



RULES OF PARTICIPATION

JUNE 2025

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ADMINISTRATION (A)

A1 SPORT OF MARCHING

(Updated July 2003)

1. The Sport of Marching is an activity designed as a healthy, skilful, sporting and recreational exercise, where participants can take part in both competitive and non-competitive roles and activities.

A2 HEADQUARTERS

(Updated July 2003)

1. The Registered Office and Headquarters of Marching New Zealand will be situated at such place as determined from time to time by the Board.

A3 ASSOCIATION AREAS

(Updated July 2003)

1. Geographic areas in which Associations will promote, encourage, administer, and control the Sport of Marching are:

Northland:	From Te Hana inclusive to North Cape inclusive
Auckland:	From Mercer exclusive to Te Hana exclusive
Waikato:	From Te Kuiti, Tokoroa and Putaruru inclusive to Waihi exclusive, to Mercer inclusive.
Bay of Plenty:	From Waihi inclusive to Opotiki inclusive, including Kawerau.
Central North Island:	From Rotorua inclusive to Turangi inclusive, including Murupara.
East Coast North Island:	From Tutira inclusive to Opotiki exclusive
Hawke's Bay:	From Dannevirke exclusive to Tutira exclusive.
Taranaki:	From Patea inclusive to Mokau inclusive
Wanganui-Rangitikei:	From Marton inclusive to Patea exclusive to Waiouru and Ohakune inclusive and Bulls exclusive
Manawatu:	From Waikanae exclusive to Bulls, Woodville and Dannevirke inclusive
Wairarapa:	From Featherston inclusive to Woodville exclusive
Wellington:	From Wellington inclusive to Upper Hutt inclusive to Waikane inclusive.
Nelson:	From Rai Valley exclusive to Karamea exclusive, including Murchison
Marlborough:	From Rai Valley inclusive to Kaikoura inclusive
West Coast South Island:	From the Glaciers to Karamea inclusive, including Otira
Canterbury:	From Kaikoura exclusive to Rakaia River exclusive, including Springfield
Central South Island:	From Rakaia River inclusive to Hampden inclusive.
Otago:	From Hampden exclusive to Balclutha inclusive, including Cromwell
Southland:	From Balclutha exclusive to Bluff, including Queenstown.

A4 POLICIES/RULES OF PARTICIPATION

(Updated July 2021)

1. The Board and an Association may propose to rescind or amend an existing Policy or Rule of Participation, or add a new Policy or Rule of Participation, at each biennial Annual Meeting of Marching New Zealand.

A5 BOARD

(Updated July 2003)

1. The Board will formulate, and review on a regular basis, how the Board is to operate according to a set of Board Organisational Policies, that it may add to, amend or rescind, and these will be printed as an addendum to the Rules of Participation (by way of information).
2. The Board will formulate, and review on a regular basis, Job Profiles in respect of every member of the Board, that it may add to, amend or rescind, and these will be printed as an addendum to the Rules of Participation (by way of information).

A6	STANDING WORKING PARTIES	(Updated July 2003)
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1. The Board will formulate, and review on a regular basis, Terms of Reference prepared in accordance with the Board Organisational Policies, that it may add to, amend or rescind, and these will be printed as an addendum to the Rules of Participation (by way of information).

A7	BOARD APPOINTMENTS	(Updated June 2025)
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1. The Board will formulate, and review on a regular basis, Job Profiles in respect of every Board appointment, that it may add to, amend, or rescind, and these will be printed as an addendum to the Rules of Participation (by way of information). Appointments usually, but not necessarily, made at the May meeting of the Board each year, to take effect from the following 1 July.
2. These appointments may include the following and any others deemed appropriate by the Board:

Technical Manager.	Director of Coaching
Director of Judging	Judging Accreditors
Marketing Co-ordinator.	Membership/Privacy Officer
Trophy Custodian/s	Publications and Merchandising Co-ordinator
Health & Safety Officer	Social Media Administrator
National Chief Recorder	

Appointment for the Technical Manager, Director of Coaching and Director Judging, will be for a three-year term for each position with the ability for re-appointment for a further consecutive, three-year terms(s).
3. The Executive Officer to provide all current Board Appointees with a form round late February/early March each year, in which the incumbents are to indicate preparedness or not to carry on in the position if re-appointed for the year commencing the following 1 July, and to comment on any difficulties experienced in the role in the past year, together with presenting suggestions for the Board to consider in regard to application of the role in the forthcoming year.
4. Any Member may apply in writing for any one of the positions; such application to be presented to the Executive Officer by 30 April, in respect of the appointments which come into effect the following 1 July.

