

**FIREFIGHTER PARADE RULES AND REGULATIONS
of the
COLUMBIA COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION**

GENERAL SECTION

1. If at all possible, the Local Convention Committee (LCC) shall route the parade in such a manner to make the length of the route of march not more than two (2) miles from the start line to the finish line. The official start and end of the parade for marching units shall be conspicuously marked.
2. The LCC shall furnish competent Judges in sufficient numbers to properly review the marchers in competition. The recommended minimum number of Judges is eight (8) for Fire Units and four (4) for Auxiliary Units. The LCC shall also furnish three (3) qualified Counters to count the marchers in the line of march at various points along the parade route. The LCC will appoint a knowledgeable person to be present at the meeting of the Judges and Counters the morning of the parade and at the scoring session immediately following the parade.
3. The Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters Association (CCVFA) will provide a copy of these rules to the LCC in ample time for distribution to the Judges at least ten (10) days prior to the parade. The LLC will meet with the Judges and Counters on the morning of the dress parade to instruct the Judges and Counters as to their duties, and to resolve any questions that may arise with regard to these rules. They will also meet with the Judges and Counters immediately following the parade to tally the scores, and select the winners of all awards. This is to be completed, and the list of award winners (as determined by the judges) turned over to the LCC prior to any other business that the Judges, Counters, or the LLC may have. In all cases the decision of the Judges will be the final word.
4. The Judges will be instructed to judge the parade over its entire length, from the start line to the finish line. No judging shall be in the immediate area where person from the Firemen's Home are viewing the parade. Judges should avoid judging on hills and corners when possible.
5. The LCC shall reserve the right to place any or all units in the parade lineup as they see fit for the best presentation of the parade to the public.
6. To compete for awards, Fire Units must have five (5) or more members in the line of march. Auxiliary Units must have 5 (five) members to compete for awards and must march as a separate unit.
7. Competing Fire Units will be judged on three components: Color Guard, Uniform, and Marching. All apparatus will be scored and awarded separately. Multiple pieces of apparatus may be judged from your unit; a piece of apparatus from each category is eligible to be judged. Auxiliary units will be generally judged on uniform and marching, however any Auxiliary Unit marching with a separate Color Guard for that Auxiliary Unit will cause that Color Guard to be scored for Color Guard Awards.
8. No more than two (2) members of a parading Fire Unit shall ride in each apparatus (driver and one other). It is strongly recommended that all personnel riding on any apparatus or in any private vehicle wear a seat belt. Any member riding in what is considered an unsafe position as determined by the parade Judges shall cause that Fire Unit to be disqualified. It is not the position of the Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters Association (CCVFA) to require those in the parade to be operating in a manner that is inconsistent with established safety standards, nor should this Association assume any liability for anyone who wishes to ignore these standards. Any Fire Unit having a member riding in any other position than those described above does so without the sanction of the CCVFA or the Local Convention Committee (LCC).
9. There shall be no sounding of sirens, ringing of bells, or the sounding of any other noise making or warning device while the apparatus is in the line of march. There shall be no displays of lights, horns or sirens prior to or following the parade unless a unit is responding to a bonafide alarm. There shall be no displays of sirens, lights or other warning devices of apparatus being driven through the streets where the parade in

being held in "Celebration" following the parade. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification from all parade awards.

