

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

Adopted 2015
Amended 2016

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 three (3) classes:

- a) Standard or Regulation
- b) Dress Uniforms
- c) Small company 9 and under, any uniform

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. 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) except 9 and under in the line of march when you can be considered in the Any Uniform category.

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. There will be a category for 9 and under in the line of march in any uniform.

No more than three (3) firefighters shall ride in the fire apparatus. They shall be the Driver, one (1) firefighter next to the driver and one (1) additional firefighter 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 standpoint 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

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

1. Sounding sirens, ringing of bells or other noise making devices while in line of march
2. Conduct unbecoming the fire service
3. Retarding progress of parade

FIVE DEMERITS FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Chief Officer in Charge failing to salute the reviewing stand
2. Marching without American flag
3. The Flag of the United States of America not to be dipped – Violation
4. No Color Guard
5. Colors not in proper place
6. Carrying of refreshments, intoxicating beverages, equipment other than that used in the fire service

THREE DEMERITS FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Members riding on apparatus not in uniform
2. Ladies and Children riding on apparatus not in uniform
3. Wrong spacing of units in line of march

ONE DEMERIT FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Mixed Uniforms (single & double breasted, dress and regulation, mixed hats)
2. Improper wearing of Hat
3. Open Buttons or badges out of order
4. Shoes, Ties or Socks are not uniform
5. Non-uniform use of gloves by company (use of gloves are not mandatory)
6. Improper spacing
7. Lines off left to right
8. Lines off front to back
9. Talking, chewing, waving, smoking, drinking, being out of step while marching
10. Any apparatus of company or department carrying more than the allotted number allowed to ride
11. Dirt under the fenders, wheels and tires dirty
12. Equipment not cleaned and polished
13. Hose in body of apparatus and on the booster hose reel not packed straight
14. Hats, Coats, Boots, not hung straight on apparatus

15. Appearance of Driver, (uniform, waving, hat at wrong angle, tie open, no tie, drinking while driving)

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.

ONE DEMERIT FOR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. Mixed Uniforms, (EXAMPLE – Mixed coats & capes, mixed coats and dresses)
2. Mixed shoes
3. Mixed stockings
4. Gloves, (gloves may or may not be worn, but action must be uniform). Non uniform use of gloves
5. Mixed hats or members wearing hats at the wrong angle from the rest of the marching group
6. Wearing of excessive jewelry

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 prior to lineup or after the parade. 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.

The officers of the SCVFA shall march as a unit immediately after the color guard at the front of the parade.

The host department should immediately follow the SCVFA officers.

At the time of truck judging, the Company must decide which category they wish the truck to be judged in, i.e., Pumper, Tanker, Rescue or Aerial. A vehicle can only be judged in one category. Any aerial truck designated to exhibit the United States flag for the host company can be eligible to be judged in the truck competition.

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

10 Feet

Chief or Officer in Charge

10 Feet

Assistant Chiefs

10 Feet

Ex-Chiefs
10 Feet
Company Officers
Chaplain
Firefighter
20 Feet
Officers of Separate Units
Firefighter of Separate Units
10 Feet
Auxiliary (if any)
20 Feet
Cars carrying firefighters
Cars carrying auxiliary members
Apparatus (20 feet between each apparatus)
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 color guard shall also be taken into consideration.
7. The Blue Ribbon Trophy will be awarded to a **Sullivan County** Fire Company who was selected as the "Best" from all categories.

Amended: March, 2016

S.C.V.F.A. Parade

Minimum Trophy List

1. Blue Ribbon Trophy (see Parade Rules for eligibility)

Fire Company

2. Best Appearing Large Dress Company (16 and over) 1st Place
3. Best Appearing Large Dress Company (16 and over) 2nd Place
4. Best Appearing Large Dress Company (16 and over) 3rd Place
5. Best Appearing Small Dress Company (15 and under) 1st Place
6. Best Appearing Small Dress Company (15 and under) 2nd Place
7. Best Appearing Small Dress Company (15 and under) 3rd Place
8. Best Appearing Large Regulation Company (16 and over) 1st Place
9. Best Appearing Large Regulation Company (16 and over) 2nd Place
10. Best Appearing Large Regulation Company (16 and over) 3rd Place
11. Best Appearing Small Regulation Company (15 and under) 1st Place
12. Best Appearing Small Regulation Company (15 and under) 2nd Place
13. Best Appearing Small Regulation Company (15 and under) 3rd Place
14. Best Appearing Company (9 and under) 1st Place
15. Best Appearing Company (9 and under) 2nd Place
16. Best Appearing Company (9 and under) 3rd Place

Auxiliary

17. Best Appearing Auxiliary Large Company (8 and over)
18. 2nd Best Appearing Auxiliary Large Company (8 and over)
19. Best Appearing Auxiliary Small Company (7 and under)
20. 2nd Best Appearing Auxiliary Small Company (7 and under)

Apparatus

21. Best Appearing Antique Non-Motorized Apparatus, 20 years and older, IN County, NOT IN SERVICE
22. Best Appearing Antique Motorized Apparatus, 20 years and older, IN County, NOT IN SERVICE
23. Best Appearing Pumper 1st Place
24. Best Appearing Pumper 2nd Place
25. Best Appearing Tanker 1st Place
26. Best Appearing Tanker 2nd Place
27. Best Appearing Rescue 1st Place
28. Best Appearing Rescue 2nd Place
29. Best Appearing Aerial 1st Place
30. Best Appearing Aerial 2nd Place

Out of County

31. Best Appearing Out of County Company
32. Most Firefighters in the Line of March (out of county)
33. Best Appearing Apparatus-Out of County, IN SERVICE

Ambulance

34. Best Appearing Ambulance Corp.
35. 2nd Best Appearing Ambulance Corp.

Color Guard

36. Best Appearing Color Guard - Firematic (in county)
37. Best Appearing Color Guard - Firematic (out of county)
38. Best Appearing Color Guard - Non-Firematic

Bands

39. Best Appearing Musical Organization
40. 2nd Best Appearing Musical Organization

The Host Company must provide the trophies set forth above, but is free to award additional trophies as they see fit.

Adopted: February 9, 2016