



Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association Parade Guidelines

1. General Guidelines

- a. Any Company or unit's registration that is postmarked after the due date set forth by the Parade Committee will be assessed ½ of a point per day until received. Registrations postmarked after the second deadline date set forth by the Parade committee will be assessed ½ of a point per day until received and that company or unit will be placed at the end of the parade line-up. The Parade committee will record dates received upon receipt.
- b. All departments **MUST** have an officer in charge check in with the registration area, regardless of whether or not their units are being judged, prior to the starting of the parade.
- c. Officially designated judges selected by the Parade Committee and approved by the Conference Executive Committee shall judge the parade.
- d. The farthest any company or unit shall be required to march is two (2) miles.
- e. No judging will be done at any sharp bends or turns in the parade route or at any encumbrances in the line of march.

2. Disqualification

- a. Evidence of intoxication or the use of alcoholic beverages shall be grounds for immediate disqualification of the entire company or unit.
- b. Restricting the forward progress of the parade is prohibited (this includes drilling).
- c. The blowing of sirens or sounding of air horns is prohibited except during an emergency during the parade. Doing so shall be grounds for immediate disqualification of the entire company or unit.
- d. The ringing of bells, or any other noise making device, or throwing materials from a vehicle or apparatus while in the line of march shall be grounds for immediate disqualification of the entire company or unit.
- e. Any company or unit conducting themselves during the parade in such a manner as to bring discredit to themselves or the fire service as a whole shall be subject to immediate disqualification.
- f. Two (2) or more departments marching as one (1) unit shall not be eligible for trophies or prizes.



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3. Parade Line Up

- a. The first division in the line of march shall be the county whose turn falls this year. That shall be the county in which the sitting President of the DVFA has just completed their term.
- b. The second division will be the county of the newly elected President for the upcoming year.
- c. The third division will be the county of the newly elected First Vice President.
- d. Each county shall have their turn as being the first division in the parade line-up in a three (3) year cycle.
- e. Non-member companies or units followed by Out of State departments shall comprise the following order of the parade.
- f. Divisions shall march at a distance of approximately one hundred (100) feet from the preceding division.
- g. Companies or units shall follow each other at a distance of not less than thirty (30) feet and not more than fifty (50) feet.
- h. Formation of companies or units shall be as follows:
 - a. Musical units shall precede the company at a distance from the preceding company as designated in "2.g" above.
 - b. Company flag or banner shall be approximately (20) feet from the musical unit.
 - c. Color Guard
 - d. Chief of the Department or Officer in Charge.
 - e. Company Officers, Clergy, Past Chiefs (if desired)
 - f. Membership
 - g. Fire Police (if marching with unit)
 - h. Ladies Auxiliary
 - i. Shall follow not less than ten (10) feet and no more than twenty (20) feet from the last rank of the fire company marching unit.
 - i. Ladies line-up will be as follows:
 1. Banner or flag
 2. Color Guard
 3. Officers
 4. Membership



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- j. Vehicles
 - i. Shall follow approximately twenty (20) feet from the last rank of the marching unit.
 - ii. Spacing between vehicles shall be maintained at approximately ten (10) feet intervals.
 - iii. Vehicle line-up will be as follows:
 - 1. Men's Vehicles
 - 2. Ladies' Vehicles
 - 3. Floats
 - 4. Fire Department Vehicles/Apparatus
 - a. Chief's or Command Vehicles
 - b. Hand Drawn Antiques
 - c. Motorized Antique
 - d. Van
 - e. Ambulance
 - f. Utility Vehicles
 - g. Water Rescue Unit
 - h. Brush Unit
 - i. Specialty Unit
 - j. Engines
 - k. Rescues
 - l. Rescue/Pumpers
 - m. Tankers
 - n. Ladders
 - o. Aerial Platforms
 - p. Squirts



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4. Judging Guidelines

a. Marching Units

- a. Units marching in competition with other units will be judged with respect to the following:
 - i. Marching in step.
 - ii. Straightness of lines, ranks, and intervals.
 - iii. Overall conduct
 - iv. General Appearance and neatness.
 - v. Spacing between units.
- b. Talking, waving, smoking, and gum chewing are not permitted.
- c. Ranks are to be maintained at all times.
- d. All personnel in the line of march will be at arms length from the person in front at least from the person on their side, except in close order marching. Regardless, uniformity must prevail.
- e. Marchers are to be aligned according to height.
- f. Carrying of flowers or horns is optional.
- g. Chiefs and members are to be separated.
- h. Only one (1) drill sergeant is permitted.



