



Drum Corps United Kingdom

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

RULES AND REGULATIONS 2024

1st May 2024

Contents

- 1) Eligibility
- 2) The Contest Site
- 3) Judging
- 4) Equipment
- 5) Competition Timings
- 6) Penalties
- 7) Registrations.
- 8) Withdrawal from Contests
- 9) Withholding of Registration
- 10) Use of Media
- 11) SoundSport & DrumLine Battle
- 12) Code of Conduct

1) Eligibility

- a) All competing Corps at the British Drum Corps Championships must be members of MPA:UK and DCUK. To be a member of DCUK Corps must also be a member of MPA:UK. The Board will allow non DCUK member Corps to compete during the year but will not allow non members to compete at DCUK Championships event unless they are based outside the UK AND are part of any DCUK approved partner network of Corps (i.e. DCN, IMBA, German Open, Rasteder Musiktage etc.). *Please note: only a DCUK member Corps can be crowned British Champion.*
- b) Exhibitions performances will be encouraged by the DCUK Board throughout the year including DCUK Championships event.
- 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. In addition, new and emerging corps may apply to the DCUK Board for consideration of eligibility for this class. *Please be aware that if a Junior Corps wishes to attend any Europe Championships then this event may have maximum age of 16 years old for Junior Class.*

2) The Contest Site

- a) The contest field shall be maximum 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. The markers can be moved/replaced during the period the Corps is setting up preparing to perform but must be placed back in their correct position within the Competition Timings (see 5). *N.B.: The contest field might be reduced depending on the size of the participating Corps but this size will be agreed between all parties in advance of the contests concerned.*
- 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 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 (inc. staging area) during the performance, with the exception for the drum major. Boundary violations involving first aid cases do not constitute leaving.

3) Judging and Scoring

All DCUK shows will be judged by accredited judges who are part of the Judges Association appointed and approved by the DCUK Board and all scores will count towards seeding for the DCUK and potentially any possible European Championship Events.

The elements to be judged in all classes are: Field Brass, Field Percussion, Field Visual, Colour Guard, Ensemble Music, Ensemble Visual, Visual Effect, Music Effect and Timing.

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 Guard:	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 Brass:	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 within each class at Championships 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. At normal season shows if a tie occurs then co-winners will be declared and no tie procedure will be used.

Presentations for all captions will be awarded for Open, A & Junior Class at the British Drum Corps Championships.

A full explanation of the judging system and methods employed can be found in the approved Judging Manual. Specific questions can be asked via the DCUK Judging Manager (or by person/persons approved by the DCUK Board).

Judges comments will be supplied via the on-line system, Competition Suite, and will be available on show days approx. 10/20 minutes after each Corps has performed—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 Judging Manager
- 2) If there is an observation or complaint specifically about the DCUK Judging Manager then this should be referred to The Chairman of MPA:UK who will then refer it to DCUK Board if appropriate

4) Equipment

Scenery / Moveable Equipment

All equipment, scenery and props must be carried into position and carried from the field. There is an exception for equipment, scenery or props that are equipped with big air tires that are sufficient to carry the weight of the equipment. This equipment may be rolled onto and from the field provided that the grass is not damaged in any way. In case of any damage the Corps will be held responsible and any claims regarding the damage will be forwarded to the Corps. Items used in the Pit Area must also use big air tyres otherwise they may need to be lifted and dependant on the venue all items might need to be lifted into the Pit Area rather than wheeled.

Prohibited Items.

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

Electronic Equipment

The operator of the electronic equipment (inc. amplification), if any, can be placed inside or outside 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.

Electronic Equipment cont/....

All sound checks and adjustments by corps staff must be made prior to the corps performance.

DCUK 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 electronic equipment will be the responsibility of the relevant Corps, once the performance has commenced only performing members may handle the equipment although any generator failures can be handled by Corps staff. Failure of electronic 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.

5) Competition Timings

- a) The maximum total time on the field is 18 minutes (12 minutes for Junior Class) counting from the first performer entering the field and/or the first note of a warm up piece until the last performer leaves the field. The maximum time on the field does not include the period that judges need to prepare for the performance following indication from the Drum Major, or other pre-notified person, that the Corps is ready to perform. *(For 2023 every effort will be made to increase this timing block to up to 30 minutes at all DCUK contests including Championships to allow Corps time to regroup after their performance and return to the stand to watch the next Corps at the event. Confirmation will be made prior to each event to advise actual timings).*
- b) All Corps will be expected to assemble at the designated entrance of the contest area no later than 10 minutes prior to their performance time.

6) Penalties.

It is expected that before penalties are awarded that the DCUK Contest Director/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 (under review)
- 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 DCUK appointed Contest Director/Referee.

Corps should also be mindful of health and safety issues at all times and may be required to adhere to requests by the DCUK Contest Director/Referee if deemed appropriate.

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

7) Registrations

- a) Corps wishing to be members of DCUK should register from the advertised registration date in May 2024. 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 on the DCUK website.
- c) Registration should be completed by 30th June 2024. Membership by any Corps applying after this date cannot be guaranteed.
- d) Corps will be allowed a maximum of 10 staff "passes" at each show.

8) Withdrawal from Contests.

Corps have until the 30th June 2024 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 July 2024 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 2024.

9) 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 a 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 that 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.

