

**SULLIVAN COUNTY VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION
PARADE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Adopted 2011

CLASSIFICATIONS

To be eligible for any awards, your Department must be current on all dues owed to the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighter's Association.

Companies or departments shall be judged in two (2) classes:

- a) Standard or Regulation
- b) Dress Uniforms.

STANDARD OR REGULATION

Blue cloth (navy) either single or double breasted, with either open lapel or high collar, Fire Department regulation buttons, White or Blue Shirts, Black four in hand Ties, Black Sox, Black Shoes, Bell Top or eight Point hats, Hats to match uniforms. Mixing of uniforms will be subjected to Demerits. (EXAMPLE - High collar and open lapel worn in same company or department while marching, Bell top mixed with eight point hats in company or department, White shirts mixed with Blue in company or department).

PERMISSIBLE TO USE

White shirts may be worn by Officers and Blue shirts may be worn by members of the same company or department if the Officers are marching at the head of the company or department and not mingled in line with the rest of the members in line of march. Clergymen may march

with the company or department in civilian clothes. Chiefs in uniform not the same as the company or department may march at the head of the company or department. Paid drivers or apparatus permitted to wear work uniform of department. All the above shall be exempt from demerits.

DRESS UNIFORMS

All other uniforms other than standard or regulation, shall be judged as Dress Uniforms, (EXAMPLE – Such uniforms that have stripes or piping on the trousers, coats, blouses, or any other decorations on uniforms).

PARADE MARCHING RULES & REGULATIONS

Only the Chief or Officer in Charge shall salute the reviewing stand. The American flag shall not be dipped to any person or at the reviewing stand.

There shall be no disorderliness during the parade, such as smoking, chewing, carrying of intoxicating beverages, etc. Any unit conducting themselves during the parade in such a manner as to bring discredit to themselves or to the volunteer fire service as a whole shall be disqualified from winning a prize. Officers are responsible for the conduct of their members.

A small company shall be defined as 15 or less marchers in the line of march, including all members in uniform riding in the apparatus and other vehicles. A large company shall be defined as 16 or more marchers

in the line of march including all members in uniform riding in the apparatus or other vehicle.

No more than three (3) men shall ride in the fire apparatus. They shall be the Driver, one (1) man next to the driver and one (1) additional man in the cab of the apparatus. In the event that a tillerman is needed he shall be an accepted addition to the foregoing.

Fire company or department auxiliaries shall march as a separate unit from the fire company or department.

Where a unit has forty (40) or less officers and men in the line of march, excluding chief, assistant chiefs, color guard and fire department band they may march two (2) abreast. Where the number, as specified above, is more than forty (40), they must march three (3) or more abreast. Companies or department pulling parade carriages or ancient apparatus excepted.

JUDGING

Judging shall be based upon the appearance of the marchers and apparatus from the stand-point of neatness, orderliness, sobriety, regardless of the age of the apparatus or the uniforms worn by the marchers.

The local convention/parade committee shall furnish a minimum of 7 competent and impartial Judges, where possible, who are sanctioned by the various Firemanic Associations throughout the State of New York, to properly review the parade units in competition. The committee shall provide the selected judges with printed instructions and parade rules at

least one (1) week prior to the parade, and fully instruct the Judges as to their duties and rules and regulations at least one day prior to the parade. The Judges shall make their final report to the Parade committee as soon as possible after the parade has finished.

Auxiliary units will be judged by the same group of impartial judges.

NOTICE

Respect must be shown for the decorations in the city, Town or Village that is entertaining your organization. In the event that a fire company or department member is found destroying or in any way molesting the same, the organization will be disqualified from winning a prize and they will be prosecuted along with any other persons found in the act of destroying decorations. **RESPECT THE COLORS OF OUR COUNTRY AND THE MERCHANDISE OF OUR MERCHANTS AND DECORATORS.**

RULES AND DEMERITS

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| 1. Sounding sirens, ringing of bells or other noise making devices while in line of march | Disqualification |
| 2. Conduct unbecoming the fire service | Disqualification |
| 3. Retarding progress of parade | Disqualification |
| 4. Chief Officer in Charge failing to salute the reviewing stand | 25 – Demerits |

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| 5. | Marching without American flag | 10 – Demerits |
| 6. | The Flag of the United States of America not to be dipped – Violation | 10 – Demerits |
| 7. | No Color Guard | 5 – Demerits |
| 8. | Colors not in proper place | 5 – Demerits |

APPEARANCE

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| 1. | Apparatus when placed in position at parade formation area, shall not leave their position. If reported to Judges as having left their position allotted to the Firemanic unit, without permission of the division Marshal | 20 – Demerits |
| 2. | Carrying of refreshments, intoxicating beverages, equipment other than that used in the fire service | 10 – Demerits |
| 3. | Members riding on apparatus not in uniform | 10 – Demerits |
| 4. | Ladies and Children riding on apparatus not in uniform | 10 – Demerits |
| 5. | Apparatus holding back or being too far back | |

