



2025 Mini Corps Rules & Guidelines



General Rules and Philosophy

- A. Judges will assess the effect of the repertoire, the effect of the performers and their technical achievement. Competition Suite software will be used for scores and commentary.
- B. All rules are in place to assure fair competition and interpreted to allow artistic freedom.
- C. A one point penalty will be assessed for any rule infraction.
- D. Scheduling will be done allowing for the best possible evening entertainment with consideration given to competitors who are entered in multiple categories.
- E. In fairness to all competitors, warm up will only be allowed in designated areas.
- F. All entry forms and fees must be received by the published registration date (found on application) to participate in the Mini Corps Competition.
- G. Only DCI approved instruments will be allowed in the Mini Corps Competition. Use of unauthorized instruments will result in disqualification. No pre-recorded music or effects are allowed.
- H. While the Philosophy of the Mini Corps Competition is intended to encourage the musicality of each group, the visual design should also be credited in the effect category. The coordination of Music and Visual elements should contribute to the effect of the overall performance.

Mini Corps Specific Rules

1. A Mini Corps is defined as a minimum of 11 participants and a maximum of 50 participants.
2. If a Drum Major is used, they are not considered one of the 50 participants. They may not play an instrument unless the total number of participants remains at or less than 50.
3. A one (1) point penalty will be assessed for each participant under 11 or exceeding 50.
4. Any combination of DCI approved instruments are allowed. DCI approved guard equipment is also allowed.
5. Mini Corps performances shall be no less than 5 minutes to a maximum of 10-minutes. A 1 minute warm up is allowed.
6. A one (1) point penalty will be assessed for each minute under or over the time limit.
7. The performance time starts with the first note and ends with the last note.
8. Music Scores are not required for the judges.
9. No pre-recorded music or effects are allowed.

10. An American Flag (Honor Guard) may be used for the performance and those members will not be counted as part of the 50 members as described above. If any member of the American Flag section picks up an instrument during the performance, the Mini Corps membership will exceed the maximum of 50 and appropriate penalties will be assessed.
11. Mini Corps must submit all documentation and compliance requirements along with any fees.
12. When possible, performance appearance is determined by reverse order of finish from the previous year (1st place performs last, etc.). Mini Corps that did not perform in the previous year will be slotted by date/time of receipt of the application: the last application received going on 1st, second last application received will go on 2nd, etc.