

# **THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA PARADE CONTEST RULES**

Each competing Unit will submit an entry form to the Department of Minnesota Headquarters by June 25, 2010. All competing Units must participate in the Convention Parade to qualify for prizes to become eligible for the National Contests. All prizes will be allocated at the discretion of the Department Parade Coordinators. Judges for Color Guards, Drill Teams, Bands, Drum Corps, and Floats shall be selected by the Department Parade Coordinators.

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

Only Units composed of bona fide members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, The Sons of The American Legion, or sponsored Units by The American Legion will be permitted to compete.

- Color Guard Competition: minimum of 4, maximum of 16 members including the Commander, bugler, and/or drummer.
- Drill Team Competition: minimum of 9 members including the Commander.
- Senior Color guards, Drill Teams: Eighty percent must be bona fide
- The use of recorded or live music is optional.
- Bands: Ten percent must be bona fide members and 21 years or older.

## **CONDUCT OF THE COLOR GUARD:**

- Each Unit shall march past the saluting point and salute while marching.
- A Unit may execute any other appropriate maneuvers, providing they do not impede the forward movement of the Parade.

## **CONDUCT OF A DRILL TEAM:**

- A Unit may at its discretion use a Color Guard.
- A Unit may execute any other appropriate maneuvers, providing they do not impede the forward movement of the parade.

## **UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT:**

- The style and color of uniform will be optional with each Unit provided they are within the dignity and propriety required as when carrying the National Colors. Head gear is required on all members within the national section.

### **Required authorized equipment will consist of:**

- The National Colors
- The American Legion Colors, and at least one weapon.

### **Additional authorized equipment:**

Flags, Rifles, Sidearm, Sabers, and swords may be carried. These weapons can be simulated.

- NOTE - Those in the National Section must carry a weapon or a flag, banner, etc.

### National Colors:

- The Institute of Heraldry, Washington, DC has specified in title 4 of the U. S. flag Code, that the 50-star American Flag is the Flag of our country; therefore, all others shall be treated as banners.
- Use of National Color staff head finial piece, as defined by Flag Code, is mandatory. If a directional piece is used, it will be judged on the direction of the bearer, and not the direction of the staff head. All other staff heads on other flags, when used, are optional. Minimum size of the U. S. Colors is 3' X 5'. No flag shall be larger in size than the U. S. Colors.
- Rifles are defined as weapons which are hand operated and designed to be fired primarily from the shoulder. Rifles must conform to the original design of the military, past or present.
- Sidearms are defined as weapons which are hand held, and fired by means of a primer or cartridge. Simulated weapons which conform in outward appearance to the foregoing will be accepted.
- Sabers (swords) are defined as weapons which are designed to be hand held for cutting, thrusting or slashing an enemy, may be straight or curved. Minimum length to be 24 inches.

### PENALTIES:

- A Unit violating any requirement under the "eligibility" rule will be disqualified.
- A Unit violating any rule, or part of a rule, for which no specific penalty is provided, shall be penalized for each violation. This shall be by the discretion of the Parade Coordinators.
- Any infraction of Flag etiquette shall be penalized 1 point for each offense. The authority adopted for Flag etiquette is "The American Legion Competition Flag Code".

### PROTESTS:

Protests must be made within 12 hours of completion of the contest. A written protest must be presented to any of the Parade Coordinators, with a copy to Department Headquarters. One of the Parade Coordinators will advise the Unit of the next phase.

\*These Department Parade contest rules are not in all cases in conformance with National Rules.

Department Parade Coordinators:

Tom Schottenbauer

Dennis Sculthorp

David Bode