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| | in the rear of the company or the department, causing a large space | 10 – Demerits |
| 6. | Mixed Uniforms (single & double breasted, dress and regulation, mixed hats) – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 7. | Improper wearing of Hat – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 8. | Open Buttons or badges out of order – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 9. | Shoes, Ties or Socks are not uniform – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 10. | Improper spacing – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 11. | Lines off left to right – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 12. | Lines off front to right – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 13. | Non-uniform use of gloves by company (use of gloves are not mandatory) – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 14. | Talking, chewing, waving, smoking, drinking, being out of step while marching – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 15. | Use of lights, sounding of sirens, whistles, ringing of bells or sounding of any other | |

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| noise making devices, each apparatus of company or department carrying more than the allotted number allowed to ride – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 15. Dirt under the fenders, wheels and tires dirty – | 5 – Demerits |
| 16. Equipment not cleaned and polished | 5 – Demerits |
| 17. Hose in body of apparatus and on the booster hose reel not packed straight | 5 – Demerits |
| 18. Hats, Coats, Boots, not hung straight on apparatus – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 19. Appearance of Driver, (uniform, waving, hat at wrong angle, tie open, no tie, drinking while driving) – each instance | 5 – Demerits |

AUXILIARY Units

All rules that apply to the fire companies and the departments as to marching, spacing, lines etc., also apply to the fire company or department auxiliaries.

The auxiliaries shall march in the rear of the Company or department.

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| 1. | In the event that they march in front of the musical unit | 10 – Demerits |
| 2. | Mixed Uniforms, (EXAMPLE – Mixed coats & capes, mixed coats and dresses) | 5– Demerits |
| 3. | Mixed shoes – each instance | 5– Demerits |
| 4. | Mixed stockings – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 5. | Gloves, (gloves may or may not be worn, but action must be uniform). Non uniform use of gloves – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 6. | Mixed hats or members wearing hats at the wrong angle from the rest of the marching group – each instance | 5 – Demerits |
| 7. | Wearing of excessive jewelry – each instance | 5 – Demerits |

MEMBERS IN AUTOMOBILES

Incapacitated members or Life members of fire units will be permitted to ride in private cars or floats directly in the rear of the unit column. They must wear a uniform to be counted. All Judges decisions are final.

Fire Police units or similar units in different uniforms are not penalized if they march as a separate unit, but will be penalized if they are mixed with different units. They may march at the rear of the company or department.

No equipment shall be carried on the fire apparatus other than the equipment used in the fire service or Emergency and First Aid equipment. Carrying of refreshments, advertisements, intoxicants, clothing or musical instruments, shall be subjected to demerits.

All fire apparatus in line shall be cleaned and polished, all equipment in place and in order.

Units arriving after the parade has started shall fall in at the end of the parade regardless of the division to which they have been assigned. In the event of a company or department falls into a division while the parade is in progress they shall be marked on the judge's sheet, wrong position in line and shall receive demerits.

There shall be no sounding of sirens, ringing of bells, or sounding of any other noise making devices while apparatus is in line of march.

There shall be no lights, noises with sirens, bells and noise making devices while fire apparatus is being driven around the streets where the parade is being held. Violations for the above rule will mean disqualification for the company or department.

White gloves are optional, but if used the use must be uniform, with Standard or Regulation uniforms.

No drill movements to the rear will be permitted. All fire companies, departments, drill teams, auxiliaries, musical units shall execute forward movements only. In the event that the above rule is violated the unit will be disqualified. At no time shall any unit retard the progress of the parade. The company or department shall be held in violation in the event that they let their musical unit retard the progress of the parade. There shall be a recommendation made to the Judges and Local Committees for action.

In the event that an alarm or an ambulance call is being sounded while the parade is in progress, all companies, departments, and other units shall move over to the right side of the road on the approach of the fire apparatus or ambulance and remain halted until the vehicles have proceeded past the units.

It is recommended that the host department shall be the lead unit of the escort or first division.

The officers of the SCVFA shall march as a unit immediately after the host company.

OFFICIAL WAY OF LINING UP IN PARADE FORMATION

There must be 100 Feet between Divisions

There must be 50 Feet between Companies

Band (if any)

20 Feet

Colors and Color Guard

10 Feet

Banner Chief

10 Feet
Assistant Chiefs
Chaplain
20 Feet
Ex-Chiefs
Company Officers
Men
20 Feet
Officers of Separate Units
Men of Separate Units
Auxiliary (if any)
20 Feet
Cars carrying firefighters
Apparatus (20 feet between each apparatus)
10 Feet
Cars carrying auxiliary members
Flags must be unfurled at all times except during rainy conditions.

If the host company decides to award a “Blue Ribbon Trophy” the following criteria should apply.

*****ELIGIBILITY FOR BLUE RIBBON TROPHY*****

1. There must be a minimum of six (6) firefighters in the line of march to be eligible.
2. The fire apparatus must be present at the truck judging.
3. The appearance of the fire apparatus will be taken into consideration for this trophy.
4. The auxiliary is taken into consideration for this trophy. (No demerits if company does not have a auxiliary).

5. You do not have to have a band to be eligible for this trophy.
6. The Blue Ribbon Trophy will be awarded to a **Sullivan County** Fire Company who was selected as the “Best” from all categories.