A8	STRATEGIC PLAN	(Updated July 2003)
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1. The Board will formulate, and review on a regular basis, a three or four yearly Strategic Plan, in compliance with the Constitution, Policies, and Rules of Participation and ensure that it is followed as a basic guiding document for the operation of Marching New Zealand, that it may add to, amend, or rescind, and this Plan will be printed as an addendum to the Rules of Participation (by way of information).

A9	STAFF	(Updated July 2021)
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1. The Board will ensure that all Staff are employed under an individual Employment Agreement that is in accordance with the provision of the Employment Relations Act 2000 and include a Job Description.

A10	ANNUAL MEETING	(Updated June 2023)
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1. The Executive Officer, in providing Associations, MNZ Life Members, members of the Technical Working Party and members of the Board with the Notice of Annual Meeting, will request that Associations nominating in respect of the Board ensure that a précis of a person's marching and employment/business achievements in respect to their nominee is made available by the closing date of such nominations.
2. The Board will issue to Associations, MNZ Life Members, members of the Technical Working Party and members of the Board, a set of Standing Orders to apply for the management of the Annual and Special Meetings of Marching New Zealand.

A11	COACHING & JUDGING ACCREDITATION	(Updated June 2016)
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1. There will be Accreditation Programmes for Coaches and Judges.

A12	FUNCTIONING OF ASSOCIATION	(Updated July 2003)
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1. Where, in the view of the Board, an Association is not functioning in appropriate manner in meeting its Objects, the Board will deem that the constitutionally elected and appointed Association Committee will not operate for a period of time, and the Board will appoint a Committee to meet the Objects and Powers of the Association.
2. The Board will formulate, and review on a regular basis, Job Profiles in respect of every member of an Association Committee, that it may add to, amend, or rescind, and these will be printed as an addendum to the Rules of Participation (by way of information).
3. An Association Committee, in managing the affairs of the Association, will meet on a regular basis, at least once monthly.

A13	CONTINUATION IN OFFICE	(Updated July 2021)
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1. Members elected or appointed to a position on or by the Board or an Association Committee will continue in that position, unless having resigned earlier, until the conclusion of the meeting where an election or appointment to that position is made.

A14	RESIGNATION	(Updated June 2023)
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1. A member of the Board or an Association Committee may resign from their respective position by giving notice in writing to the Executive Officer (Board) or Secretary (Association) indicating the effective date of resignation which will be no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the letter of resignation.

A15	MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION	(Updated July 2021)
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1. The Board will, prior to 1 September each year, issue to Associations, details of and forms applicable applications for Membership, together with details and forms applicable to the Registrations of Teams and Clearances/Transfers, as well as any other details necessary in respect of the Membership Registration process.
2. Members, (other than Marchers, and Individual (Associate) Members if a parent/guardian of a Team (Competitive) Member who has not reached the age of sixteen (16) years of age), are to be a member (other than as an Individual – Associate Member) of the Association in whose area they reside and may also additionally be a member of any other Association.
3. A person must be a member of Marching New Zealand (other than an Individual – Associate Member), in order to participate at a Meeting of Marching New Zealand or of an Association, or participate as a Team Official, Marcher, Secretary or an appropriately Qualified Judge, in any Championship, Competition, Display or Gathering organised by Marching New Zealand or by an Association. Individual – Associate membership will be required for a Chief Marshal, Chief Recorder, or Trainee Judges, who have not yet qualified.
4. Marching New Zealand and Associations may use the voluntary services of any person, not being a member of Marching New Zealand, in the conduct of any Championship, Competition, Display, Gathering, or other similar activity.
5. The Board will prepare criteria to assist in deciding the merits of persons being considered for either Life Membership or for the granting of a Service Award in respect to their service to the Sport.
6. The Board may grant honorary membership, for a specific limited period of time, to any Australian Marching or other Overseas Marching or Drill Team wishing to take part in any Championship, Competition, Display or Gathering organised by Marching New Zealand or an Association.

A16	EXPULSION FROM TEAM	(Updated July 2021)
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1. A Coach may not expel a member of the Team, or disband the Team, without first discussing the matter with the Association Committee.

