

Michigan Color Guard Circuit, Inc.

**General Effect &
Design Analysis 2023
Mark Heather – Caption Head**



The 2023 MCGC Upstairs Review and Comments....

What a wonderful year of indoor Color Guard! Viewing and judging all the various levels of competition this year was a true pleasure. Our groups kept working at developing skills and fine tuning the designs of their shows all season long and it paid off wonderfully by the end of the year. Congratulations to everyone.... Job well done.

Judges:

Judging for both GE and DA went well this year. We judges take our responsibilities extremely seriously. Our judges keep honing their/our skills of better understanding the criteria and bettering themselves with numbers management and to continue to share our knowledge and expand our understanding of the activity. Tough decisions are made every week! We understand that it is not a science... it is a perceived observation with basic principles, and we do our best as we compare apples, oranges, watermelons, and a plethora of dis-similar things, then rank and rate them in two sub-captions plus overall scores in a limited amount of time. *I suggest that some of the staff and directors try to do this for just one class a couple times a year to get a better understanding of what the judging experience is all about and how challenging it can be at times.*

Groups:

Our Units this year showed vast improvements in design and in training. The SA class was very competitive, and all groups represented themselves well by the end of the year. The IA and RA classes showed good improvement in design quality backed up with a better understanding of training for the various levels. Our AA level groups are getting a better grasp of the difference between RA and A Class design and training. *We as a circuit must assist these advancing groups to become better prepared to move up the ranks of classes within our state.*

Over All Comments:

We as staff, circuit leaders, and judges need to remind ourselves that we all exist for the students and members of the Color Guard activity, and we are here to assist in any way to keep this wonderful opportunity alive and growing for them and for future generations. We also have to remember that we are not WGI, and we need to do what is best for all of our groups and members.

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I suggest that the MCGC uses the experience of our Caption Heads to assist in the decision-making process of promoting groups in the future. I know we have a system in place, but I think it needs some upgrading or fine tuning. We need to make sure that the staff personnel understand that moving up is a positive result of better trained students and better show designs from them.... Communication is the key, open and direct communication, between a review board of some kind and the Circuit members.

On a side note, I was very pleased and honored to be selected and voted into the MCGC Hall of Fame this year. I have had the pleasure of being part of this amazing organization since the late 80's and I will continue to assist in any way I can to keep this opportunity available for our current and future generations.

Yours truly,
Mark G. Heather
GE & DA Caption Head