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- b. Uniforms- Fire Company
 - a. All uniforms within a single marching unit shall be alike.
 - b. Regulation uniforms shall consist of the following:
 - i. Hats, Coats, and Pants (coats optional)
 - ii. Hats may be round or eight (8) points.
 - iii. Chiefs may wear white hats if desired.
 - iv. Hatbands must be of one color.
 - v. Pants to have no cuffs.
 - vi. Socks will be black with no design on them.
 - vii. Shoes will be black and all shall be on the same general style.
 - viii. Neatness and appearance, such as having uniforms cleaned and pressed, shoes shined, and brass cleaned, will be a judging factor.
 - ix. Uniformity must prevail in the arrangement of insignias, badges, or awards.
 - x. Hair and beards must be neat and trimmed.
- c. Color Guard
 - a. Color Guard will contain only one (1) American flag, which shall be positioned and carried to present etiquette.
 - b. Colors to have one (1) guard on each side of flags or banners.
 - c. Other flags and banners are allowed, as desired.
 - d. Present officers shall not be members of the color guard.
 - e. Past officers may be members of the color guard, such as Past Chiefs.
 - f. Uniformity must prevail with all the members of the color guard.
- d. Equipment
 - a. Judging of all vehicles and equipment on them will include appearance, cleanliness, and working order.
 - b. Judging of equipment will be prior to the start of the parade at a designated place and time set forth by the Parade Committee. Units competing for trophies or prizes MUST be pre-judged to be eligible for such.
 - c. Condition of vehicles will be judged with respect to age.
 - d. Vehicles will be placed in the order listed above.
 - e. Apparatus not in service will not be judged, except for antique apparatus.
 - f. The Executive Committee will designate antique apparatus.
 - g. Apparatus shall have been in service for one year prior to the parade to be eligible for a trophy.



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- e. Musical Units will be judged as follows
 - a. Marching in step
 - b. Straightness of lines, ranks, and intervals
 - c. Overall conduct
 - d. General appearance and neatness
 - e. Showmanship
 - f. Talking, waving, smoking, or gum chewing will not be permitted.
- f. Drum Captain will be judged as follows:
 - a. Position of drum
 - b. Position of sticks
 - c. Execution of beats
 - d. Not playing together
 - e. Sections not balanced.
 - f. Dropped equipment
- g. Bugling or brass sections will be judged as follows:
 - a. Position of instruments when playing and at rest.
 - b. Movements synchronized.
 - c. Attacks and released together.
 - d. Intonation.
 - e. Faking and uncertainty of music.
 - f. Sections not in balance.
 - g. Dropped equipment.
- h. Drum Majors and Color Guards will be judged as follows:
 - a. Marching in step.
 - b. Straightness of lines and ranks.
 - c. Overall conduct.
 - d. General appearance and neatness.
 - e. Talking, waving, smoking, or chewing of gum will not be permitted.
 - f. Presentation of colors.
 - g. Major's salute.
 - h. Showmanship
- i. Floats will be judged as follows:
 - a. Originality
 - b. Fire Prevention Theme.
 - c. Appearance.
 - d. Workmanship.



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5. Miscellaneous Provisions

- a. Competition for overall trophy shall be decided by the combination of scores given for company, color guard, apparatus, and music.
- b. To compete for parade prizes, companies must have the required number of personnel in line of march to be eligible for the stated prize.
- c. Count of personnel shall include those marching, color guard, men of apparatus, and any fire police participating in traffic control at the parade.
It shall be the participating company's responsibility to inform the parade committee of any Fire Police working the parade.
- d. Two (2) persons will be given credit for each apparatus. They shall be the driver and one (1) person sitting next to the driver.
- e. In the event a tiller man is needed, they shall also be counted in the line of march.
- f. Any other personnel who are unable to march (due to health reasons) other than two (2) men on each apparatus must ride in a fire department van or specially designated vehicle.
- g. The Parade Committee is to be informed of the above so that these members may be counted in the line of march.
- h. If any diversions of the rules, such as apparatus breaking down, personnel injured, etc., should occur, a written note shall be handed to the Parade Chairman immediately following the parade.
- i. Units' arriving after the parade has started or departments failing to pre-register shall fall at the end of the parade. This will also include demerits for failure to submit the forms on the required due date.
- j. It shall be the responsibility of any fire department participating with a band to provide refreshments for the band and its members. The host company may provide some refreshments after the parade but these should not be relied on as the only refreshments for the band members.
- k. Any animal units shall appear at the end of the parade unless they provide for the immediate clean up of waste. Failure to clean up waste will result in disqualification.



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- I. In the event the host company or any stand by units should have to respond to an emergency while the parade is in progress, all units shall move over to the right side of the roadway, granting right of way to the responding units.
- m. Each fire department attending the parade shall be limited to no more than three (3) apparatus in line of march, exclusive of the following vehicles:
 - a. Chief or Command Vehicles
 - b. Vans
 - c. Ambulances
 - d. Antiques
 - e. Convention Committee Vehicles
- n. The three (3) pieces of apparatus can be of any combinations
 - a. Engines
 - b. Rescues
 - c. Rescue-Pumpers
 - d. Tankers
 - e. Ladders
 - f. Aerial Platforms
 - g. Squirts