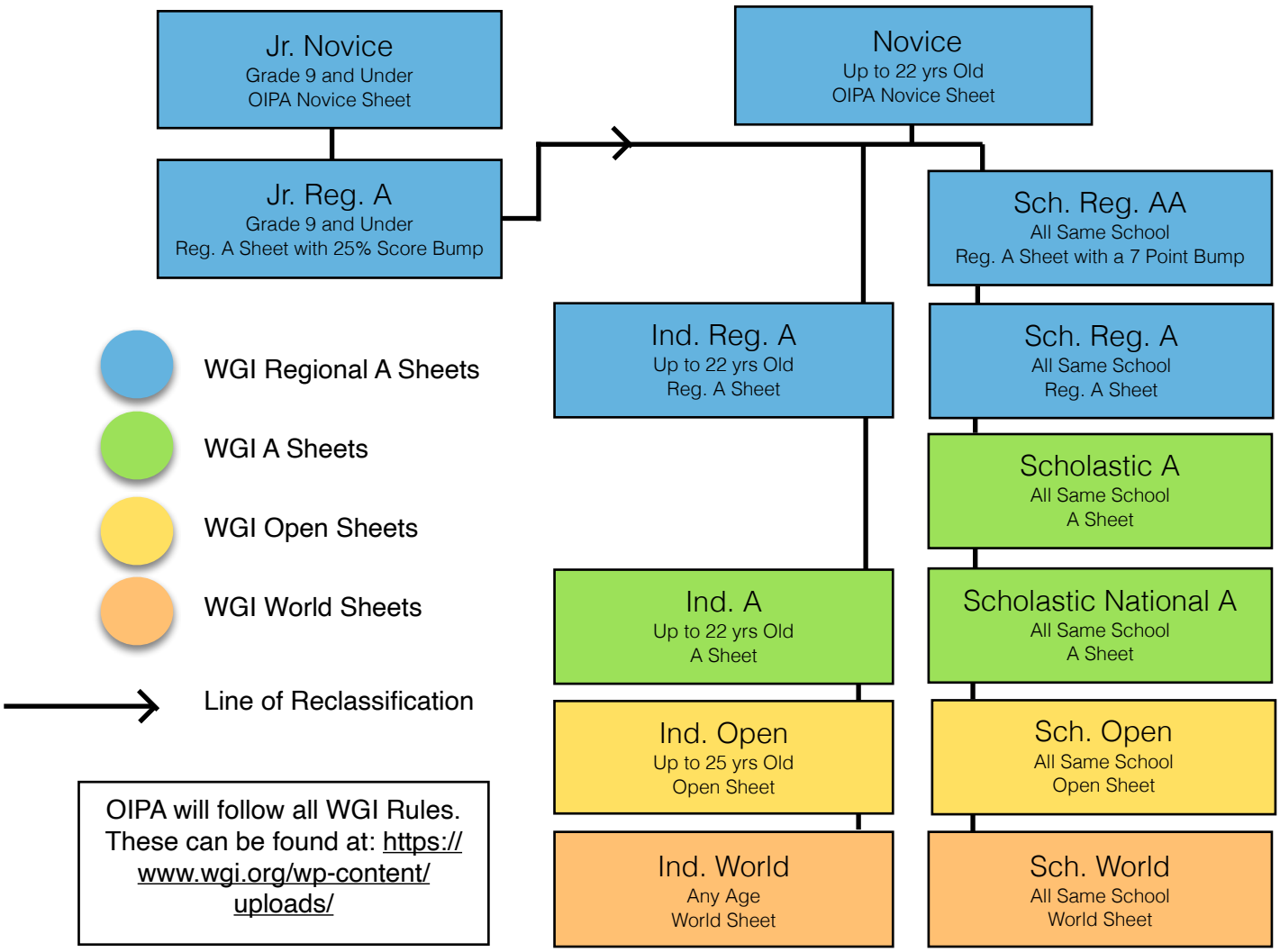
# OIPA Guard Class Structure

*effective for the 2027 Season* (Updated 10/25)




| Class | Interval Time | Min. Perf. Time | Max. Perf. Time | Required Equipment Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **JR Novice** | 7 minutes | 2.5 Minutes | 4 Minutes | 2.0 Minutes |
| **Novice** | 7 Minutes | 2.5 Minutes | 4 Minutes | 2.0 Minutes |
| **JR Reg A** | 7 minutes | 2.5 Minutes | 4.5 Minutes | 2.0 Minutes |
| **Regional A** | 7 Minutes | 3 Minutes | 4.5 Minutes | 3.0 Minutes |
| **A Class** | 8 Minutes | 4 Minutes | 5.5 Minutes | 3.5 Minutes |
| **Open** | 9 Minutes | 4 Minutes | 6.5 Minutes | 3.5 Minutes |
| **World** | 10 Minutes | 4 Minutes | 7.5 Minutes | 3.5 Minutes |

## What Guard Class should I be in?

Choosing a class can be a difficult task for any director, especially so in a year with a new class structure. Here are some pointers to help!

***Junior Divisions*** are for Units where all performers are currently in 9th grade or below.

***Novice Class*** is designed for young and inexperienced performers and staff. We expect to only see units remain in this class for 2-3 seasons at most. Any unit that was considering going into the Line Division used previously this is the class for you. Units can have as little as one piece of equipment and focus on basic skills and succeed in this division. There are no restrictions on use of equipment/floors/props beyond the normal WGI Restrictions in the rule book. The expectation is that units who are effectively utilizing a variety of equipment/props/etc. would find themselves being reclassified.

***Regional AA Class*** is a class fitting between Novice and Regional A, specifically for our scholastic programs. This class will use the Regional A sheet. If you are a guard who has found success in Novice but you don't feel quite ready for Regional A, this could be the perfect fit for you. JV programs for those with Varsity programs in AA/A could be a good fit in this class. Show concept, equipment, and movement skills are at an introductory level with an emphasis on training. Programs should focus on ACHIEVEMENT of INTRODUCTORY skills in movement and equipment. Groups with the ability for high production value (digital floors, large props, etc) are not appropriate for this class. Soundtracks allow for performers to easily understand and follow a music structure.

***Regional A Class*** units in this class are composed of beginning level performers and content is developed to allow the performer to MASTER BASIC SKILLS. The goal of this class is uniform ACHIEVEMENT from all performers, designers, and instructors. Designing a show just over 4 minutes long with more than 3.5 minutes of equipment time may be a wise and safe bet. If your unit has been consistently placing in the top third of Scholastic Regional AA Program and finished in the top third at States you may want to register for the Regional A.

***Scholastic A Class*** will use the definitions, sheets and timing restrictions for the WGI A Class. *These units may attend 1 WGI Regional, but do not attend WGI World Championships.*

***Scholastic National A Class*** will use the definitions, sheets and timing restrictions for the WGI A Class. *These units are attending more than 1 WGI Regional or WGI World Championships.*

***Open Class*** and ***World Class*** has units that have found success on the national level in the A Class and find themselves progressing into the Open and World Classes. These units typically have larger more experienced staff's and larger budgets than the majority of units. Jumping into these classes too soon may not be the best decision for younger units.