

JUNIOR COLOR GUARD 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. The contest will be held outdoors on a field 40 feet wide by 60 feet long with the 50 yard line being used as the center line.

If only one Junior Color Guard shows up to compete, to be paid first place money it must place at least with the minimum score of 70 points. Otherwise, it will receive third place money and will not receive the recognition or banner as champions.

2. **SUPERVISION:** Such competition shall be under the supervision of the Contest Supervisory Committee.

All rulings during the contests or during the preceding representatives or other meetings, made by the Contest Supervisory Committee representative or representatives in charge of such contest or meetings, shall be subject to review and correction by said committee, and upon such review and correction said committee may take such other action as it may deem 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 Contest Supervisory Committees consent.

3. **ENTRY BLANKS:** The Contest Supervisory Committee will mail copies of these rules and regulations, with entry blanks, to the Commander of all color guards on the mailing list in Department Headquarters. A duplicate mailing will be made to the Post Commander.

4. **ENTRY:** Each competing color guard 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 the 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 color guard 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 the unit will not be permitted to participate in the contest.

Any color guard, 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. Such changes must be postmarked no later than fifteen (15) days before 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 color guard until its eligibility has been approved by the Department Adjutant.

5. **ELIGIBILITY:** Only Junior Color Guards composed of (a) bona fide members of the Sons of The American Legion in good standing with a membership card for the current year and under twenty-one (21) years of age as of September 1st, or (b) boys and/or girls under twenty-one (21) years of age as of September 1st, which are sponsored by a Post or Posts, Squadron, County, District, or City Council of The American Legion, shall be permitted to compete.

A Junior Color Guard is one supervised by an American Legion Post or Posts, County, District or City Council organization, The American Legion organization having assumed responsibility for and control over the personnel, the training and equipping of Junior Color Guard for such a period of time as to evidence the permanency of the relation between The American Legion organization and the units: That these units must be made up of at least 80% residents of the State of Michigan under the age of twenty-one (21) years of age; That they should hold all regular practice sessions in the State of Michigan within fifty (50) miles of their Post Home and be known locally as a Michigan American Legion unit. The American Legion organization that has such a unit will send in to the Department Headquarters, at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Department Convention, an affidavit to the extent of what they have done to have a Junior unit. The affidavit must be signed by at least three (3) officers of The American Legion organization that has such a unit. This will enable the Department Contest Supervisory Committee to rule on the qualifications of eligibility of the Junior units.

No person may compete with more than one Color Guard and no Squadron or sponsoring organization shall enter more than one Junior Color Guard in Department competition.

Such contest shall be open to all units composed of not less than FOUR (4) nor more than TWENTY-ONE (21) members, including Commanding Officer, Buglers and/or Drummers, NOT TO EXCEED A TOTAL OF FOUR.

THE USE OF RECORDED MUSIC IS OPTIONAL:

6. **PARADE:** All competing personnel of each organization entering such contest must participate in convention parade and wear the uniforms in which they competed.

SECOND UNIFORMS FOR BAD WEATHER WILL CONSIST OF TROUSERS OF NEAR COLOR, SHOES (NO SANDALS), SHAKO OR CAPS ALL THE SAME AND JACKETS. INSPECTION WILL BE MADE AT THE START OF THE PARADE BY A MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT CONTEST SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE. ANY INFRACTION OF THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF PARADE MONEY.

7. **MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES:** At a time prior to the contest and at a place, both to be designated by the Contest Supervisory Committee, one representative of each competing unit shall meet with the representative of that committee to receive instructions

and transact any business which may properly come before such meeting. Each unit shall be represented BY A MEMBER OF THE UNIT OR OF THE SPONSORING POST at the drawing for position in the contest. If unable to appear, it may delegate IN WRITING the authority to a member of the DCSC in a registered letter or by telegram. Failure is cause for a penalty to be assessed. No judges are to be in attendance at this meeting.

8. JUDGES: Seven judges shall be provided: One Chief Judge, two General Effect Judges, two Marching and Maneuvering Judges, one Penalty Judge and one Inspection Judge shall be provided by the Contest Supervisory Committee.

9. POINTS: Awards will be made on the following points:

General Effect:

Performance Effectiveness	10
Repertoire & Showmanship Effectiveness	20
Requirements Effectiveness.	10
Effective Use of American Flag Section	10

Marching & Maneuvering:

Equipment	25
Execution	25
TOTAL	100
Inspection	A PENALTY CAPTION

10. UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT:

The style and color of uniform will be optional with each unit provided they are within the dignity and propriety required when carrying the National Colors. Head gear is required on the National Color bearer.

Required authorized equipment will consist of National Colors* and at least one weapon and two other flags. Additional authorized equipment, flags, rifles, sidearms, sabers and swords may be carried. These weapons can be simulated.

- DEFINITION - The Institute of Heraldry, Washington, D.C.. has specified in Title 4 of the U.S. Flag Code, that the 50-Star American Flag is the Flag our Country (U.S. Colors); therefore, all others shall be treated as banners. All banners and flags shall be dipped at a reviewing stand except the 50-Star Flag of our Country.

Authorized equipment and/or uniform may be modified by the addition of visual item.

Use of National Color staff head finial piece, as defined by flag code, is mandatory. If a directional piece is used, it will be judged on the direction of the bearer, and not the direction of the staff head.

All other staff beads on other fags, when used, are optional

Minimum size of U.S. Colors is 3' x 5'. No Flag shall be Larger in size than the U.S. Colors.

