



*30 YEARS OF HISTORY*

*RELIVE THE PAST*

*CELEBRATE THE PRESENT*

# **Drum Corps United Kingdom**

*Part of Marching & Performing Arts UK  
Registered Charity 328541*

***RULES AND REGULATIONS  
2009***

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### **Eligibility**

- a) All competing Corps at the British Drum Corps Championships must be members of MPA:UK and DCUK. The Board will allow non DCUK member Corps to compete during the year but will not allow non members to compete at DCUK Finals.
- b) Exhibitions performances will be encouraged by the DCUK Board throughout the year including DCUK finals.
- c) Persons of any age will be allowed to compete in the Open Class and the A Class.
- d) The Junior Class is open to new/inexperienced units or Cadet Corps with the emphasis on performance and enjoyment rather than competition.

### **The Contest Site**

- a) The contest field shall be 100 yards (91.44m) wide and 48 metres long. Markers shall be placed along the front and back lines at 5 yard intervals, 50 – 0 each side from the centre line.
- b) Each yard line will be marked across its full depth. Hash Marks will be marked at 18.3 metres and 30.5 metres on each yard line.
- c) An area known as the staging area shall be provided in front of the front sideline (from 0 – 0 yard) 3 metres deep.
- d) No performer may step outside the contest field during performance with the exception of the Drum Majors.

## Judging and Scoring

As part of the Drum Corps Europe (DCE) Certified Partnership all DCUK shows will be judged by accredited DCE judges and all scores will count towards seeding for the DCUK and DCE Championship Events.

The elements to be judged in Open Class/A Class are: Field Brass, Field Percussion, Field Visual, Colour Guard, Ensemble Music, Ensemble Visual, Visual Effect, Music Effect and Timing. The Junior Class will be judged on an adaptation of the DCE system determined by the Judges Liaison Officer.

### Overview Scoring System.

* Field Visual	10	
* Colour Guard	10	
* Ensemble Visual	10	
<b>Visual Score</b>		<b>30</b>
* Field Percussion	10	
* Field Brass	10	
* Ensemble Music	10	
<b>Music Score</b>		<b>30</b>
* Visual Effect	20	
* Music Effect	20	
<b>Effect Score</b>		<b>40</b>
<b>Overall Score</b>		<b>100</b>

### Awards

<b>High Brass:</b>	Determined by the score of the Field Brass caption. In the event of a tie, co-winners to be declared.
<b>High Percussion:</b>	Determined by the score of the Field Percussion caption. In the event of a tie, co-winners to be declared.
<b>High Guard:</b>	Determined by the score of the Colour Guard caption. In the event of a tie, co-winners to be declared.
<b>High Visual:</b>	Determined by the total score of the Field Visual and Ensemble Visual captions. In the event of a tie, co-winners to be declared.
<b>High Music:</b>	Determined by the total score of the Field Brass, Field Percussion and Ensemble Music captions. In the event of a tie, co-winners to be declared.
<b>High Effect:</b>	Determined by the total score of the Music Effect and the Visual Effect captions. In the event of a tie, co-winners to be declared.

In the event of a tie for the overall winners the Corps with the highest Effect Score will be declared winners. If the Effect Score is also a tie then co-winners will be declared.

Trophies for all captions will be awarded in all classes at DCUK Finals only.

A full explanation of the judging system and methods employed can be found in the "DCE Manual". Specific questions can be asked via the DCUK Judges Liaison Officer.

Judges comments will be supplied as WMA (MP3 on request) and will be available on show days approx. 15 minutes after each Corps has performed and also via website download approx. 24 hours after the contest – full details available on request.

## **Judges Complaint Procedure.**

- 1) If there is an observation or complaint regarding a Judge then this should be referred to the DCUK Judges Liaison Officer who then will refer it to the DCE Adjudication Manager
- 2) If there is an observation or complaint specifically about the DCUK Judges Liaison Officer then this should be referred to The Chairman of MPA:UK who will then refer it to DCE Adjudication Manager.
- 3) If there is an observation or complaint specifically about the DCE Adjudication manager then it should be referred to the DCUK Judges Liaison Officer who will then refer it to DCE Judges Education Officer and the DCE Board.

## **Equipment**

### Percussion

All acoustic percussion membrane and keyboard instruments are legal. Percussion keyboard instruments may use resonators (maximum power 12 volt battery). Electronic amplification of Pit equipment is allowed as per the Drum Corps Europe guidelines (*please note that DCUK cannot guarantee that mains electric power will be available at each venue*).

