

Oneida County Volunteer Firemen's Association Inc.

Men's Parade Rules

Revised-2006

1. NO drilling that will obstruct the forward progress of the parade.
2. Officer-in-charge (ONLY) to salute.
3. Location of the judge's stand to be designated three hundred (300<sup>1</sup>) in advance.
4. Apparatus or Bands, not to be judged with marching units.
  - A. Driver's shall be counted and judged when in full uniform ONLY.
5. Marching units shall be judged solely on marching ability and appearance, although number in line counts towards final score it's only a minor part of judging.
6. There shall be a space within fifty feet (50') between each marching unit, (marching units consists of band/firefighters, auxiliary and apparatus)
  - a. If at anytime a musical group marching with a unit causes a unit to be more than fifty feet (50') of the next unit they shall not be penalized as long as they are within fifty feet (50') of the musical group.
7. The formation shall be as follows:
  - a. Musical Group (if any)
  - b. National Colors and Color Guard
  - c. Company Banner
  - d. Officer-in Charge
  - e. Past Chief's and Current Company Officers
  - f. Firefighters
  - g. Auxiliary (Formation per LAOCVFA rules)
  - h. Apparatus
8. Color Guard shall constitute of two (2) or more guards with arms (With American Flag)
9. Company flag on a staff to be carried to the left of the American Flag and shall not be carried higher than the National Colors. When carrying a Company banner on a pole it shall be twenty feet (20') behind Color Guard.
10. Senior Officer in charge will be twenty feet (20') to the rear of Color Guard or banner, if carried.  
Officers marching shall be within twenty feet (20') to the rear of the senior officer.  
When past Chief's are in the line of march they shall be to front right of current Company officers.  
Officers marching in ranks with firefighters shall be in front of the ranks-twenty feet (20') to rear of senior officer.

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11. There shall be NO sounding of sirens/horns or any other audible devices within the line of march. (Except for an Emergency) a. Emergency lights are permitted.
12. In the ranks of marching firefighters there will be NO set spacing but must be uniformly spaced throughout the color guard and unit.
13. Uniforms will be of local standard issue. There shall be NO variations other than Company standard to Signify officers,
  - a. Service awards may be worn and will not be judged.
14. Units of twenty (20) **Marching** firefighters or less shall march two (2) abreast.  
Units of twenty-one (21) to forty-nine (49) **Marching** Firefighters shall march three (3) abreast.  
Units of over forty-nine (49) **Marching** firefighters shall march four (4) abreast.

**15. DEMERITS:**

- 10 Points for use of audio devises (Except in an emergency)
  - 5 Points-Marching without National Colors
  - 5 Points-Marching without proper Color Guard
  - 5 Points-Colors not in proper formation
  - 5 Points-Banner not in proper formation
  - 5 Points-Officers not in proper formation
  - 5 Points-Officer-in-charge not saluting
  - 5 Points-Breaking ranks during parade (Except in an emergency)
  - 1 Point-Each infraction proper spacing
  - 1 Point-Each infraction if uniform gloves are worn. They must be worn by entire company/department (including driver's) and of the same color.
  - 1 Point-All shoes must be of same color
  - 1 Point-Uniform must be of local standard issue
  - 1 Point-Each infraction of talking (One person may call Cadence)
  - 1 Point-Each infraction of waving
  - 1 Point-Each infraction of laughing
  - 1 Point-Each infraction of out of step
  - 1 Point-Eagle turned on staff (National Colors and/or Company flag)
16. For a company in the line of march with ten (10) or more marcher's a tenth (1/10th) of a point shall be given for all uniform marchers For those uniformed marchers less then ten (10) in the line of march there will be NO deduction or addition of a tenth (1/10th) of a point.  
All apparatus driver's in full uniform will be counted as well as all rider's who have been declared to parade judges or local parade committee.  
In order to be counted all riders must be in full uniform.  
Declaration of personal riding in apparatus must be made prior to start of parade.
  17. Marching departments shall be judged on a credit basis of zero (0) to ten (10) points for:
    - a. Color guard
    - b. Saluting Officer

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c. Overall general appearance of marching unit

18. If a prize is offered for the Company or Department coming the longest distance—that Company or Department must have at least ten (10) firefighters in the line of march (Convention Only) This award will be decided by the host company as well as any apparatus awards.
19. Each unit to be eligible for an award must start in the forming area and continue in the line of march to the finish line. (Except in response to an emergency call)
20. In marching the odd marcher shall march at the end of the right line .  
When marching three (3) abreast the odd marchers shall march at the end of each outside line.  
When only one (1) odd marcher that marcher shall march at the end of the right line.
21. Non-Association members will be awarded prizes only if the host Company/Department desires. (Includes: Military type units, Legions VFWs, Shriners /local groups etc.)
22. Ladies Auxiliary shall be judged by the LAOCVFA rules.
23. The OCPJA will supply judges for firefighters and ladies auxiliaries.
24. Judges for music/floats and local organizations shall be provided by the host Company of Department.
25. Anyone desiring information concerning demerits should send a written request with a SASE to the local parade chairman within one week. The local chairman must respond within one week.
26. Parade judging shall be done in an area of six hundred feet (600\* this is to be three Hundred Feet (300') before the judging stand and three hundred feet (300<sup>1</sup>) after the judging stand. A judge may be assigned to the forming area only for rule information.  
A judge may be assigned at the conclusion of the parade to ensure the units complete the parade and check driver's uniforms. The number of judges assigned shall be determined by the OCPJA Chairman for the purpose of judging marching units. There shall be a sign posted at the beginning and the end of the six hundred feet (600<sup>1</sup>) judging area.  
Twenty Feet (20') spacing lines marked on the road is the discretion of the host Company/Department
27. Disorderly conduct at anytime will disqualify the entire unit.
28. In order to be judged in the category of marching with music a musical group must consist of at least four (4) members playing instruments and be marching in proper formation in front of the fire Company/Department-
29. Only the Officer-in-charge may have a communications devise.

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30. Two (2) Companies/Departments may merge together if they less than ten (10) marching members present and have the approval of the host Company/Department. They must also alert the judges prior to the start of the parade
31. The judges that are assigned to a parade will not leave until the host Company/Department is satisfied that the judges have fulfilled all their duties.
32. When marching without music there may be one member calling cadence or one drummer in uniform and in proper formation.  
(Drummers shall be placed last in line in compliance with rule #20)
33. When a Company/Department has ONLY a Color Guard and an Officer in the line of march they will be judged in those two (2) categories Only.