Rifles are defined as weapons, which are hand operated and designed to be fired primarily from the shoulder. The surface of the rifle must have bore lands and grooves to impart rotary motion to the projectile, which conform to the original design of military rifles, past or present. Sights, stocks, barrels, trigger and trigger housing are optional. Bolts or simulated bolts are required.

Sidearms are defined as weapons, which are hand held and fired by means of a primer, percussion cap, cartridge enclosed igniter or simulated weapons which conform in outward appearance to the foregoing.

Sabres (swords) are defined as weapons which are designed to be hand held for cutting, thrusting or slashing an enemy, with either a curved (sabre) blade or straight (sword) blade which may be constructed of any material and must have a hand guard.

11. CONDUCT OF THE COLOR GUARD:

- (a) Each unit shall be on the floor not less than five minutes nor more than seven minutes. A warning signal will be given at the expiration of five minutes. Execution judging will cease after the five minute warning. General Effect judging will continue until the unit erases the finish line.
- (b) Each Color Guard shall enter the floor over the starting line, to the left of the Saluting Point, and exit over the finish line at the opposite end of the field, to the right of the Saluting Point. After timing has commenced, there will be no penalty for marking time on the starting lines. The saluting point shall be the center of that sideline of the floor which is to the right of the traditional starting line. The toe of colors must be with dignity and propriety.
- (c) Each unit must execute in front of the saluting point in any order, the three following maneuvers:
 - 1. March past the saluting point at a company front and salute while marching. (The placement of the Commanding Officer or Officers shall be at the discretion of the unit)
 - 2 Present the Colors
 - 3. Post and retrieve all participating colors and standards. All salutes to be rendered in accordance with the current FM 22-5 in this contest. Colors and standards shall remain posted not more than sixty seconds. Timing will start with the posting of the first flag and end with the retrieval of the last flag if flags are not posted and retrieved simultaneously. The U.S. Colors are to be posted to the right of the saluting point (to the right of the official receiving the salute). The Colors shall be properly guarded during maneuvers if the guard is within 3 paces of the Colors. Colors must be guarded at all times except while posted.
- (d) A unit may execute any other appropriate maneuvers. No ammo may be used.
- (e) Part or all of the unit may position themselves with the boundary lines prior to starting. Time and judging will start for a unit with the first step of a member of the unit proper, excluding the Commanding Officer. Timing and judging will cease when the last member of the unit proper crosses the finish line, including the Commanding Officer.

- (f) Commanding Officer, Bugler and/or Drummer shall be judged as a part of the unit proper.
- (g) Following inspection, the unit w-21 remain available to proceed to the starting line for competition.
- (h) Each Color Guard shall be subject to the rulings of the N.C.C. with respect to entry on, exit from, conduct on the field, and in the immediate arena
- (i) All boundary lines shall be strictly enforced (Starting Line, Side Lines and Finish Lines).
- (j) The Flag of the Legion, Auxiliary or SAL sponsor shall be accorded proper respect at all times.
- (k) General Effect judges will use cassettes while judging.
- (l) Cadence shall be optional with each unit.
- (m) The current competitive flag code, as adopted by the National American Legion, will be the rules for proper use in all contests not covered herein. A Bugler and/or Drummer will be judged on the proficiency of the playing or drumming under the General Effect caption. Bugling shall be limited to standard bugle calls.

12. PENALTIES:

- (a) A unit violating any time requirement shall be penalized two tenths (0.2) point for each 6 seconds, or fraction thereof, over a maximum, or under a minimum requirement.
- (b) A unit violating any requirement of Rule 5 will be disqualified, and its position and standing in the contest will be forfeited.
- (c) The failure of any unit to report at the time set for it to report will be penalized one-half point. For each 15 minutes or part thereof and up to the conclusion of the contest another one-half point will be assessed.
- (d) Once a unit reports to the starting official that the unit is ready, the unit must start in 60 seconds or less, or be assessed a one-point penalty.
- (e) A unit violating any rule, or part of a rule, for which no specific penalty is provided, shall be penalized for each violation, not less than one point nor more than disqualification, in the discretion of the Contest Advisory Committee.
- (f) Any infraction of flag etiquette shall be penalized one point for each offense. The authority adopted for flag etiquette is "American Legion Competitive Flag Code," adopted by the NCSC, (October 34, 1915T)
- (g) Violation of Rule 6 will result in disqualification for this year and the ensuing year.
- (h) Any unit violating Rule 7 will be assessed a two-point penalty.
- (i) Any unit violating Rule 11, Section (i) will be assessed a one point penalty for each infraction.
- (j) A one tenth (0.1) point penalty shall be assessed for each piece of dropped equipment or uniform. Equipment or uniform items may be deliberately grounded without penalty.
- (k) A one point penalty shall be assessed for the retrieval by any member of each piece of dropped equipment or uniform. Equipment obviously grounded deliberately may be retrieved by any member of the competing unit without penalty.

13. **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 5:00 p.m., of the day following the contest, by which hour copies of the protest must have been given any other units 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.

Audio-visual recording equipment may be allowed in the area of competition at the discretion of the Chief Judge of Contests, however, no such evidence will be admissible at a protest meeting.

14. **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 Color Guards shall participate in the prize fund.

(b) The winner of first place will be awarded a plaque and be known as the Department of Michigan Championship Junior Color Guard until the following Department Convention contest.

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

15. **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 a registration fee of \$2.00 per head. Any person who is a delegate will pay the regular delegate fee and would not be subject to pay an additional two dollars. 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.