

Survey Questions & Comments

1. Which region is your school assigned to by CBA?

North- 12 Metro- 24 South- 12 West- 9

2. Do you feel having your Regional State Marching Qualifying Contest on a school day/night is problematic?

Yes- 7 No- 50

Comments:

I do not think this is specifically problematic. However, being from a smaller school where the good band students also do many other activities, including participating in athletics, there is sometimes a conflict with athletic contests at the same time as our regional band competition, which creates a conflict for those students, and potentially hurts the overall performance of the band.

This was on our fall break and the location is very close.

We have multiple activities and sports scheduled on all nights of the week.

It has traditionally over our district's fall break

Sometimes fall breaks fall on regional week which leads to rehearsal problems and kids going on vacation

However, for us regional competition usually falls during our fall break.

The school tends to be more sensitive about this, especially if we have to miss any school time, as we did this year because our Regional was moved to Monday. It is also much more difficult to get parent support (truck drivers, prop movers, etc.) on a weeknight, as they often have to take off work to get to the show.

With Quarterfinals being on a Friday, this makes two days they have to take off.

Only because Regionals take place during my fall break. Otherwise, the late night mid-week would be difficult for my students.

We usually end up going on early enough that we need to get kids excused from class, if we stay for awards it is late (for a school night). It's always freezing at LPS stadium at night, I always have a significant number of kids get ill the week following regionals.

Kids are out late, parent's working, logistics getting kids out of school, etc.

Busing problems in our district. Parent complaining that their student is missing a full day of class.

It is a very late night, especially because of travel.

3. Would you be in favor of a state qualifying system where a score or average of scores from CBA sanctioned Saturday contests is used as your state qualifying score instead of attending a weekday Regional contest?

Yes- 10 No- 45

Comments:

What about combining a season average with the regional score for an overall average? Best of both worlds?

This would be even more inconsistent than our current system

Takes some of the pressure off of a one and done performance and gives the Director more opportunity to select which events they wish to compete in.

That would certainly avoid scoring a band seven points lower during Regionals in comparison to the score it got for CBA sanctioned Saturday contests that happened weeks prior.

It would increase participation of bands in more shows. Bands currently only attending regionals would need to participate more.

I think I would lean that way, but I don't know if my resolve would be strong enough to

argue that point. I like the idea of an averaged score, because one judge at one show can't determine the outcome. But, the averaged score would fail to reflect a band that truly makes a late-season surge.

Think this option is unfair to groups that cannot afford to compete as often as others. Is not an apples to apples comparison to groups in your region. I like the system as it stands.

Absolutely not. Saturdays would conflict with far too many of our other extra curricular students.

N/A (won't be participating in CBA marching next year)

It may be helpful to include the sanctioned events a part of the overall qualifying score just in case a band has "one of those days" at Regionals.

I felt that the judging was not comparable between regionals this year, especially in 2 captions. I would only be in favor of this if there was a better way of making sure judges didn't see the same groups over & over through the season.

I would need more info to clearly vote on this correctly.

4. Does your school offer winter guard now in any form?

Yes- 36 No- 21

5. If CBA sponsored a winter color guard circuit focusing on scholastic guards but open to independent groups, would you consider participating?

Yes- 42 No- 13

Comments:

My guard coaches are very active with RMCGA and I can't imagine them branching off. Many of them also currently compete with RMCGA so it is easier for them to all be at the same competitions.

As long as it is educational based philosophically. Require students in independent groups to also participate in their school group if there is one established.

YES but I do not think it should be offered to independent groups. I think it should correlate with CHSAA so we can get more school recognition.

I would also get the opinion of my color guard instructor

Independent opens up a large "can of worms" that CBA shouldn't choose to be responsible for

Probably not due to travel expenses. We are just implementing Winter Guard this year non-competitive.

I don't think CBA should get involved with that situation. I don't think that is where our focus should be. CBA had done wonderful job of offering opportunities to better our programs through clinics, clinicians and the like-and that is appreciated. However, I don't think diving into the realm of color guard would be in the best interest of CBA.

Possibly. It depends on the format and the quality of the judges.

I would be curious to see what this might look like. We currently have a unit in RMCGA, and are involved to the point that we host contests.

I am LARGELY in favor of this as RMCGA is not designed to further build school groups and marching band

Cost would be a determining factor. I would likely do whichever (vs. RMCGA) is less expensive overall.

Time would be the issue. It conflicts with other activities we have going on Yes, If you can apply for membership in both circuits, CBA and RMCGA

This would be a huge undertaking--RMCGA has a ton of issues with instructors and professionalism, particularly in regards to critiques.

I would need more info to clearly vote on this correctly.

I HATE RMCGA! A bunch of people that don't know how to run a good, well-balanced organization FOR KIDS!
My program is budding but with a dance program at our school, we would like a state assessment opportunity.
Currently don't have a winter guard, but would look at the possibility.

6. What has been your experience with competitive winter guard in Colorado?

Comments:

None.

We have fielded a few guards over the years. I have not always liked the WGI circuit, so a CBA sponsored circuit is intriguing.

First year, however, I have staff who is involved on the board.

Horrible. It is not educationally sound. The circuit is poorly managed and organized.

It has been great! The hardest part is the rehearsal space for any Winter Guard. This hurts groups from being more successful.

I have a concern regarding their financial transparency and their commitment to education.

Not much, I let my color guard staff handle most of it.

Does not work for our school situation in terms of rehearsal time and space. Director, judge and host

None

Limited but ok. I have been very clear with my guard instructor that winter guard is not an entity of its own. It is to improve the guard for MARCHING BAND. I could care less how they finish during the winter season.