A17	RECESSED ASSOCIATIONS /TEAMS	(Updated July 2021)
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1. Where, in the view of the Board, an Association is unable to function in accordance with its Objects, Powers and Committee structure, it will be declared to be in recess by the Board and its assets passed over to the Board to be administered, with the funds held in general account for the future benefit of the Sport.
2. In such instance, the Board will determine the allocation of the geographic area covered by the Recessed Association, to another Association for the purposes of promoting, encouraging, administering, and controlling the Sport of Marching, where possible.
3. Where, in the view of an Association Committee a Team is unable to function or composition structure (in the case of Teams) unless the Association Committee is satisfied that it is merely not registering for one season, it will be declared to be in recess by the Association Committee and its assets passed over to the Association Committee to be administered, with the funds held in general account, for the future benefit of the Team for a period of two years. If during this two-year period the Association Committee approves an application from a Coach/s together with a Chaperon/s, Manager and Treasurer and have sufficient Marchers to meet the minimum number requirements of participation in the phase/s to use the Team name for the purpose of re-activating the Team concerned, then the Association shall provide the assets and funding held for the purpose of that Team re-forming. Should the Team not re-form within the two-year period, then the Association Committee shall use the assets and funding for the furtherance of the Sport in the Association's area of administration.

A18	COMMUNICATIONS	(Updated June 2023)
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1. Media releases or statements regarding National Policy or Administration to be issued or made only with the prior approval of the President and/or Executive Officer.
2. Minutes of meetings of the Board will be issued to members of the Board, Board Appointees, Life Members and Associations.
3. Associations are to forward to the Executive Officer, a copy of the minutes of each Association Committee meeting, no later than one (1) month after the date of the meeting, with an extract of the minutes by way of reportage from the Coaching Co-ordinator being forwarded to the Technical Manager and Director of Coaching and from the Chief Judge being forwarded to the Technical Manager and Director of Judging.
4. A similar procedure is to be followed for Association Annual and Special Meetings and quarterly Meetings convened by the Association Committee with a wider Association membership.
5. Minutes of meetings of the Association Committee will be issued, no later than one (1) month after the date of the meeting, to Teams, Life Members and members of the Association Committee.
6. All communications to the Board shall come via the Association Secretary (and in reverse also), with the following exceptions:
 - a. If it can be proven that an Association Committee has not dealt with a subject matter within a reasonable time, and this is accepted as such by the Board,
 - b. Matters concerning the participation of a Team in a New Zealand Championship other than in respect to matters associated with the completion of Judging Sheets, subsequent to the submission of an entry form,
 - c. Contact between Association elected/appointed personnel and their counterpart Board Member or Appointee, e.g. Treasurer to/from Director of Finance, Coaching Co-ordinator to/from Director of Coaching, Chief Judge to/from Director of Judging, Registrar/Privacy Officer to/from Membership/Privacy Officer, Promotions/Publicity Officer to/from Marketing Co-ordinator.

7. Teams are to submit a written report to their Association monthly, by a date determined by the Association Committee, briefly outlining their marching, fund-raising and social activities undertaken in the previous month and those they plan in the subsequent month.
8. Association Committees are to invite, at least once a year, up to two representatives of each Team, together with Association Life Members and any other Members considered by the Association Committee to be appropriate, to meet with them at an Association Forum to be advised of the Associations forthcoming plans, to be consulted on any matter for which the Association Committee may require input, and to hear from the Team representatives, Life Members and other invited Members of any suggestions they may have for the consideration of the Association Committee at the latter's monthly meetings.

