

Movement of Members Guidelines

Below are guidelines to be followed by corps members wishing to move to another corps and also guidelines for Corps Directors to follow when releasing a member.

1. Each member Corps of DCUK is required to register annually after the 1st January each and every member who intends to participate in competition in such Corps. Registration is to be made on the forms supplied by DCUK which must be completed in full and accompanied by the annual capitation fee.
2. All members registered with DCUK in 2004 for the Summer season will be regarded as being members of their individual Corps for the 2005 season, however, their names must still be registered using the appropriate form.
3. Corps may not approach members of other Corps in order to encourage them to leave their original Corps for another.

Change of Registration

4. Should a member wish to transfer from his/her original Corps he/she must obtain the written permission of his/her Corps. This will usually be over the signature of the Corps Director but individual corps organisations may differ in their management structure and the required permission must be granted by the competent authority in each Corps. *Members must obtain release from their 2004 corps prior to attending rehearsals / events with the corps they are intending to move to.* The individual may only consider themselves released after the DCUK has received written notification of their release from their 2004 Corps Director/personal in authority. Any member believing they have a legitimate reason to register with a different Corps may seek the approval of the Chairman of DCUK who may, if he feels a case exists, seek the approval for an exemption from a DCUK Appeals Committee.

Period of Effect of Continuous Registration

5. Individuals remain members of their Corps from year to year subject to confirmation by registration as described in (1) above.
6. Where an individual does not re-register with his/her Corps after 1st January 2005 he/she will be deemed a free agent and able to choose with which Corps to register *after* the 2005 British Drum Corps Championships. (The intention is that an individual not willing to meet his/her obligation to his/her original Corps should not march for one whole season).
7. Where an individual is re-registered after 1st January 2005 but does not take part in any DCUK activity with his/her Corps in 2005 summer

season, he/she may seek release after 2005 British Drum Corps Championships as if he/she had not re-registered.

8. An individual who has been released by his/her Corps or a DCUK appeals panel or who has satisfied the conditions of Rules 6 or 7 above may register with any Corps.
9. Registration of Instructors - Only people holding a valid DCUK yellow Instructor or Corps Director pass will be admitted to critique during the 2005 season and only people who have attended a previous training event for instructors will be issued with a DCUK instructors pass. Corps Directors should ensure that those instructors or other staff members who have not attended a DCUK Instructors training event are identified on the corps registration form in order that they may be individually invited to attend such training in 2005. Corps Directors should also have attended a Training Day to be admitted into critique. Dates for Instructor Training Days in 2005 are 23rd April and 3rd December.

Guidance for Corps Directors

1. In response to representations from member Corps, the Trustees of DCUK decided to introduce a form of continuous registration of individual marching members.
2. The scheme is set out in the paper "Registration of Competitors/Members" 1998. (Reproduced in this document in the current DCUK Rules and Regulations Booklet – Rules 10 & 11)
3. Corps are required to ensure that their members are made aware of the movement of members guidelines. Failure to inform members may lead to problems and may result in appeals.
4. Corps are prohibited to approach current members of other Corps.
5. Corps are advised to keep records of any requests for release and replies.
6. If you decided to release a member, ensure that a written release is provided which is approved by the competent authority in your Corps and inform the DCUK Office.
7. Corps are advised to give careful consideration to any request for release treating each request in its merits.
8. Where material circumstances have changed it is anticipated that permission to move Corps will be granted. However, each Corps must examine each case on its merits.

9. Where a release is refused the individual concerned should be advised of his/her right to appeal to DCUK. Appeals will only be considered if the above guidelines have been followed.
10. DCUK should be regarded as the court of last appeal and a dim view will be taken of Corps which refuse to release members who have good grounds (eg, movement of home address). However, where Corps act reasonably they are entitled to anticipate the support of DCUK.

Updated Amendments (2001)

At meetings of the DCUK Board of Trustees in July and October 2001 members discussed the need for clarification of the Movement of Members rules to try to reduce the number and intensity of disputes between member corps.

The following amendments have been made to the operation of the rule but nothing has changed about the spirit and intention of this rule which is:

"That members signing into membership with a corps should accept a commitment to that corps which should, wherever possible, be continuous. Where a member wishes to leave a corps they should discuss that wish with their corps director before making any approach to any other corps. Where those discussions fail the member may, in certain circumstances, have the right to appeal the decision not to release via the Chairman of DCUK."

The material changes to the operation of this rule are:

- 1. That a DCUK member corps directors approached by a member or members who are currently registered with another DCUK corps should immediately:**

a Inform the member that they cannot attend rehearsals or other corps functions (including social functions) until they have affected their release from their current corps either with the permission of their current corps director or by result of a DCUK Appeal. The corps director approached can explain the relevant procedures to the member but neither he nor his members or staff must be involved with the individual after that point until they are released

b Notify the DCUK office of the approach and the members name

- 2. The corps should have no formal or social contact with that member until they are released. Any such contact will render the member concerned ineligible to appeal to DCUK.**
- 3. Any corps director accepting a person into membership without their formal release will forego any later right of appeal on the part of that member and will not be able to register them to march in DCUK competition until one FULL competitive season has elapsed. (Please note that the definition of a FULL DCUK season shall be from the first to the last show of a scheduled season including finals. It is the intention that this will render members accepted midway through a season ineligible to march until the end of the following season.)**
- 4. Acceptance of an inquiring member attending any function of the potential receiving corps shall be classified as acceptance by them into membership and their right of appeal lost and their eligibility to march rendered as at 3 above.**