10. Fire vehicles shall **not** display warning / response lights in the parade route. Use of warning / response lights will result in disqualification. Daytime running lights are not emergency lights. There shall be no advertising of any kind on any apparatus.
11. Hose beds on all apparatus shall be exposed so Judges can determine cleanliness and neatness of hose pack and associated equipment.
12. Apparatus shall be operated by personnel duly qualified and authorized by the participating fire unit and shall be operated in a manner consistent with these rules and the Laws of the State of New York.
13. Personal cars used for Life or incapacitated members shall be operated by a member of the marching unit. A firefighter may drive auxiliary members provided he is a member of the fire unit associated with the auxiliary. Dark tint windows must be in down position.
14. All apparatus and vehicles in the line of march shall be cleaned and polished, and all equipment shall be in place and in working order. No equipment or articles shall be carried on apparatus and vehicles other than equipment used in the Fire, Emergency, and First Aid services.
15. Any and all vehicles belonging to a unit's band may not fall into the parade line of march. Band units doing so will result in demerits for the hiring fire unit.
16. Units arriving after the parade has started shall fall in at the end of the parade regardless of the division to which they were assigned. In the event a unit falls into a division while the parade is in progress they shall be marked on the Judges sheets as "Wrong Position" and shall receive demerits.
17. Respect must be shown for the decorations in the City, Town or Village that is hosting our organization. In the event the membership of a Fire Unit is found destroying or in any way molesting the same, the offending organization will be disqualified from winning any awards, and the individuals will be prosecuted. Always respect the colors of our Country, and the property of our host as well as the citizens and merchants of the community we are guests in.
18. The parade shall be judged based on appearance of marchers and apparatus from the standpoint of cleanliness, neatness, orderliness, and sobriety. The rules of this parade shall apply regardless of the age of apparatus or type of uniform worn by marchers. The decision of the Judges is final.
19. Should there be a tie for any Fire Unit or Auxiliary Unit award, the tie shall be broken by awarding to the unit with the most members in the line of march. If a tie still exists than the head Judge of the parade shall use other established and accepted methods to break the tie. In all cases the decision of the Judges will be final.
20. The Convention Dress Parade of the CCVFA shall be judged in accordance with the rules herein set forth and judged accordingly using forms and demerits approved by CCVFA.
21. It shall be the responsibility of each marching unit to guard their equipment against damage or loss at all times. Neither the LCC nor the CCVFA assume any liability for damage or loss suffered by any parade participant.
22. A suitable reviewing stand shall be provided by the LCC to allow for Guests of the LCC and the Officers of the CCVFA to review the Parade. The American Flag shall be present on the reviewing stand and shall be positioned properly. A suitable public address system shall be present on the stand for the use of the LCC as well as the Parade Announcer. The LCC shall work with the Announcer to provide the most accurate and up to date information on the line up as possible.

UNIFORM CLASSIFICATIONS

1. All marching units must wear the uniform as prescribed by their department or company (uniform of the day). Dress and Bloused uniforms will compete for the same awards. Fire departments with multiple companies may march as a department in a company specific uniform provided that, each company marches separately behind its own identifying banner. Departments with multiple companies who wear a department uniform need not separate.
2. SPECIAL UNIFORMS: When the members of a special squad, such as Fire Police, Rescue, or Explorers are not issued parade uniforms of the unit, they may wear the uniform issued to them for such special duty, but must parade as a separate unit at the rear of the unit's marchers, and must not intermingle with the marchers of the main unit.
3. It is permissible to where an American Flag patch on the shoulder of the uniform classifications. Shoes should be of the same color and of similar design.
4. There will be no demerits for length of service indicators on any uniform regardless of classification. Positioning of indicators on the uniform shall be uniform throughout the unit.
5. As a safety consideration, all drivers will be exempted from wearing gloves, but may wear them if they so desire.
6. The presentation of the unit pertaining to design, color, style, patches, and accessories shall be uniform except as noted. Demerits will result in instances where uniformity is not constant. Non-uniform patches shall also result in demerits.
7. Municipal officials and clergymen may march at the head of their Unit in civilian clothes. Fire Chiefs with uniforms different from their unit may march at the head of the unit. The forgoing items will not be subject to demerits.
8. No jewelry other than Fire Service badges and awards shall be worn on the uniform or person exposed to view. Wedding and engagement rings, as well as Medic Alerts, are acceptable.
9. All hair (including facial hair) shall be neat in appearance.

PARADE MARCHING

1. Any movement by a marching unit other than forward, which shall delay the forward progress of the parade, will disqualify the entire unit. The entire unit includes the Color Guard, Fire Unit, Auxiliary Unit, Apparatus and musical unit. The entire unit will be held in violation in the event that their musical unit retards the progress of the parade.
2. In the event an alarm for fire or ambulance is sounded while the parade is in progress, all units of the parade shall move to the right side of the roadway on the approach of the responding apparatus or ambulance and remain halted until the vehicle(s) have proceeded past.
3. There shall be no disorderliness during the parade such as smoking, chewing, carrying or drinking beverages, etc. Any unit conducting themselves in such a manner during the parade as to bring discredit to themselves or the Volunteer Fire Service shall be disqualified from the winning of any parade awards.
4. Incapacitated and/or life members of a Fire Unit will be permitted to ride in private cars directly in the rear of the unit column (see Parade Unit Formation). They shall be in the uniform of the Company or Department to be counted in the line of march.