A19	FINANCES & RECORDS	(Updated June 2025)
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1. Marching New Zealand will:
 - a. Reimburse Associations for 90% of travelling expenses (limited to flights and mileage) for Association delegates to attend the Annual Meeting. Where flights are booked after 31-March (ahead of the June Annual Meeting), the reimbursement will be up to 50%, and at the discretion of the Director of Finance. Mileage claims will be assessed against flight and car-pooling options and the cheapest travel arrangement will be reimbursed.
 - b. Fund travel and accommodation expenses for judges appointed to officiate at New Zealand Championships. Mileage claims will be assessed against flight and car-pooling options and the cheapest travel arrangement will be funded/reimbursed.
2. The Board and Associations are to retain records in compliance with any Act of Parliament, e.g. financial records for seven (7) years and to retain its constitution and minutes of annual, special or committee meetings indefinitely. Other correspondence and records including master sheets of its championships (as distinct from competitions) for a period of two (2) years
3. An Association or Team will not be entitled to pledge the credit of Marching New Zealand, nor will Marching New Zealand be in any way responsible for the debts or liabilities of an Association or Team.
4. A Team will not be entitled to pledge the credit of an Association, nor will an Association be in any way responsible for the debts or liabilities of a Team.
5. Associations and Teams are to keep and maintain appropriate records and books of account. An audited or reviewed copy of the annual financial statements are to be filed with Marching New Zealand (for Associations) and the Associations (for Teams) shortly after the Annual Meeting (for Associations) or by 30 June (for Teams). The Audit or Review is to be conducted by someone independent and considered capable of doing so, whilst not necessarily qualified. If non-qualified, a statement of experience is to be attached.
6. The Board (on behalf of Marching New Zealand), Associations and Teams are to operate a bank account. All outgoing payments require a second check and approval process. The approval not being of a husband and wife/partner, nor two people living at the same household.
7. Any Group/s of Association members, with a common interest in the Sport, who may choose to raise finance for the purpose of assisting their support service activity to the Sport, are to obtain the prior approval of their Association Committee to do so and then must keep and maintain appropriate records and books of account. An Audited or Reviewed copy of the annual financial statements is to be filed with the Association by 30 June. Such Groups are to operate a bank account. All outgoing payments require a second check and approval process. The approval not being of a husband and wife/partner, nor two people living at the same household.
8. Association and Team Treasurers, in addition to any other duties, which may from time to time be allocated, are to be responsible for the following:
 - a. keeping and maintaining appropriate records and books of account.
 - b. receive all monies and bank same to the credit of the organisation's bank account/s.
 - c. pay all accounts or advances as directed by the organisation.
 - d. upon resignation, have records and books of account balanced and audited or reviewed before obtaining a written clearance from the Association or Team.

- e. in the case of Team Treasurers file monthly, a copy of the statements of the bank account/s, and summary of outstanding accounts, and file annually by 30 June, an audited or reviewed copy of the financial statements with the Association to which the Team is affiliated.
 - f. in the case of Team Treasurers, present individually a monthly written, and itemised detailed account to any individual team member with outstanding amounts owed to the Team.
 - g. in the case of Team Treasurers, present to all Team members by 30 June, a copy of the audited or reviewed financial statements.
9. Teams Treasurers will forward to their Association, by 30 April each year, a list of their members with liabilities to the Sport, giving details of same, in respect to liabilities incurred in the previous twelve (12) months and which are still owing. Each member being notified in writing of this occurrence and the details of the liabilities incurred.
 10. All funds raised by Teams and Individuals are to be used for the particular marching purpose or venture for which they were raised. If that marching purpose or venture is not to occur, then the funds are to be used for some other legitimate marching purpose within the Team, and, failing that, be directed to the local Association or Marching New Zealand for use in the Sport.

A20	TEAM STRUCTURES	(Updated June 2023)
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1. The appointment of Team Officials of a Team will be the sole right of the Coach/s of the Team, with all subsequent decision making, being in the collective hands of the Team Officials.
2. A Team Coach will not be a Team Chaperon and will hold no more than two (2) official titles within a team. All Coaches must have the approval of an Association and have completed the Coach Induction before commencing to coach a Team.
3. The Coach is responsible for the training of the Team. The Coach selects the Team, arranges the formation/s, and decides where and when the Team is to participate, while taking account of the welfare and well-being of Team members.
4. In order to obtain membership as a competitive Team Coach, a person must be a holder of the MNZ Foundation Coach Award accreditation within twelve months of registering as a Team Coach.
5. A Team Chaperon is to apply the following duties:
 - a. be responsible for the welfare and control the behaviour of the Team at all times, except when the Team is in the hands of the Coach or is on the Contest field or on a Display area.
 - b. see that the Team is ready, neatly, and correctly dressed when required by the Coach.
 - c. take up the required position for a Team Chaperon at all phases of a contest. Such position must be maintained by at least one Team Chaperon.
6. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, at least one Team Chaperon is unable to attend a contest or gathering that the Team is attending, or due to ill health at a Contest, at least one Team Chaperon is unable to take up the required position at a contest, the Secretary of the conducting authority, is to be informed of the name of another member of Marching New Zealand (who is at least 20 years of age), who will deputise.
7. A Team Manager, will be responsible for making all Team travel and accommodation arrangements as required by the Coach, including applications for Marching Overseas, and assisting with any other Team matters of a non-coaching nature, except those concerning the welfare and control of the behaviour of Team members.
8. The Team Manager will oversee, and/or be responsible for organising the Team's fund-raising activities, as agreed by way of consensus majority, after consultation, between the Team's Coach/s, Chaperon/s, Manager and Treasurer.

