

**FIRING SQUAD RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. **TIME AND PLACE:** The contest will be held in the Department Convention city at a time and place selected by the Department Contest Supervisory Committee on the day of the convention immediately preceding the day of the parade. The contest will be held outdoors on a field 120 feet wide by 150 feet long with the 50 yard line being used as the center line. If only one Firing Squad shows up for competition, **to be paid FIRST PLACE money**, it must place with **a minimum score of 75 POINTS**. Otherwise, it will be paid third place money and will not receive the recognition or banner as champions.
2. **SUPERVISION:** Such competition shall be under the supervision of the Department Contest Supervisory Committee.

All rulings during the contest or during the preceding Meeting of Representatives or other meetings, made by the Supervisory Committee representative or representatives in charge of such contest or meetings, shall be subject to review and correction by said committee, and upon any such review and corrections said committee may take such other action as may to it seem proper.

No agreement between contestants as to the penalty for the violation of any rule or as to the waiver or variation of any rule or requirement shall have any force or effect without the consent of the Supervisory Committee.

3. **ENTRY BLANKS:** The Contest Supervisory Committee will mail copies of rules and regulations with entry blanks to the Commander of all Firing Squads on the mailing list in the Department Headquarters, A duplicate mailing will be made to the Post Commander.
4. **ENTRY:** Each competing firing squad shall not later than forty-five (45) days prior to the Department Convention forward by registered mail to the Department Adjutant of The American Legion, on a prescribed form, a list of its members with their membership card numbers for the current year, certified by the commander and adjutant of the organization which the firing squad represents. Entry blanks may be delivered in person at Department Headquarters and a receipt showing date and time of delivery will be issued. Entry blanks must be postmarked no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the opening of the Department Convention or unit will not be permitted to participate in the contest. Any firing squad may **up to fifteen (15) days prior to the opening of the Department Convention** make additions to or deletions from the roster submitted on the entry blank

filed 45 days prior to the opening of the Department Convention and shall be certified by the Commander and Adjutant of such organization as aforesaid. No prize will be awarded any firing squad until its eligibility has been approved by the Department Adjutant.

5. **ELIGIBILITY:** Only units composed of bonafide members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion (over 21 years of age) with a membership card for the current year, shall be permitted to compete. All members must have their Legion cards on their person and supply their signature at pre-inspection time, at the discretion of the Supervisory Committeeman. If uniform makes this impossible, the Drill Sergeant may have the cards. Each such unit must represent a Ritual Team, Voiture, District, County, City Council or Post organization of The American Legion. No member shall compete with more than one such unit

Such contest shall be open to all units composed of not less than six (6) riflemen and one (1) commander officer. Use of one bugler, one drummer, or both and a color guard is optional.

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6. **PARADE:** All competing personnel of each organization entering such contest must participate in the convention parade AND WEAR THE UNIFORMS IN WHICH THEY COMPETED.
7. **MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES:** At a time prior to the contest and at a place both to be designated by the Supervisory Committee, one representative of each competing unit shall meet with the representatives of that committee to receive instructions and transact any business which may properly come before such meeting. Each firing squad shall be represented BY A MEMBER OF THE UNIT OF THE SPONSORING POST at the drawing for position in the contest. If unable to appear, it may delegate the authority IN WRITING to a member of the Department Contest Supervisory Committee in a registered letter or telegram. Failure is cause for a penalty to be assessed.
8. **JUDGES:** Five judges, one of whom shall be an inspection judge, and a timekeeper shall be selected by the Contest Supervisory Committee.
9. **POINTS:** Firing Squads will be judged on the following points:
  1. Inspection .....A PENALTY CAPTION
  2. Dignity and Military Bearing ..... 20%
  3. Marching and Maneuvering ..... 40%
  4. Manual of Arms ..... 10%

5. Firing of Volley .....	10%
6. General Effect .....	<u>20%</u>
Total .....	100%

10. **CADENCE:** Cadence shall be optional with each unit.

11. **UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT:** The style and color of uniforms shall be optional with each unit. Required equipment: eight rifles. Optional equipment for the carrying or use of which no extra credit shall be given -- all or any of the following: colors, other arms, one bugle and/or drum. Judges shall penalize for improperly carrying or using optional equipment. Bugler and drummer shall be judged on the proficiency of their playing. Bugling shall be limited to standard bugle calls.

