

2016

Philadelphia Mummers Brigade Association

Parade Participation By-Laws –
Addendum to Corporate By-Laws

For Parade Year 2017

2016

Philadelphia Mummers Brigade Association



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Article I. Purpose

Section 1.01 The purpose of the organization as described in the Corporation By-Laws is the main purpose, the purpose of these by laws as an addendum, is to govern the members in the participation in the annual Philadelphia Mummers Parade and the participation in the Mummers Finale Event in the Pennsylvania Convention Center on January 1st of each year.

Article II. Brigade Requirements

Section 2.01 All brigades must have a least **twenty five (25)** marchers for the **2017 parade**. All marchers must be suited in a theme-related costume. Brigades can use pre-used costumes. There is no limit to the number of pre-used costumes can be worn.

- (a) In the event that a brigade has fewer than the required number of marchers, or if all marchers are not in a new costume, that brigade will be placed in last prize position.
- (b) In the event that the parade is cancelled, the required number of marchers will be lowered to twenty three (23).
- (c) In the event that a brigade is placed in the last prize position due to an infraction of the rules, the Fancy brigade Association has the authority to enforce a fine against the offending brigade not to exceed the brigade's TV/prize money for that year.

Section 2.02 Two-third (2/3) of the marchers in each brigade must be eighteen (18) years of age.

Section 2.03 Brigades may not use paid performers in their presentations. Failure to follow this rule will lead to disqualification.

Article III. Reserve

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Article IV. Hardship Leave of Absence

Section 4.01 A brigade can file for a Hardship Leave of Absence under the following two (2) conditions only; Catastrophe or Financial Hardship.

Section 4.02 Catastrophe

A catastrophe will be considered if loss of costumes is due to:

- (i) Fire
- (ii) Water
- (iii) Theft

- a) In the event of a catastrophe causing the absence of any brigade from the parade, there will be a one (1) year grace period extended with the approval of the Fancy Brigade Association and the City of Philadelphia.
- b) Failure to return to marching status the following year will require the brigade to apply as a “new” brigade should they choose to apply thereafter.
- c) The catastrophe must be reported to the Fancy brigade Association immediately. The Board of Directors will determine if a hardship will be granted.

Section 4.03 Financial Hardship

- a) Once during a five-year period a brigade who, while not having suffered a Catastrophe as described in these by-laws can request a financial hardship leave of absence. The brigade must notify the Fancy Brigade Association Board of Directors of their intent to file for a financial hardship on or before September 1st of the year. The Board of Directors must respond with an answer to the brigade’s request no later than September 15th. A financial hardship will only be granted if the Board finds that the brigade is in danger of being dissolved if this action is not taken.
- b) A brigade who files for financial hardship is not eligible for any distribution of money associated with the parade they did not participate in.
- c) When a brigade returns the following year they must march first in the parade line-up (unless a new brigade(s) has entered in to the parade for that year).

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- d) Failure to return to marching status the following year will require the brigade to apply as a “new” brigade should they chose to apply thereafter.
- e) The Financial hardship option will be retroactive to include grandfather brigades who paraded in the 2000 parade.

Article V. Parade Requirements

Section 5.01 All Fancy Brigades must have music along the parade route including the Convention Center. A band cannot participate in the drilling area. Only “prerecorded or Canned” music can be used in the Convention Center

Section 5.02 Fancy Brigades will be permitted to use only percussion instruments such as bongo drums, morocco’s tambourines, gongs, cymbals, bells, whistles, and glockenspiels in the drilling area.

Section 5.03 At the Convention Center music is authorized to be played under the following conditions only; Brigade scheduled practice in designated practice area and for your brigade’s performance in front of the judges.

Section 5.04 Each brigade must march in the designated line of march. The line of march will be supplied by the city and will cover the entire parade route.

Section 5.05 The following will not be permitted in the parade under any circumstance;

- (a) Black face.
- (b) Smoke bombs, firecrackers, fireworks, water, powder fire extinguishers and streamers.
- (c) Live animals of any kind.
- (d) Commercialism, with the exception of the float leading our division. The float will be subject to the approval of the Fancy Brigade Association membership.
- (e) Commercialism in the form of brand names, brand products, trademarks, and existing companies will not be allowed.

Section 5.06 Each Fancy Brigade is allowed two (2) non-gas (propane) motorized vehicles in drilling area.

