



Drum Corps United Kingdom

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

RULES AND REGULATIONS

2011

June 2011

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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/Feeder Corps of existing Open Class/A Class Corps with the emphasis on performance and enjoyment rather than competition.

The Contest Site

- a) The contest field shall be 91.44 meters wide and 48.8 meters long, with the outside lines marked with visual markers at each end of the yard lines on 50 yard, 45 yard, 40 yard, 35 yard, 30 yard, 25 yard, 20 yard, 15 yard, 10 yard, 5 yard and 0 yard.
- b) The field width has a length of 100 yards. There will be hash marks, marked with visual markers at 18.3 and 30.5 meters at the sidelines of the field.
- c) An area known as the staging area (pit) shall be provided in front of the front sideline (from 0 to 0 yard) 4.5 meters deep. Any equipment may be placed or thrown into this area immediately prior to or during a corps' performance. Only performers of the Corps (not staff) may move or place equipment in this area once the performance begins. Any performer may move into the pit area from the field of competition or onto the field of competition from the pit area at any time during the corps' performance.
- d) No performer may step outside the contest field during the performance, with an exception for the drum major. Boundary violations involving first aid cases do not constitute leaving.

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 (or by person/persons approved by the DCUK Board).

Overview Scoring System.

* Field Visual	10	
* Colour Guard	10	
* Ensemble Visual	10	
Visual Score		30
* Field Percussion	10	
* Field Music	10	
* Ensemble Music	10	
Music Score		30
* Visual Effect	20	
* Music Effect	20	
Effect Score		40
Overall Score	100	

Awards

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

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.

Presentations 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 (or by person/persons approved by the DCUK Board).

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. 24/48 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 (or by person/persons approved by the DCUK Board) 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 (or by person/persons approved by the DCUK Board) who will then refer it to DCE Judges Education Officer and the DCE Board.

Equipment

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.

Amplification

The operator of the amplification equipment, if any, must be placed inside the sidelines of the competition arena.

It is unlikely that DCUK will provide mains electricity at any venues but if it is made available, the contest organiser will supply one power point in front of the 50 yard line and cannot be held responsible for any disruption of the electricity supply. The contest organiser and/or DCUK can disallow the use of electrical equipment at any time, e.g. if he expects that there are or will be safety issues.

If there is no electricity available, corps will have to supply their own electricity (batteries, generator, etc.). The sound of a generator must not be heard on the field or in the stand. Corps will be advised in advance IF electricity is scheduled to be made available at each venue.

The corps is responsible for all equipment used and the safe use of it. The Corps must have all licenses where needed.

Amplification cont/...

All sound checks and adjustments by corps staff must be made prior to the corps performance. Any adjustments made to the sound system must be made by a performing member once the performance has started.

DCUK (in conjunction with DCE) reserve the right to amend any of these guidelines without notice - especially in the interest of safety.

Neither the contest organiser nor any other organisation connected with the contest accepts responsibility in any way for the use of any electricity supply which might be provided. The use of any electricity whether supplied by the contest or by the competing unit will be at the sole risk of the individual corps.

All amplification equipment will be the responsibility of the relevant Corps, once the performance has commenced only performing members may handle the equipment including any generators. Failure of amplification equipment will be the responsibility of the Corps and re runs will not be allowed. With regards to this issue - Judges are advised to assess what they see and hear, not what may be there. If it is obvious there is a problem during a performance a judge may comment under "environmental conditions" section.

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 7 minutes nor more than 13 minutes. No unit members shall leave the field prior to 7 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 10 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 from the advertised registration date in January 2011. Registrations can only be made via the on-form form available on the DCUK website (<http://www.dcu.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 31st May 2011. Membership by any Corps applying after this date cannot be guaranteed.
- d) Members who have marched for one corps in 2011 will not be permitted to march with a different organisation within DCUK in the same year unless in exceptional circumstances (i.e. moved from one area to another) and have also been formally released by their previous Corps.
- e) Corps will be allowed a maximum of 10 staff "passes" at each show.

Withdrawal from Contests.

Corps have until the 31st May 2011 to advise which DCUK Contests they wish to attend.

Prior to this date Corps can withdraw from competing at a particular contest with no penalty.

From 1st June 2011 the penalty for withdrawing from a DCUK Contest will be a "fine" of double the entry charge for that contest and must be paid to DCUK before the Corps can compete again in 2011. 50% of this fine will be held by DCUK and 50% will transferred to the relevant Contest Organisor.

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.