

## Are You Prepared?

By Jennifer Johnson

The winter guard season is underway...are you prepared? Here are some key points for instructors to help prevent last-minute stress and to avoid getting penalties at shows:

- Practice getting on and off the floor with your guard before your first performance. This is especially helpful if you are using any props and/or have parents assisting you. Communicate with them your procedures for waiting at the entrance door, walking into the gym, setting up and taking down the floor/props, where to sit during the performance, and what to do after they have exited the gym.
- Know the timing lines, entrance, and exits for each competition site. This information is posted before shows under the "Winter Guard Schedule" page for each show site. Review this with your guard **before** you get to the door so they can focus on their upcoming performance rather than logistics.
- Have your guards do some equipment maintenance. Make sure your flags have fresh tape and are secured to the pole. Rifles and sabers should be taped at the ends. All equipment tips on rifles, flagpoles, and sabers must be padded or taped as stated in the WGASC rulebook. These will be inspected at the entrance door so take care of taping ahead of time.
- The bottom of all props made of wood, metal or PVC type plastic **must** be padded or taped. This helps prevent gym floors from being damaged regardless if you have a floor or not. The Contest Director, Color Guard Coordinator and/or Executive Director have a right to assess these penalties. A two (2) point penalty will be given for each infraction.
- Your CD needs to be clearly marked with the name of your guard and class. Each CD must only contain one track. A one (1.0) point penalty for a non-dedicated CD will be assessed. Also, have several CLEAN copies of your show music on you during performances.
- Read over your 2008 Rule Book. This can be found under the resources tab towards the bottom of the page.

If there is one thing to remember, plan ahead with all that you do! Have a great 2008 season!