

FIREMAN'S PARADE RULES AND REGULATIONS
of the
HUDSON VALLEY VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION

GENERAL

1. The Judges will be instructed to judge the parade over its entire length, from the start line to the finish line, except no judging shall be in the immediate area where the men from the Firemen's Home are viewing the parade, and the Judges should avoid judging on hills and corners when possible.
2. To compete for awards, Fire Units must have eight (8) or more members in the line of march. Auxiliary Units must have 5 members to compete for awards and must march as a separate unit.
3. Competing Fire Units will be judged on four components: Color Guard, Uniform, Marching and Apparatus. Units may compete without apparatus without penalty. Auxiliary units are judged on two components, marching and uniform.
4. Apparatus will be judged separately and scored separately, and trophies for apparatus will be assigned separately. No more than three (3) nor less than two (2) members of a parading Fire Unit shall ride in each apparatus (driver and one or two others). Two members must ride in the front seat. All personnel riding on any apparatus be seated in a seat. Any member riding in what is considered an unsafe position as determined by the parade Judges shall cause that Fire Unit to be disqualified.
5. 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.
6. Fire apparatus is not required to be eligible for trophies. 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. Any vehicles displaying lights not in compliance with New York State Vehicle & Traffic Regulations will be subject to demerits. Tip lights and system operational lights are allowed and not considered response lights
7. Hose beds on all apparatus shall be exposed so Judges can determine cleanliness and neatness of hose pack and associated equipment. Judges will not open compartments, open doors or otherwise touch apparatus while in the line of march.
8. 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.
9. 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. The carrying of intoxicants shall result in disqualification.
10. All personnel riding in vehicles shall be wearing the proper seat restraints if so equipped.

This includes private vehicles being used in the parade. Paraders not wearing seat restraints shall be demerited per occurrence.

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Respect must be shown for the decorations in the City, Town or Village that is entertaining 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. The Convention Dress Parade of the HVVFA shall be judged in accordance with the rules herein set forth and judged accordingly using forms and demerits approved by the P&RC.
17. 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 HVVFA assume any liability for damage or loss suffered by any parade participant.

UNIFORM CLASSIFICATIONS

1. **BLOUSED:** Bloused uniforms of any style or color, including Regulation, adopted by a unit for any use including parades. The trousers shall be of uniform color, plain or striped, matching or contrasting the color of the blouse. The hat shall be of matching or contrasting color and be of either Eight Point or Box design, with the unit hat badge on the riser. Officers may wear white hats if they desire. Accessories, including shirts, ties, shoes, and socks must be uniform throughout, excepting Officers who may display insignia of office. Gloves are optional, but use must be uniform throughout. It is permissible for the Chief to wear a Regulation uniform when the unit is attired in non-Regulation Bloused Uniforms.
2. **DRESS:** Unbloused uniform of any style or color adopted by a unit for any use, including parades. Accessories must be uniform throughout, excepting Officers who may display an insignia of office. It is permissible for the Chief to wear a Regulation uniform when the unit is attired in Dress uniform.

3. **SPECIAL UNIFORMS:** When the members of a special squad, such as Fire Police or Rescue, 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.
4. It is Permissible to where an American Flag Patch on the Shoulder of any of the above mentioned uniform classifications.
5. 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.
6. It is permissible for a paid driver to where their work uniform while driving an apparatus in the parade. As a safety consideration, all drivers will be exempted from wearing gloves, but may wear them if they so desire.
7. In all uniform groups 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. 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 excepted. All hair (including facial hair) shall be neat in appearance.
8. 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.

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. Where a unit has forty (40) or less officers and men in line excluding Chief, Assistant Chiefs, Color Guard and fire unit band, they may march two (2) abreast. Where the number as specified above is more than forty (40), that unit must march three or more abreast. Units pulling parade carriages or antique apparatus are excepted from these requirements. No unit (firefighter or auxiliary) may march single file.
4. 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.

5. 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 may wear civilian clothes, but must wear a unit hat to be counted as members in line for the most in line award.
6. In Judging for the Most In Line Award, all members of the unit must pass over the start and finish lines to be counted by the Parade Judges.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. The Chief Officer in the line of march shall render a hand salute to the reviewing stand.

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 flagstuffs, 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 flags own right. When in a line with other flags the United States Flag(s) shall always be to the right.
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.

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 excepted.
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 be worn and be uniform in color.
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). They may wear civilian clothes but must wear some type of unit identification other than a badge (i.e. hat etc.) to be counted with the unit members for the Most In Line Award.
8. All rules that apply to Fire Units shall also apply to auxiliaries except where noted above.

SPECIAL MARDI GRAS PARADE RULES

Any unit that discharges water on spectators, on members of other units or of the marching unit itself, in any manner, will be disqualified from all awards in the Mardi Gras and the Dress Parade collectively. The use of Fireworks in any form is also forbidden,

All motorized vehicles and equipment must be operated by a qualified person and in a forward gear for the entire parade route or disqualification will result.

Marching units shall not throw candy or gifts to the spectators along the parade route. The handing or placing of candy and other gifts into the hands of children and spectators is allowed.

Disqualification from the Mardi Gras Parade will be at the discretion of the LCC.

PARADE UNIT FORMATION

The following chart shall be used by Fire and Auxiliary Units for establishing the correct order for paraders. 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.

PARADE UNIT FORMATION

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

PARADE AWARDS

Best Overall Firefighters		1 Award
Best Overall Ladies Auxiliary (Member)		1 Award
Best Appearing Fire Unit Bloused Uniform	8 to 19 in line	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Best Appearing Fire Unit Bloused Uniform	20 to 26 in line	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Best Appearing Fire Unit Bloused Uniform	27 to 38 in line	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Best Appearing Fire Unit Bloused Uniform	Over 38 in line	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Best Appearing Fire Unit Dress Uniform	8 to 13 in line	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Best Appearing Fire Unit Dress Uniform	14 to 18 in line	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Best Appearing Fire Unit Dress Uniform	19 to 25 in line	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Best Appearing Fire Unit Dress Uniform	Over 25 in line	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Best Appearing Auxiliary Unit	5 to 10 in line	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Best Appearing Auxiliary Unit	11 and over	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Non-Member Fire Co. or Dept.*		1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Non-Member Ladies Auxiliary*		1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Most In Line – Fire Unit		1 Award
Most In Line – Auxiliary Unit		1 Award
Fire Unit Traveling Furthest Distance		1 Award
Auxiliary Unit Traveling Furthest Distance		1 Award
Best Appearing Color Guard – Fire Service		1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Best Appearing Color Guard – Non-Fire Service*		1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd
Best Musical Unit*		1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd

The above awards are for the Dress Parade. With the exception of awards so marked for Non-Members, only members in good standing of the HVVFA or the Hudson Valley Volunteer Fireman's Association Ladies Auxiliary shall be eligible for awards. Additional awards may be made by the LCC. There are no mandatory awards for the Mardi Gras Parade; they are at the discretion of the LCC.

* Non- Member Eligible Awards