Section 5.07 Under the two show format at the Convention Center the following rule will be in effect: All floats, props and costumes must be used in both shows. In the event of a

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mechanical breakdown which eliminates a float/prop from the first presentation, the brigade must inform the Directors immediately upon discovering the problem. The Directors will determine if the float/prop can be used in the second show.

Note: This rule is to ensure that paying customers at both shows are provided with our best performance.

Article VI. Time Management

Section 6.01 Brigades will be limited to a total drilling time of four (4) minutes and thirty (30) seconds.

Section 6.02 There will be an additional forty-five (45) second grace period for all floats and the Captain to be out of the drilling area. Floats must have continuous movement during grace period.

Section 6.03 Any members, who are not on the float at the end of the presentation, cannot go on the float for the forty-five (45) second grace period to exit the drilling area.

Section 6.04 During the forty-five (45) second grace period there will be no dance or choreographed movements by the members on the floats.

Section 6.05 Each brigade will have 4:45 second setup time. This time will start when the 1st set of floats are in place. Once the curtains open the floats must continue to move forward to the brigades designated starting spot. If the 4:45 second setup time has elapsed, the brigades drill music will start thereby starting the brigade's 4:30 second presentation time. Unless we have a delay not caused by the brigade (Medical Emergency, Television, etc.)

Section 6.06 Once the brigades Starter and the Director at the starting line agree that the brigade is set to go, any music and /or movement by the Captain or brigade will start their time.

Section 6.07 If there is no movement and/or music, the time will start when the first person in costume crosses the starting line (including Juveniles and costumed marshals), or the 4:45 second setup time has elapsed.

Section 6.08 The Brigade starter must remain with the Show Director from the start and throughout the entire performance. The starter should inform the Director when the performance is finished. At this time the 45-second grace period will go into effect.

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Section 6.09 The brigade’s performance time will stop when the last person crosses the finish line. The drilling area must be clear of brigade members in a total time of four minutes and thirty seconds (4:30). As noted earlier the Captain and the floats will have an additional forty-five (45) seconds to exit the drilling area.

Section 6.10 During the 45-second grace period costumed members who were not performing in the finale may assist in pushing floats and or props out of the drilling area. This may include “dressed” marshals. During the 45 second grace period there will be no dance or choreographed movements.

Section 6.11 Any Brigade over the four minutes and thirty seconds (4:30) time limit or if the Captain and/or floats go over the 45-second grace period, there will be a penalty of three (3) points per judge or every five (5) seconds over: i.e.

- (a) 4:31 to 4:35 = 18 points
- (b) 4:36 to 4:40 = 36 points
- (c) 4:41 to 4:45 = 54 points
- (d) 4:46 to 4:50 = 72 points

Section 6.12 Time will be kept utilizing a large clock at the Convention Center provided by the City of Philadelphia. Our Directors will notify the City timekeeper when to start and stop the clock.

Section 6.13 A banner may be carried, pulled, pushed or driven through the drilling area before the brigade enters. No one in costume can perform the said above action or the brigade’s time will start.

Article VII. Drill/Performance Area

Section 7.01 At the judging site each brigade will have the option of starting their drill from any spot on the designated drilling area. The current drilling area is 60’ x 120’. All brigades must inform the Directors of their proposed starting spot at a time designated by the Fancy Brigade Association.

Section 7.02 If the drilling area permits, parading members may leave the agreed upon drilling area (60’ X 120’) on the sides. Members who leave the designated drilling area must go behind the 60 ft. line (will be marked) before returning to the drilling area. There can be no stopping or choreographed movements while not in the designated drilling area.

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Section 7.03 Floats and Props cannot setup outside the designated drilling area. Floats and Props which leave the designated drilling area must immediately move to the back of the drilling area or behind the curtain. No floats can be left outside the designated drilling area (sides). When a prop/float goes outside the drilling area, if there are any members in costume there may not be any choreographed movements.

Section 7.04 If the drilling area permits, Floats & Props can go off on either side of the floor. Props and floats which will reenter the drilling area must go behind/passed the 60ft mark before re-entering. Floats cannot open and close to allow a float/members to pass (curtain effect). The Floats must go back at least 5 feet even if already beyond the 60 ft. mark.

Section 7.05 All members and marshals must enter the drilling area from within the prescribed 60x120 designated area. For example, a member to avoid a float, prop or member cannot step outside the side line to enter the drilling area. The only time a member is allowed outside the side lines is described in #2 of this article.

