



PROMOTION PETITION POLICY

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SECTION I - PURPOSE & AUTHORITY

The Four States Performing Arts Association (“FSPAA”) maintains a structured classification system designed to promote competitive equity, educational integrity, and the long-term development of participating ensembles. Promotion between classifications is an essential mechanism by which FSPAA ensures that units are competing at an appropriate level commensurate with demonstrated achievement.

This Promotion Petition Policy establishes the exclusive procedure by which a promoted unit may request reconsideration of its classification assignment.

SECTION II - PROMOTION DETERMINATION

Promotions awarded at FSPAA-sanctioned events are based upon objective and comparative criteria, including but not limited to adjudication results, competitive rankings, scoring thresholds, and observed performance standards. All promotion criteria is issued under the authority of the FSPAA Promotion Committee and approved prior to the seasons start by the Board of Directors.

A promotion, once awarded, shall be deemed *effective immediately* and shall remain in effect unless and until modified pursuant to this policy.

SECTION III - RIGHT TO PETITION

A unit that has been promoted to a higher classification may submit a Promotion Petition solely under circumstances in which the unit’s director or authorized representative firmly and unequivocally believes that the ensemble is not prepared to compete at the promoted classification level.

Petitions shall not be submitted for reasons of competitive strategy, preference, avoidance of peer comparison, or anticipated outcomes. The petition process is intended as an extraordinary measure and must be exercised judiciously and in good faith.



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SECTION IV - PETITION DEADLINE

Any Promotion Petition must be submitted no later than twenty-four (24) hours following the official notification of promotion.

Petitions received outside of this timeframe shall be considered untimely and invalid and will not be reviewed. No exceptions shall be granted.

SECTION V - PETITION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A Promotion Petition shall be submitted via email and must include, at minimum:

- Identification of the unit and classification in question
- A formal statement executed by the unit director or authorized representative
- A detailed justification articulating the specific reasons the unit asserts it is not prepared for the higher classification
- Supporting contextual factors, which may include ensemble experience level, performer composition, instructional structure, or logistical limitations
- An explicit acknowledgment of and consent to the review procedures set forth herein

Submission of a petition constitutes affirmation that all information provided is accurate and complete to the best of the petitioner's knowledge.

SECTION VI - MANDATORY REVIEW & EVALUATION

Any unit submitting a Promotion Petition shall be subject to mandatory evaluation by the FSPAA Promotion Committee. This evaluation may include, but is not limited to:

- Review of performance recordings from FSPAA events
- Examination of adjudication commentary, scoring data, and ranking trends



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- Comparative analysis against current classification performance standards
- Consultation with adjudicators, circuit officials, or subject-matter experts

The Promotion Committee shall exercise sole discretion in determining the scope and method of review necessary to render an informed decision.

SECTION VII - DETERMINATION & FINALITY

Upon completion of its review, the Promotion Committee shall issue a written determination, which shall be one of the following:

1. Approval of Petition – The unit shall remain in its current classification for the remainder of the competitive season, subject to future reevaluation if warranted by subsequent performance.
2. Denial of Petition – The promotion shall stand, and the unit shall be required to compete in the higher classification.

All determinations rendered by the Promotion Committee are final, binding, and not subject to appeal.

SECTION VIII - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & ACCEPTANCE

By submitting a Promotion Petition, the unit expressly acknowledges and agrees that:

- Promotion decisions are made in furtherance of fairness and competitive integrity
- Approval of a petition is not guaranteed
- Participation in the review process is mandatory
- The Promotion Committee's decision shall be final and conclusive
- FSPAA reserves the right to reclassify any unit at any time in accordance with circuit policy



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SECTION IX - RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

FSPAA expressly reserves the right to amend, interpret, and enforce this policy at its discretion. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the authority of FSPAA or its Promotion Committee to act in the best interests of the circuit.

SECTION X - STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

The Promotion Petition process exists to safeguard the educational mission of FSPAA while preserving competitive balance across all classifications. Units are expected to engage in this process responsibly, professionally, and with respect for the integrity of the circuit.