10) Use of Media (Photos/Videos)

DCUK reserve the right to photograph and record performances for use in DVD production, promotions (inc website and yearbook/programmes), Fan Network and other mediums as approved by the DCUK Board.

11) SoundSport® & DrumLine Battle™

SoundSport® & DrumLine Battle™ are programs of Drum Corps International and are used by DCUK under licence

SoundSport & DrumLine Battle events are open to non member organisations and maybe held as part of existing DCUK Contests or as standalone events in their own right.

SoundSport

SoundSport is designed to be local, low cost and entertaining for both the participants and the audience.

Teams can be alumni corps, small drum corps or even from colleges/schools - whatever you can dream up.

- There are no age restrictions
- All instruments are legal
- You start a team with as little as five members.
- Shows are 5-7 minutes in length with a focus on music and showmanship

SoundSport® Festival Class

- Removes scoring system, focuses instead on group participation in music-making activities
- Celebrates participation and musical diversity
- Engages all experience levels and types of musical ensembles

SoundSport® Medalist Class

- The flagship SoundSport standard-setting events
- Assists in development of fledgling competitive ensembles, musical circuits, and more
- Adjudication system focuses on pursuit and achievement of excellence in performance

SoundSport® Challenge Class

- Maintains the tenets of SoundSport (excellence in entertainment, showmanship and musical performance), adding adjudicated ranking and scoring in a competitive format
- Encourages continued development of advanced performers, ensembles and circuits

DrumLine Battle

Simply prepare a 1.5 to 2.0 minute marching percussion drum solo (battery only). Add some visuals, stunts and stick tricks and you're good to go!

It's that easy and it's a lot of fun. You can use material from your warm ups, summer show or something produced just for this event.

- Battles are staged head-to-head against another drumline.
- Each team will perform 2 x 1.5 to 2.0 minute solo facing the other team in their own 12 meter x 12 meter battle zone, separated by a 2 meter wide neutral zone.
- Up to 3 Judges will instantly determine the winning team, based on a combination of drumming skills, movement, visuals, stick tricks, stunts and overall showmanship

12) Code of Conduct

The Board of Drum Corps United Kingdom (DCUK) and the Trustees of Marching & Performing Arts United Kingdom (MPA:UK) are concerned with the standard of presentation of sanctioned shows and maintaining a healthy, friendly, competitive spirit between members at all levels. Members of all Corps and their supporters are subject to the following Code of Conduct. Breach of this Code could bring heavy penalties, such as disqualification, financial loss, suspension or even loss of membership of DCUK.

1. When participating in the Olympic Retreat and Award Ceremonies, you should show respect to all other units and not part-take in activities which could be deemed to bring your Corps, the Show Sponsor or DCUK/MPA:UK into disrepute!
2. Obscene language, gestures or other actions to display displeasure with the results of the Contest or any other reason will not be tolerated under any circumstances, either on or off the field.
3. Corps members should vocally warn a judge or member of the public of a possible collision or uncontrolled discard of equipment whilst competing to avoid injury.
4. Should DCUK run Critiques - those attending the critiques must be sure of their facts, listen to the recorded material provided by the judges beforehand, and remember judges are mere human beings. They will not discuss other Corps, nor will they allow the critique to be used as a court hearing. Judges are not there to discuss the results, but to improve your performance by offering their advice. It is for you to decide whether to adopt their suggestions. Judges welcome the opportunity for you to discuss your reasons for doing what you do. In the event of a critique being halted due to unprofessional conduct, the Judges Association will inform DCUK in writing of the facts which will be investigated and acted upon and they in turn may involve the DCUK Board or MPAUK Trustees if the need arises.
5. Drum Corps shows survive on money. The seating is for those spectators who have paid to see the show. Corps members are not entitled to a seat in the main stand unless a ticket has been purchased or provided. Please ensure that you do not need to enter the spectators' stand by obtaining items of food, money etc, from your parents before the show commences. Obviously a spectator will not be prepared to support our activity by coming to another show if Corps members interrupt viewing by passing in front whilst another Corps is performing.
6. As a marching member you are one of a cast of hundreds and to organise a show needs everyone to be aware of his/her role. At times it will be necessary for DCUK staff and contest staff to move your Corps from points A to B. Please co-operate without question in order that the show is a success.
7. Drum Corps is a relatively small activity in the United Kingdom and for it to grow and be respected it is necessary that the Board takes action to the benefit of the whole membership. We need to show the public that Drum Corps is something different - not just gimmicks, but a presentation of youth on parade with entertainment at the fore - all done in good taste to a professional standard. YOU are a major part of this building programme.

8. Competition is the lifeblood of the activity but it will only be of benefit when a healthy, friendly spirit of competition exists. Enjoyment is the key word - win or lose we must do without any form of aggravation. It only ruins the day and bitterness will develop which can only end in the Board taking a necessary course in disciplinary action. Friendliness has to exist between directors, staff, marching members and supporters of all Corps. We need to talk to each other and share this wonderful experience of Drum Corps. Remember, you should be able to accept defeat before gaining victory.
9. The conduct of anyone associated with a particular Corps (staff, member or supporter) is the responsibility of the Corps Director whose name is nominated when applying for membership. That person should ensure all are aware that any action, which could bring this activity in disrepute, could, as mentioned above, bring heavy penalties, such as disqualification, financial loss, suspension or even loss of membership of DCUK for themselves and/or the organisation they represent.