Section 7.06 Once the curtain is closed during the set-up time the curtain may not open again during the Brigade's performance to allow a float to enter or reenter the drilling area. Members may reenter the drilling area from behind the curtain (curtain slightly pulled aside), but the curtain cannot be opened.

Article VIII. Floats

Section 8.01 The limitation on floats will be that they must be considered safe to be used in the Presentation by the Executive Board (the Board may bring in anyone they feel will help in making this determination). The floats must also be able to fit into the drill area with the curtain closed. Any floats or props which are not in the designated drill area (60x120) when the curtain closes cannot be used in the presentation. Outriggers and add-on sections are not permitted.

If a float is ruled unsafe the brigade has until one hour before the 1st show starts to correct what was ruled as unsafe and be approved by the Executive Board.

Section 8.02 The Brigades may use as many floats as it wants as long as they meet the criteria as described in this article under 8.01

Section 8.03 All floats entering the drilling area must be able to clear the curtain at twenty-three feet (23ft). At no time while in the designated drill area can a float exceed 23ft.

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Section 8.04 For the performances at the convention center each brigade must have available one hour before presentation time enough marshals/members to move their floats if required by the Fancy Brigade Directors.

Section 8.05 Floats may be towed or pushed into the drilling area. If they are detached in the drilling area, they cannot be reattached to a motorized vehicle to be towed out.

Section 8.06 All floats attached a motorized vehicle must be attached in a safe manner and not exceed the capacities of the vehicle. This is not only for the protection of the driver but for all performers around said float/prop.

Section 8.07 All floats/props attached to a mechanical device must provide the operator clean sight lines. If not possible, a spotter who has the sole purpose of directing the operator must be used. The number of spotters is dependent on the type and size of the prop/float.

Section 8.08 Any motorized vehicle that is used must be operated by a qualified person, wearing all necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Fall Protection Equipment (FPE).

Section 8.09 Any float/prop that will have members on it, must provide adequate hand holds and fall protection while float is in motion

Section 8.10 A Safety Committee will be appointed by the President and work with the Rules Committee to insure all floats are considered safe for use in the presentation. A float cannot be used until this committee designates it as safe.

Article IX. Judging

Section 9.01 The Fancy Brigades will be judged by six (6) judges provided by the Fancy Brigade Association. The judges should be qualified in the fields of costume design, art, dance and choreography. Two (2) Judges will judge costume only. Four (4) judges will judge presentation only. One (1) judge should change in each of the three (3) categories listed below:

(a) **COSTUME** – Twenty (20) points per judge – two judges – 40 total points.

- (i) Beauty
- (ii) Originality
- (iii) Unification
- (iv) Portrayal of theme

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(b) PRESENTATION – Sixty (60) total points distributed among two categories.

(i) *Performance* – 15 points per judge – two judges – 30 total points

- (1) Organization of movement
- (2) Execution
- (3) Showmanship

(ii) *Production/Overall Effect* – 15 points per judge – two judges – 30 total points

- (1) Staging (visual design)
- (2) Portrayal of theme
- (3) Dramatic effect
- (4) Creativity and Originality
- (5) Continuity of theme
- (6) All Elements of theme

Total number of points will be two hundred (100).

NOTE: Starting in the Year 2002 all judging criteria rules will be in effect for three consecutive years. During that time no by-law changes can be proposed to change the existing judging by-laws **(covers parade years 2017, 2018 & 2019).**

Section 9.02 The judges will be allowed to score using tenth of point increments.

Section 9.03 There will be NO TIES for first (1st) place Brigade or first (1st) place Captain. If there is a tie for first place Brigade or first place Captain, the following tiebreakers will be used:

- a) The Highest Score in the COSTUME category
- b) The Highest Score in the PERFORMANCE category.
- c) The Highest Score in the PRODUCTION/OVERALL EFFECT category.

Section 9.04 If after all the above tie breakers are exhausted and a tie still exists, the judges will listen to the tapes that they made of the tied brigades and /or Captains and make a final decision on who will be awarded first prize.

Section 9.05 Points and prize determination will be tabulated and given to the Fancy Brigade Association Representative and will not be disclosed until a time designated by the Executive Board and agreed upon by the membership.

