduled by Class (Novice, RA, A, Open, World). Concert ensembles may be scheduled to perform first within their class followed by marching ensembles. Novice class ensembles will perform prior to their respective classification (Concert and Marching).

Start time will be determined by scheduling backwards from the awards ceremony.

Depending on site logistics, there may be a short interval scheduled between marching ensembles in which length of time is determined by the Contest Administrator. Ensembles will not be allowed additional time for set-up/performance/exit.

There will be a meal break of at least one-hour at each event.

Depending on the venue and schedule, there may be an early awards ceremony for the Novice and A classes during the one-hour meal break.

Exhibition Performances are allowed with written permission from the Contest Administrator (RMPAboard@rmpa.org) at least fifteen (15) days prior to the event. RMPA may refuse exhibition performances for any reason.

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.

EVENT DAY POLICIES

SEATING

RMPA will designate a small area of seats for Staff of the performing unit at RMPA events. This area will be provided and monitored by competition hosts as available.

Priority and front-side seating are reserved for spectators who have paid to attend the event, parents, and staff. Students of performing units may be asked to move to back-side seating if necessary.

SAFETY

THE USE OF FLASH PHOTOGRAPHY IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED

ALL CELL PHONES AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF while inside the performance venue

VIDEO/AUDIO

To comply with United States copyright laws, *ALL FORMS OF VIDEO AND SOUND RECORDING OF ANY PERFORMANCE ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.*

1 video pass will be distributed to each ensemble for video recording purposes. RMPA will no longer be providing videos of performances. Each ensemble is responsible for the procurement and distribution of performance videos. A high quality performance video will be provided at State Championship finals.

WARM-UP

Each ensemble will have a dedicated ensemble warm-up zone and interval time. Assignment of warmup zones will be dependent on performance time and classification. Units, including all equipment and generators, must stay within the boundary of their warm-up zone and face the prescribed direction throughout the entire duration of their warm-up. Battery ensembles may warm-up outside of the ensemble warm-up zones with the respect of the other performing units and surrounding community. No ensemble may rehearse outside of their prescribed ensemble warm-up time.

If an ensemble is found playing outside of their prescribed ensemble warm-up time or zone they will be first warned by the contest administrator. If playing outside of prescribed warm-up time or zones continues, the contest administrator may award penalty points up to disqualification.

Metronome use is allowed in warm-up however we encourage all groups to be respectful with volume and direction of devices. Please use common courtesy to other units – avoid sound bleed and reflection of sound against buildings and trailers.

FACILITIES

Propane, open flame, or any type of BBQ/Grill are prohibited in ALL areas, including the parking lot.
There is no smoking anywhere on campus.

HOST SITE AMENITIES

The gymnasium will have at least 60’ from the front boundary line to the back stands. The unit entrance and unit exit doors will be double-doors, without the middle bar, with at least 5’ of width and 6’ 6” of height clearance.

There will be grounded 120v outlets centered on the front and back boundary lines. Side outlets are not guaranteed, but may be used if available.

There will be a floor folding area near the exit of the gymnasium.

There will be an Instructor Hospitality Room for all directors and instructors of RMPA member ensembles.

There will be a Hospitality Room for all Judges, RMPA staff, and Board of Directors.

There will be concessions provided at every show.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN

Each Ensemble is responsible for their own inclement weather plan (Tarps, Clamps, Ponchos, Towels, EZ-Ups/Tents). The host will provide as much protection from the elements as possible. The Contest Host will provide a protected area to fold your floor following your performance (either covered or indoors). RMPA will prioritize host sites that can provide at least two indoor warm-up areas. Contest Hosts will also be responsible for making known the lightning policy of their building or district, which will be adhered to by RMPA.

CHECK-IN

Upon arrival at an event, one adult representative must check the group in to receive show day materials. *Performers are not needed to Check-In an ensemble.*

REGULAR SEASON COMPETITIONS & RMPA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Ensembles will be provided a scheduled arrival time.

Ensembles may NOT arrive before the scheduled time.
Equipment Trucks may NOT arrive prior to the day of the event.

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.

Please view and download the PDFs from WGI's website:
WGI POLICY MANUAL
WGI PERCUSSION RULES AND SCORE SHEETS

EQUIPMENT RULES NOTICE
Please carefully review Articles 3 (Scoring), 4 (Equipment), 5 (Timing), 6 & 7 (Entry and Exit), and 8 (Penalties) of the WGI Rulebook. These rules are strictly enforced by Timing & Penalties Judges. The timing and Penalties Judge will be looking closely to enforce WGI Article 4 for Equipment. In the event of severe damage, the ensemble who caused the damage will be responsible for the cost of facility repair incurred by the event host.

ADJUDICATION
An RMPA adjudication panel will consist of four (4) or five (5) judges: Music/Music, Effect Music/Effect, Visual, Effect Visual, and Timing & Penalties. RMPA State Prelims and Championships Finals will have a "double" panel of adjudicators.

COMMENTARY
Judges' commentary is issued in COMPETITION SUITE. Download the mobile app to access all judge commentary and recaps. Judges expect every ensemble director will have listened to their commentary prior to entering Critique.

CRITIQUE
Critique is a time for directors to seek clarity and further understanding of how to improve their performance/program. All ensemble directors should plan on attending critique and be prepared by having listened to the tapes.

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, 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

CHAMPIONSHIPS PRELIMS

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

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

CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

The number of ensembles advancing to Finals will be announced before the start of the season and determined by the number of ensembles competing as well as the capacity of the finals venue. Performance order will be by class and in order of Scores (low to high) from Championships Prelims.

Every performer will receive an RMPA Championships patch.
An RMPA “Finalist” banner will be awarded to each ensemble in every class.

Medals will be awarded to every performer from the top three (3) ensembles in each class (Gold, Silver, & Bronze respectively). Medals and Finalist Patches will be ordered early in 2027, based upon the count of ensemble membership noted on the registration forms.

Two (2) VIP passes to RMPA Championships Finals will be available to each ensemble for use by school administrators or other VIP’s as designated by the director of each ensemble. Passes will be available at ticketing the day of the event.

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address
Rocky Mountain Percussion Association
PO Box 184
Broomfield, CO 80038

For questions, please contact
RMPABoard@rmpa.org