



Code of Conduct & Ethics

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Version Control

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Approval

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Winter Guard United Kingdom (WGUK) & Drum Corps United Kingdom (DCUK) are activities organised in the UK by the charity Marching & Performing Arts United Kingdom : Registered Charity 328541. www.mpauk.org.uk

Introduction

The Judges and Adjudicators Code of Conduct & Ethics, outlines the standards in competence, integrity and impartiality. The purpose of it is to define the judges and adjudicator's role in the context of both WGUK and DCUK SoundSport.

WGUK and DCUK recognises that it has an obligation to its members and the communities where it operates, to observe and maintain the highest standards of integrity and Conduct & Ethics. Judges and Adjudicators will be held responsible for ensuring that all rules and policies of WGUK are observed on any occasion when they are present. WGUK and DCUK recognises the importance of the contribution of judges and adjudicators to the creation of both a positive Winter Guard and SoundSport environment within which all competing units/teams can ultimately benefit.

The importance of establishing and maintaining appropriate ethical behaviour must be accepted by all judges and adjudicators who act on behalf of both WGUK and DCUK. They will be required to acknowledge in writing that they have received and reviewed a copy of this Code of Conduct & Ethics and that they agree to be bound by and comply with the Code of Conduct & Ethics. Should a situation occur, where a judge or adjudicators application of this Code of Conduct & Ethics is called into question, it shall be considered in an objective and confidential manner.

Ethical Standards

1) Obligations to the Units and Instructors

To be **accredited** for the class that they are judging/adjudicating and to be **technically competent**.

Judges/Adjudicators must be fully aware of the rules for competitions and championships and have a full and comprehensive understanding of the caption(s) and application of the criteria at the level appropriate to the class being judged/adjudicated.

To **pursue continuous education** or where appropriate upgrading their knowledge of related fields beneficial to both Winter Guard and SoundSport.

To be **fully accountable** to every competitive unit, every performer, fellow judge, the judging/adjudication system and their caption philosophy.

To be **independent and impartial**. Judges and Adjudicators shall not be influenced by the audience, the reputation and/or the past performance of the unit/team. Judges/Adjudicators must not use previously prepared marks or write down other judges/adjudicators marks. Judges/Adjudicators shall present their own assessment of the performance of the unit on the day in an impartial and technically sound manner while respecting the assessment of one's colleagues.

To **restrain from bias**. Judges and Adjudicators must leave old bias, angers, and axes to grind outside the arena. Leave last year behind and bring the best and most open attitude they can. They should keep friendships out of decision-making as this breeds distrust faster than anything.

To **remain objective**. Judges and Adjudicators have likes and dislikes like everyone which may unconsciously affect decisions. Judges/Adjudicators should identify these and be aware of them when judging to help them understand and execute their performance even more objectively.

To **avoid negative criticism of units**, Judges/Adjudicators must base all feedback solely on the formal assessment criteria outlined in the WGUK or DCUK SoundSport rulebooks. Judges/Adjudicators are expected to maintain professional conduct at all times. Sarcasm, rude remarks, hurtful commentary, or displays of boredom or indifference are unacceptable. Tone of voice must remain respectful and appropriate throughout.

To **be mindful of their influence**. Judges and Adjudicators should be aware of the influence they can exert over a unit or instructor. A judge/adjudicator is always a judge/adjudicator, even when the competition is over or before it has begun, even in non-activity situations. Casual comments can be taken out of context or greater value placed on them than a judge/adjudicator may wish. Judges/Adjudicators need to understand this and be prudent in what is said and done.

To be **aware of their actions**. Body posture or gestures or side comments during judging/adjudicating are ALWAYS observed, often misunderstood and usually detracts from the credibility of the judge/adjudicator.

To **mark independently** and not discuss or converse assessment during the event with any other person (unless pre-approved by the Judges/Adjudicators Co-ordinator (i.e. to assist with training), except where appropriate with the Chief Judge/Adjudicator, and/or Judges/Adjudicators Co-ordinator of that event and when required to confirm scoring by the Tabulators/Competition Suite Manager.