We need more competitions on the western slope.

Our guard participates yearly

None yet

None

Not good. Things are unorganized, "catty", unpredictable, not growing experiences. Especially, from the west, that is such a long way to travel, and expensive or such a short event, with little opportunity for growth. For the money it takes, it's much more worth it for us to bring in clinicians to work with the kids. RMCGA is extremely disorganized

Last year we participated was 1998. Travel is a huge issue with us.

not much

First year

It has been very beneficial to my program. I think it is awesome.

Time Consuming / Not Cost Effective /

I don't have a problem with RMCGA but, I think RMCGA has a monopoly on winter guard shows. It wouldn't hurt to have another circuit.

It is difficult to find rehearsal space, but valuable for building/maintaining a guard

I have not had any experiences yet.

Overall, pretty good. I used to feel that the quality of judging was lacking, but that has improved a good deal.

All positive.

Very clicky and "inbred". Too many members teaching members

The RMCGA is not organized, it is nepotistic, it lacks a system of checks and balances.

My impression is that RMCGA is a "good old boys" club, with adjudication from guard instructors that favor their groups and their friends groups.

It is NOT focused on marching band at ALL and how is can help marching band, while giving

groups the opportunity to create for the indoor circuit. RMCGA allows high school student to participate in independent guards and NOT be involved in their school groups. This happens in NO OTHER groups in the state. All state band, orchestra, marching band, winter percussion.

Judges' comments are inconsistent, and regularly focus on personal preferences for alternate routine, as opposed to improving the execution of what is already there.

No support from the circuit. I believe that if your school has an active WG, students from your school should be in that and not be able to go to an Independent guard. The circuit does not support this

None

I did it my first few years, but the travel became too costly and we aren't able to participate anymore. Plus, we don't have coaches over here dedicated enough to see a winter guard all of the way through.

limited but positive

Ridiculous. Waste of money. I don't understand why "Music educators" spend the time and effort they do on this activity.

Disorganized

None yet.

There is a guard, A Varsity and a Junior Varsity, and this is my first year associating with a group as a Director, seeing as it's my first year teaching.

WGI and RMPA

I am new to CO Winter Guard, so I do not have experience with it yet.

I have had a winter guard at one school and we "endorse" an Independent guard at my current school. My experience has been somewhat positive but I feel like there are a LOT of issues with the guard activity in Colorado right now.

Not the best, but I am hoping things are getting better.

We compete yearly. Seems incestuous with adjudication. Politics matter.

In my opinion RMCGA has their act together way more than RMPA does. My school participates in both.

Mixed.

Competing in RMCGA for several years.

None

None

Very Limited

7. Should CBA become involved in hosting winter guard contests?

Yes- 34 No- 16

Comments:

Not sure.

Do what you do really well and let RMCGA do what they do really well.

CBA has an outstanding reputation for organizing shows and having a strong educational philosophy. I believe many Colorado CG groups would join CBA instead of RMCGA if this continues to be true.

I think to start CBA could try sponsoring a show or even create a committee to see if this is something they want to pursue.

My actual answer is, maybe. I would need more information.

Again, I think there needs to be discussions with color guard staff and directors to see if they want to go against RMCGA

CBA seems to struggle finding enough Guard judges for Marching contest, curious if there really are enough judging resources for a Winterguard season.

Only if it wasn't required, or tied to fall marching.

Indifferent

Absolutely not. Are we more organized than RMCGA. Absolutely. Do I think CBA would do a good job? Absolutely. But I don't feel like that is a role CBA should enter. I feel like the problems of that circuit would just infiltrate our organization. I feel like individuals within that circuit, or around it should step up, take control and fix it. They are capable and don't think they need CBA's platform to do so. Let's keep the focus the bands and music/instrumental side of things.

So there would be closer contests, say in Grand Junction, or closer, would be available.

Maybe

Possibly, it depends on who is running it and how it is run.

I checked yes, but I truly don't know the answer. There is a lot involved with putting on these contests. I would want to know if CBA would be utilizing WGI rules and procedures, or trying to develop their own. I would also be interested in what CBA feels it can do better (why did this even come up?), compared to what is currently in place.

Not sure on this. Think it may stretch CBA or put CBA in compromising situations, (dealing with independent organizations or sharing guards who will also compete with WGI / RMCGA) but may bring back some legitimacy and ethical behavior to the activity.

There needs to be better structure and CBA could help in this.

RMCGA seems to be somewhat unorganized. CBA would do well in this department.

That's why we have RMCGA. CBA should focus more on bands, if director's have an issue with RMCGA that's on them.

CBA has done a great job of normalizing standards for Marching and could do the same for winter guard

Don't Care.

CBA should have a say in RMPA, too. Many parents at my school have multiple students in the band program and they participate in the winter guard and winter drumline. Having two state competitions on the same day is unfair to these students and parents. I would to have CBA be the governing body over scheduling (at least).

Maybe?

Some of the current circuits are a bit political and "closed" to certain regions and groups.

If--and ONLY if--we can have a system where guard instructors/directors are held accountable for their demeanor and are expected to act professionally.

Unsure is not an answer here. I am a little torn with this. Can we afford it? Who will do it? What is the philosophy behind this? Should CBA work with RMCGA on this?

Maybe. Those competing at Regionals or looking to go to Nationals may not participate.

Why all of the RMCGA questions and none on RMPA?

If one of our big problems is COLOR GUARD, then we need to do something about it. But, is this going to lead to taking over RMPA stuff too?

If it helps our band programs, it should be considered.