12. **CONDUCT OF UNITS:**

- (a) Each unit shall be on the field not less than five (5) minutes nor more than ten (10) minutes. A warning signal will be given at the expiration of nine (9) minutes.
- (b) Each unit shall enter the field over the starting line and shall leave the field over the finish line at the opposite end. The saluting point shall be the center of that sideline of the field which is to the right of the starting line.
- (c) Each unit must execute in any order the following maneuvers: (1) March past the saluting point and salute; (2) the firing of a salute of three volleys, each volley must be executed by all riflemen (except color guard); (3) demonstration of the manual of arms.
- (d) For safety: No unit with bolt action rifles shall load or fire within twenty feet of any boundary line. Loading shall be by one cartridge at a time for each volley. No unit with Semi-Automatic rifles shall insert the clips until after field inspection or fire within twenty feet of any boundary line. Rifles will be checked by the inspection officer and by another assigned official after crossing the finish line. All bolts shall be open and all clips removed at these inspections.
- (e) A unit may execute any other appropriate maneuvers. A simulated graveside or burial ceremony may be used without speaking parts..
- (f) Timing and judging will start for a unit with the first step of a member of the unit proper. Timing and judging will cease when the last man of the unit proper crosses the finish line.

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- (g) Commanding officers, bugler or drummer are not considered a part of the "unit proper" under Rule 12.
- (h) Following inspection, the unit shall not break ranks, prior to competing.

(i) Each unit shall be subject to the rulings of the Contest Supervisory Committee with respect to entry on, exit from, and conduct on the field, and in the immediate area.

**13. PENALTIES:**

(a) A unit violating any time requirement shall be penalized one point for each thirty (30) seconds, or fraction thereof over a maximum, or under a minimum requirement.

(b) A unit violating any requirement of Rule 5 or Rule 12 (d) shall be disqualified, and its position and standing in the contest shall be forfeited.

(c) The penalty for being late on the "ready line" to make final preparations for inspection shall be one-half (J) point up to the first five (5) minutes and one-half (.) point for each additional five minutes or portion thereof late. Failure of any unit to report prior to the conclusion of the contest shall disqualify the unit.

(d) Once a unit is announced over the public address system, the unit must start in 60 second or less or a one-point penalty will be assessed.

(e) A unit violating any rule, or part of a rule, for which no specific penalty is provided, shall be penalized for each such violation, not less than one point nor more than disqualification, in the discretion of the Supervisory Committee.

(f) Any infraction of flag etiquette shall be penalized 2 points for each offense. The authority adopted for flag etiquette is "AMERICAN LEGION COMPETITIVE FLAG CODE, adopted by the National Contest Supervisory Committee October 3-4, 1965. THE AMERICAN LEGION FLAG MUST BE KEPT WITH NATIONAL COLORS OR IN A RANK BY ITSELF.

(g) Any unit violating Rule 7 will be assessed a two-point penalty.

(h) For any display of unsportsman-like conduct on the field, there shall be a penalty of a minimum of two (2) points up to and including disqualification.

**14. PROTESTS:** Any protest regarding these contests shall be filed in the office of the Department Adjutant at the established headquarters of the department organization in the convention city not later than 5 P.M. of the day following the contest, by which hour copies of the protest must have been given any other unit involved or affected. The protesting unit must be represented by a proper officer at the meeting of said committee at 10:00

A.M. of the day following the convention parade, at said established headquarters.

15. **PRIZES:** No prize shall be deemed won or awarded until confirmed by the Contest Supervisory Committee.

(a) Cash prizes, appropriated from the Department Music and Drill Fund, will be awarded and all competing Firing Squads shall participate in the prize fund.

(b) The winner of first place will be awarded a plaque representing the OWEN J.

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CLEARY TROPHY, title to which shall remain in THE AMERICAN LEGION, Department of Michigan. They shall be known as the Department of Michigan Championship Firing Squad until the following Department Convention.

(c) The winner of first place shall also be awarded the championship flag. Permanent title to championship flag shall remain in The American Legion, Department of Michigan, and flag will be awarded from year to year. Flag must be turned in to the Department Contest Supervisory Committee \*FIFTEEN (15) DAYS BEFORE THE COMPETITION for presentation to winner at the close of the contest. FIRING SQUADS AND SPONSORS WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONDITION OF THE FLAG.

16. **REGISTRATION FOR DEPARTMENT CONVENTION:** All units will pay a minimum registration fee of \$15.00 if they have housing and proper insurance. Any unit that desires insurance or housing shall pay registration fee of \$2.00 per head. Any person who is a delegate will pay the regular delegate fee. If any unit fails to register and is not already covered by insurance, they will not be allowed to share in the Music and Drill Fund.