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Article X. Theme Selection

Section 10.01 All fancy Brigades must submit a sketch or a picture that best represents the theme and a signed written description of their theme between March 1st and May 1st. A form required at turn-in will be presented to each Brigade at the January Meeting. The form will be approved by the Rules Committee and reviewed each year.

Section 10.02 A Theme Committee of three (3) members will be set-up with a Theme Moderator as its Chair.

Section 10.03 At the January Fancy Brigade Association meeting we will pick for appointments to turn in Themes Sketches can only be turned into the Theme Committee. They must be good sketches.

Section 10.04 The Fancy brigade Association President will appoint the Theme Committee & Theme Moderator at the January Meeting. A theme cannot be accepted unless two of the three-committee members are present.

Section 10.05 Once the turn-in position is determined at the January meeting, the brigade who picked first (1st), once they have picked a theme can make an appointment with the Theme Committee to turn in prior to the date determined by the Theme Committee. Once the 1st club's theme has been accepted, the Brigade who picked 2nd will be notified that they can now turn in their theme at anytime up to the date determined by the Theme Committee. After the 2nd club is accepted the 3rd club will be notified and so on.

This rule is strictly to make it easier for the brigades who have a theme selected to turn in. There is no pressure on any club to turn in earlier than the date determined by the Theme Committee. The early turn-in is on a volunteer basis and must follow the positions selected at the January meeting. Unless you are contacted by the committee your turn-in date remains the date stipulated by the Theme Committee.

Section 10.06 Prior to submitting their theme at the time designated by the Theme Committee, the Brigade can ask the committee what themes have been covered. The Theme Committee is not to reveal the Brigades name or any details about the theme.

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Section 10.07 If the Theme Committee decides that a theme is too close to a theme category already submitted they must reject the theme.

Section 10.08 If the Theme Committee determines that while not exactly the same, that a submitted theme could cause a conflict with another theme already submitted they must notify the brigades involved to see if an agreement between the brigades can be reached. The brigade who submitted first must agree to any resolution.

Section 10.09 Based on nos. 6 & 7 of this article the Theme Committee must place all themes in one of the Following categories:

- (a) Accept
- (b) Reject (see #.06)
- (c) In Conflict (see #.07)

Section 10.10 Once a conflict has been determined the brigades involved must be informed of the conflict within 48 hours. The Theme Moderator must inform the Fancy Brigade Association Board of Directors of any rejections or conflicts within 24 hours.

Section 10.11 Sketches or pictures must be of the sketch which best defines your theme.

Section 10.12 Only one (1) theme will be accepted in a category. When the sketch/theme is submitted, the brigade representative and the Theme Moderator must agree as to what one (1) category it should be entered. The category selected should represent the dominant aspect of the theme. Both parties will sign a sheet which will state the category they agreed upon.

Section 10.13 Once a Sketch/Theme have been submitted and accepted, it may not be changed for any reason.

Section 10.14 If a brigades theme has been rejected at the cutoff date, there will be a two (2) week grace period to submit a new Sketch/theme. This will be at the discretion of the Theme Moderator/Theme Committee who must notify the President of the Fancy Brigade Association (with 24 hours) that a grace period has been granted.

Section 10.15 If a sketch is not submitted & accepted by May 1st the specific brigade(s) will be fined \$500.00 with an additional \$100.00 fine for each week after May 1st.

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Section 10.16 Once all themes have been submitted, the Theme Moderator will provide a list of all selected categories. The name of the brigade and the theme name submitted (if any) will not be listed.

Section 10.17 If when the category list is distributed or after your theme has been approved and accepted by the moderating committee, if a brigade feels that one of the categories listed could conflict with their theme; they must notify the Theme Moderator. Once a theme has been accepted if another Brigade (previously approved) believes there is a conflict they must inform the Theme Moderator within 48 hours of the theme's acceptance. A meeting will be arranged at that time to resolve the conflict. No conflict will be accepted after 48 hours. The latest a protest will be accepted is 48 hours from the date of the meeting in which the list was distributed. The Theme Moderator will notify the Fancy Brigade Association President of any conflicts, and setup a meeting with the brigades in conflict within 48 hours.

Section 10.18 In addition to the Theme Committee the President will also form a Theme Resolution Committee. This committee will include three (3) Delegate or Hall of Fame members. The president can also invite anyone to the protest meeting that he feels will assist in resolving this situation.