To **give 100% to the performance**, performers always give 100% and as judges/adjudicators our disciplines and attitudes must be an extension of those of the performer. Judges/Adjudicators expect the performer to be professional so they too must be professional.

To refrain from judging or adjudicating if at any time a conflict of interest arises.

2) Obligations to WGUK & DCUK

WGUK Judges and DCUK SoundSport Adjudicators **must disclose any affiliation with any Winter Guard unit or SoundSport team** based on the following definitions:

1. **Primary Affiliation:** Designer, instructor, member, or management of a competing Winter Guard or SoundSport Team. A judge/adjudicator with a primary affiliation may not judge/adjudicate the class where their affiliation exists.

(Within WGUK due to the shortage of judges available a judge may be required to judge the class when the unit, where their affiliation exists, is not in a competition. This will be at the discretion of the Judges Co-ordinator)

2. **Secondary Affiliation:** Any judge/adjudicator who through family, spouse or significant other has a primary affiliation as described above. These affiliations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. A judge/adjudicator with a secondary affiliation may judge/adjudicate in his/her affiliated class as long as the Winter Guard/SoundSport Team he/she is affiliated with is not competing at that contest or the judge/adjudicator confirms that no interaction or dialogue has taken place regarding that season's production - this must be ratified by the Judges/Adjudicator Co-ordinator.

- The **Judging/Adjudicating Co-ordinator** and **Caption Supervisors** must not have any Primary Affiliations.
- The role of **Chief Judge/Chief Adjudicator** shall only be carried out by the WGUK Judges Co-ordinator /DCUK SoundSport Adjudicators Co-ordinator who has no Primary Affiliation.
- The role of **Tabulator (Competition Suite)** shall only be carried out by an official who has no Primary Affiliation.

To be prepared: -

Judges and Adjudicators shall always act in a professional manner, arriving punctually and conduct themselves in a suitable way. Appearance is a matter of personal taste, but judges and adjudicators shall project an image of professionalism.

To avoid any actual or potential conflict of interest: -

All judges and adjudicators must not accept bribes in any form. They shall not express a preference for any instructor, judge or adjudicator. Judges and Adjudicators must ensure that no action on their part could be seen as inappropriate.

To display interest or preference: -

No judge or adjudicator may display bias toward any competing guard they judge/adjudicator. Wearing of any Winter Guard or SoundSport Teams merchandise or insignia is forbidden.

To report any violation: -

To either the Chief Judge/Adjudicator or Judges/Adjudicators Co-ordinator immediately, it shall then be the responsibility of the Chief Judge/Adjudicator and/or Judges/Adjudicators Co-ordinator to take all necessary steps to deal with the matter. The Chief Judge/Adjudicator, and/or Judges/Adjudicators Co-ordinator shall report to the Contest Referee where they view that it is necessary to do so.

To provide an accountability report: -

A short-written accountability form is to be completed as per instructions and submitted to the WGUK Judges' Co-ordinator within 5 days of a competition. Not applicable to SoundSport unless otherwise directed.

To not provide any consultation to a competing unit: -

A current WGUK judge or DCUK SoundSport adjudicator is not permitted to give any consultation to any Winter Guard unit or SoundSport team outside of critique, unless with prior agreement of the Judges/Adjudicators Co-ordinator.

To have a duty of care: -

Ensure, within the limits of their control, the safety, health and protection of all persons with whom they work or owe a duty of care to. To complete the annual safeguarding training and follow the processes as per any concerns had.

To use every endeavour to promote WGUK & DCUK, its activities and the sport of Winter Guard and SoundSport:

Judges and adjudicators must consistently display high personal standards and project a favourable image of Winter Guard and SoundSport.

To provide input into the ethical standards: -

Judges and adjudicators are encouraged to give input regarding the ethical standards of the judging/adjudicating community. This should be directed through the Judges/Adjudicators Co-ordinator.

To share technical and experiential knowledge of Winter Guard and SoundSport: -

With all partners and stakeholders to enhance the development of the activity throughout the United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland and Europe.