5. Personnel of local fire units, auxiliaries, and those involved with the presentation of the parade will be counted as personnel in the line of march for their respective marching unit provided notification to the LLC is given prior to the parade.
6. Where the last rank of marchers has one or more open files (positions), the marchers in that rank shall fill the files from the reviewing stand side.

COLOR GUARD

1. Any Fire Unit marching without a guarded America Flag will be disqualified. One or more persons shall constitute a guard however if one person is used, the guard must march to the right of the American Flag. The guard shall not carry or display a flag or banner (shoulder patch excepted). Such person or persons shall be either members of the Fire Unit or of a Uniformed National Service Organization. The American flag is to be guarded at all times.
2. In all instances where eagles are displayed on flagstaffs, such eagle must face forward at all times.
3. The United States Flag and its guard must directly precede the Fire Unit in the line of march. The Fire Unit Identifying Banner or flag may precede an accompanying musical (or similar) unit if so desired. NOTE: Fire Company or Departmental musical units will also be included in this make up of the line. (see Parade Unit Formation section)
4. The flag of the United States shall be carried on the marching right, that is the flag's own right. When in a line with other flags the United States Flag(s) shall always be to the right, however, it may also be positioned in the center of a line of flags to the front of the other flags in the line.
5. American flags must be unfurled at all times, except during rainy or inclement conditions. The American flag is not to be dipped or lowered to any person or anything. The Unit banner or flag (not the American flag) shall render salutes or honors to the Official Reviewing Stand.

AUXILIARY UNITS

1. Auxiliary Units shall march to the rear of the Fire Unit, and they shall not intermingle with the Fire Unit while parading.
2. The uniform worn by the Auxiliary Unit must be uniform throughout as to style, color and accessories. Hats and/or gloves, if part of the uniform, shall be worn, with hats at the same angle. No jewelry other than an Auxiliary Badge or Pin may be worn exposed for view by the unit member. Wedding and engagement rings as well as Medic Alerts are acceptable.
3. If carried, the American Flag must be guarded. (see Color Guard section)
4. Shoes shall be of similar style and of the same color. Hose must worn and be uniform in color. Auxiliary units may wear skirts or slacks, however, uniformity must prevail.
5. Hair shall be neat in appearance
6. Length of uniforms shall conform within each unit.
7. Incapacitated members and Life members of Auxiliary Units will be permitted to ride in private cars directly in the rear of the unit column (see Parade Unit Formation section).
8. All rules that apply to Fire Units shall also apply to Auxiliaries except where noted above.

PARADE UNIT FORMATION

The following chart shall be used by Fire and Auxiliary Units for establishing the correct order for marching. It should be noted that not all components apply to all marching units. The officer in charge of the marching unit should review this chart and disperse the unit for the best presentation of the unit. The indicated distance in feet represents maximum separation between components. Marching units should maintain a maximum separation of 100 feet between units and divisions breaks should be no more than 150 feet.

A Company or Department Flag may be carried in the Color Guard of the unit and be used as the Unit Identification.

UNIT FORMATION

Unit Identification (Banner) (Optional Position)	10 Feet
Musical Unit	20 Feet
American Flag Color Guard (May include Unit Identification in lieu of Banner)	10 Feet
Unit Identification (Banner) (Optional Position)	10 Feet
Chief – Assistant Chiefs	10 Feet
Chaplain – Officials – Commissioners – Past Officers	10 Feet
Unit Officers (Captains, Lieutenants)	5 Feet
Unit Members	15 Feet
Ladies Auxiliary Color Guard (optional)	10 Feet
Ladies Auxiliary Banner	10 Feet
Ladies Auxiliary Officers	5 Feet
Ladies Auxiliary Unit	10 Feet
Special Unit Officers	5 Feet
Special Unit Members	20 Feet
Cars – Incapacitated & Life Members (Firefighters & Auxiliary)	20 Feet
Chief Vehicles	20 Feet
Apparatus	