The Theme Resolution Committee will listen to both of the Brigades involved in the protest. They will then vote to either agree with the Theme Committees decision or they can vote to overturn the decision. Either way the Theme Resolution Committees decision is Final!

Article XI. Administrative Rules

Section 11.01 When picking for parade positions if more than one new brigade is entered into the parade that year, the new brigades will fill positions starting with first before a current brigade member can pick. For example if two (2) new brigades are entered into the parade, they will parade in the first two (2) positions.

Section 11.02 Any current fancy Brigade member which marches first in the line of march cannot draw the first position the following year. For example, in the event that a new brigade is entered into the parade, the new brigade will assume the number one position in the parade. The current brigade member who marched first the previous year cannot draw the number two position of march behind a new brigade or a brigade returning from a catastrophe or a financial hardship (see #1 of this Article if more than 1 new brigade is entered into the parade/same year).

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Section 11.03 A Fancy Brigade may not for any reason volunteer to march first in the parade.

Section 11.04 Any protest of the parading rules contained in these by-laws must be submitted to the Fancy Brigade Association Directors who have disqualification cards. The protest must be submitted within Five (5) minutes of the time the protested brigade leaves the judging area. The person filing the Protest must state the reason for seeking the disqualification and sign the protest. The Directors will meet with the protester and a representative of the protested brigade and then vote on the protest. The Directors will make the final decision on any and all protests.

Section 11.05 The Fancy Brigade Directors must file a protest on behalf of the Fancy Brigade Association for any infraction of the by-laws committed by any Brigades throughout the duration of the parade. All Brigades are to be notified immediately of any protest filed. This includes our schedule for drilling on the parade route.

Section 11.06 If not already stipulated (i.e. over time penalties), an infraction of any of the Fancy Brigade By-Laws will result in a penalty/disqualification for the offending brigade(s). Each infraction of any of a Fancy Brigade By-Law will result in a 15 point penalty.

Section 11.07 All Fancy Brigades must either show their costume or provide a picture (or video) of the costume and present their official theme title at the date and time designated by the Fancy Brigade Association. If a picture or video is presented the Theme Committee must agree that the picture/video provides enough of the costume to determine that it matches the sketch. If a Brigade does not show their costume, there will be a fine of \$500.00 and an additional \$100.00 per day after the designated date and time. Fine money will be deducted from the prize and /or TV revenue. If the costume does not match the submitted sketch/theme the brigade will be disqualified (15 point penalty is not in effect for this rule). Executive Board and Theme Committee will be involved in this decision.

Section 11.08 Any questions or interpretations of the rules must be submitted in writing to the Rules Committee Chairman by November 15th. A response approved by the Rules Committee will be given in writing. All questions will be answered by the November Fancy Brigade Association Meeting

Section 11.09 Distribution of Gifts: Due to Insurance Restrictions no brigade is permitted to distribute gifts to the crowd. This pertains to thrown, tossed, or a cannon type mechanism to provide the crowd with brigade or theme related items. This rule will be in effect both at the Convention Center and the designated parade route.

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Section 11.10 TECHNICAL PROBLEM: If a brigade feels they have experience a technical problem they must proceed as follows:

- a) The brigade Starter or Captain must inform a Fancy Brigade Association Director within 5 minutes after the end of their performance. At that time the President of the Fancy Brigade Association will meet with the Directors who witnessed the technical problem and a decision will be made. The decision made at this time is final. No other brigade may perform during this time.
- b) If the ruling is that the brigade did have a technical problem, a 15 minute intermission will be called. After the intermission the affected brigade will perform their full presentation.
- c) To be considered a “Technical Problem” the problem must be outside the control of the brigade. The following would be considered a technical problem:
 - (i) Problem with sound system
 - (ii) Problem with Convention Center lighting during presentation

 - (iii) Anything which occurs during a brigades presentation which the Directors rule was a technical problem.
- d) The following would not be considered a technical problem;
 - (i) Any malfunction of a float or prop
 - (ii) If a music problem is determined to be caused by a scratched CD.

Section 11.11 To avoid confusion or damage to a music CD, two (2) CD’s must be turned over to the Sound Representative prior to the first show.

Section 11.12 All rules and regulations are in effect for the entire year. Any new or proposed revisions to the current by-laws must be submitted in writing to the By-Law committee. The change will be read out at two (2) meetings (regular or special), and voted on at the second meeting. Delegates must be informed 72 hours prior to a special meeting being held to discuss bylaw changes.