To avoid any activities that could lead to WGUK and DCUK being brought into disrepute: -

Any convictions in a court of law, or involvement in disciplinary or related legal proceedings, must be reported to WGUK or DCUK.

By signing this Code of Conduct & Ethics, judges and adjudicators confirm that they are not known to Social Services or any similar agency as posing a risk to children. They must also sign a declaration confirming that they are not on the Children's Barred List (formerly List 99) or the Adults' Barred List (formerly POVA).

3) Social Media Use Policy for Judges/Adjudicators

When acting in a judge or adjudicator capacity, individuals must maintain strict impartiality and avoid any conduct that could compromise, or appear to compromise, their neutrality. To uphold these standards:

- ***Social Media Images and Posts:***

Judges and adjudicators must refrain from posting on social media in connection with any membership organisation while performing, or presenting themselves as performing, their judge/adjudicator duties during the competition season specifically January 1st up to the announcing of final results at Championships (or last event of the season).

- ***Engagement with Organisational Social Media Content***

Judges and adjudicators must not comment on or react to any membership organisation while in their judge/adjudicator capacity during the competition season specifically from January 1st up to the announcing of the final results at Championships (or last event of the season).

This policy is intended to protect the integrity, independence, and perceived fairness of all judging and adjudication processes.

4) Obligations to Colleagues

- To ***avoid criticising*** other judges and adjudicators including their assessment or their performance. The appropriate internal communication channels shall be used for concerns or criticism.
- To ***attend pre-event, judging/adjudicating meetings or training*** where appropriate and complete all necessary paperwork/actions to an acceptable standard within 14 days.
- To ***provide support and guidance*** to each other, great judges/adjudicators continually learn from each other and grow together by keeping communication lines open and by setting mutual goals and standards for the activity.
- To ***function as part of the judging/adjudicating community***. All judges/adjudicators should have the ability to work as part of a team.
- To ***have the correct motivation***, judges should be motivated to give something back to the activity that is special to them. They should not be in the role of a judge/adjudicator if they feel 'obliged' to do it. In addition, they need to have a strong feeling for the performers. There shares a common delight in watching them grow and develop into something special. And so, they come to the credo, which becomes our philosophy of judging/adjudicating.
- ***Not to improperly divulge any confidential information***, unless legally required, about colleagues, WGUK, DCUK or competing units/teams during the course of acting as a judge or adjudicator and thereafter.

Statement of Acceptance of Judges and Adjudicators

Code of Conduct & Ethics: *(Individuals copy)*

I hereby confirm that I have read the WGUK Judges and DCUK SoundSport Adjudicators Code of Conduct & Ethics and I will retain a copy for my files.

I hereby agree to accept the terms of the WGUK Judges and DCUK SoundSport Adjudicators Code of Conduct & Ethics, and I agree to be bound by the contents.

I acknowledge that WGUK and DCUK will not permit me to act as a Judge or Adjudicators unless I agree to be bound by the above Code of Conduct.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Address:

This copy is to be retained by the individual.

Statement of Acceptance of Judges and Adjudicators Code of Conduct & Ethics: (WGUK/DCUK Copy)

I hereby confirm that I have read the WGUK Judges and DCUK SoundSport Adjudicators Code of Conduct & Ethics and I will retain a copy for my files.

I hereby agree to accept the terms of the WGUK Judges and DCUK SoundSport Adjudicators Code of Conduct & Ethics, and I agree to be bound by the contents.

I acknowledge that WGUK and DCUK will not permit me to act as a Judge or Adjudicators unless I agree to be bound by the above Code of Conduct.

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Address:

This copy is to be signed, dated and returned to the WGUK/DCUK in an envelope marked 'Private and Confidential' for the attention of the WGUK Judges Co-ordinator/DCUK SoundSport Adjudicators Co-ordinator either in person or to 3 Eridge Road, Hove, BN3 7QD or can be signed, dated and scanned and then emailed to code@mpauk.org.uk