### Wind

All wind instruments are considered legal. Instruments may be pitched in any key. The use of mutes is permissible for any brass instrument.

### Scenery

**This is permitted provided that each item is carried into position and removed by no more than four people** and is not dragged or wheeled on the surface of the competition field. If altered or rebuilt at any time within the performance it must be carried and not dragged or wheeled.

### Prohibited Items.

No pyrotechnics, discharge of arm, pressurised canisters, flammable liquids and/or hazardous materials are permitted on or around the competition field.

### National Colours

If the National Colours of any nation are carried or appear on the contest field they must be treated with all due respect.

## **Competition Timings**

- a) Open/A Class Corps shall compete for not less than 8 minutes nor more than 13 minutes. No unit members shall leave the field prior to 8 minutes. All Corps scheduled to compete at the DCE Championships need to be aware that the minimum performance time at this event is 10 minutes.
- b) Junior Class Corps shall perform for a time period that is suitable to their standard, however this time should not exceed 7 minutes.
- c) The maximum total time on the field is 18 minutes (counting from the first performer entering the field and/or the first note of a warm up piece until the last performer leaving the field). The maximum time on the field does not include the period that judges need to prepare for the performance.
- d) The starting procedure for a performance is the Drum Major indicating clearly that the Corps is ready after the Announcer has asked if the Corps is ready. Timing for the performance will start after the either the first note or step from the members.
- e) Corps must report to the arena entry at least 5 minutes before their performance time.

## **Penalties.**

It is expected that before penalties are awarded that the Contest Referee will open discussions with the Corps Director regarding the situation(s) that has arose. If both parties can resolve any problems then this is the desired outcome on all occasions. If penalties are to be issued then these will be done by the Contest Referee only in consultation with the DCUK Board.

### **Guidelines for Penalties.**

- i) 1.0 point for use of each piece of illegal equipment
- ii) 0.1 point per 5 seconds for violating competition times
- iii) 0.1 point per minute for failure to report at the arena entry at the given time
- iv) 0.1 point per offence (and/or per person) for violating the field entry and/or field exit rules, with a maximum of 1.0 point

A Corps violating any rule, or part of a rule, for which no specific penalty is herein provided, may be penalised, for each such violation, not less than 0.1 point nor more than disqualification, at the discretion of the Contest Director.

Any Corps or Corps Member violating the DCUK Code of Conduct may be penalised by the Contest Referee and referred to the DCUK Board for further consideration.

## **Registrations**

- a) Corps wishing to be members of DCUK should register after 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Registrations can only be made via the on-form form available on the DCUK website (<http://www.dcuk.org.uk>) which must be completed in full - including details of which shows your Corps will be attending.
- b) Payment details including costs & timescales will available to download from the DCUK website.
- c) Registration should be completed by 5<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Membership by any Corps applying after this date cannot be guaranteed.
- d) Members who have marched for one corps in 2009 will not be permitted to march with a different organisation within DCUK in the same year.
- e) Corps will be allowed a maximum of 10 staff "passes" at each show

## **Withholding of Registration.**

This WOR [Withholding of Registration] is to safeguard Drum Corps from the members that leave a trail of debt and/or unreturned equipment behind them. It is also to protect all parties when a situation of a very severe nature develops between an individual and a DCUK member corps.

Whilst DCUK does not issue formal Passes for Corps members - if monies or equipment are outstanding (and no agreement can be reached between the parties for repayment or collection) then a DCUK registered organisation can request that a DCUK show day "pass/wristband" be withheld from a member of another unit until such time as the matter is settled.

For a pass/wristband to be considered to be withheld then proof of the debt or outstanding equipment must be provided to DCUK together with details of what action has already been taken to recover the monies/items.

Please be aware that it is unlikely that a Pass will be withheld if the person has been allowed to complete the season (i.e. perform at the British Championships event) and the outstanding monies (and possibly equipment if these have been outstanding for a period of time) relate to amounts owed during the season rather than just at the very end.

The WOR is not designed to be a debt collection service and should only be used as a last resort if an agreeable settlement can not be reached.

If there is a situation of a very serious nature then it is expected that the DCUK board will be informed at the earliest opportunity and presented with the whole true picture. From this a prompt decision will be desired for the best of all parties.