A21	TEAM APPEARANCES	(Updated July 2003)
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1. Teams wishing to accept an invitation to take part at any gathering not held under the auspices of their Association, other than for a Championship or Competition, are to apply to their Association for permission to do so.

2. In the case where travel and/or accommodation expenses are involved, the Association is to be satisfied that the Team has sufficient funds in order to meet such commitments.

A22	SERVICE AWARDS
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(Updated June 2023)

1. The Board will acknowledge the valuable and lengthy service of persons in helping to promote, encourage, administer or control the Sport in some way, by making presentations of Service Certificates and Badges each year. The Board will consider written suggestions from Associations (need to be with the Executive Officer by 30 April) at its May meeting and will be guided by the need for evidence of service in one or more roles at the local and/or national levels. Service to mean at least ten years in a role/s other than as a Marcher.

MARCHING GRADES (MG)

MG1 COMPETITIVE

(Updated June 2025)

1. **Masters Grade:**

Age for Marchers:	Minimum thirty (30) years of age. The Board may, at its discretion, grant exceptions to the specified age range on a case-by-case basis. In considering such requests, the Board may consult with relevant parties (e.g. coaches, the marcher, and their parents/guardians) to ensure the move is appropriate and supported.
Team Officials:	One or two Coaches (not less than 18 years of age) A Manager (not less than 20 years of age) A Treasurer (not less than 20 years of age) One or two Chaperons (not less than 20 years of age)
Competition Criteria:	As per detail approved and released by the Board.
Judging:	As per detail approved and released by the Board.

2. **Senior Grade:**

Age for Marchers:	Minimum, seventeen (17) years of age or School Year 13 as at, 1 October The Board may, at its discretion, grant exceptions to the specified age range on a case-by-case basis. In considering such requests, the Board may consult with relevant parties (e.g. coaches, the marcher, and their parents/guardians) to ensure the move is appropriate and supported.
Team Officials:	One or two Coaches (not less than 18 years of age) One or two Chaperons (not less than 20 years of age) A Manager (not less than 20 years of age) A Treasurer (not less than 20 years of age)
Competition Criteria:	As per detail approved and released by the Board.
Judging:	As per detail approved and released by the Board.

3. **Under 18 Grade:**

Age for Marchers:	Minimum, twelve (12) years of age or School Year 8 as at, 1 October. Maximum, seventeen (17) years of age, or School Year 13 as at, 1 October. The Board may, at its discretion, grant exceptions to the specified age range on a case-by-case basis. In considering such requests, the Board may consult with relevant parties (e.g. coaches, the marcher, and their parents/guardians) to ensure the move is appropriate and supported.
Team Officials:	One or two Coaches (one of whom must be no less than 18 years of age and the other not less than 16 years of age) One or two Chaperons (not less than 20 years of age) A Manager (not less than 20 years of age) A Treasurer (not less than 20 years of age)
Competition Criteria:	As per detail approved and released by the Board.
Judging:	As per detail approved and released by the Board.

4. Under 13 Grade:

Age for Marchers:	Minimum, seven (7) years of age or School Year 3 Maximum, twelve (12) years of age or if still attending school, up to and including School Year 8 as at, 1 October. The Board may, at its discretion, grant exceptions to the specified age range on a case-by-case basis. In considering such requests, the Board may consult with relevant parties (e.g. coaches, the marcher, and their parents/guardians) to ensure the move is appropriate and supported.
Team Officials:	One or two Coaches (one of whom must be no less than 18 years of age and the other not less than 16 years of age) One or two Chaperons (not less than 20 years of age) A Manager (not less than 20 years of age) A Treasurer (not less than 20 years of age)
Competition Criteria:	As per detail approved and released by the Board.
Judging:	As per detail approved and released by the Board.

MG2 RECREATIONAL

(Updated June 2025)

1. Open Free Choice Grade:

Age for Marchers:	Minimum four (4) years of age. Maximum no limit
Team Officials	One or two Coaches, one of whom must be not less than 16 years of age, and the other not less than 14 years of age. At least one Chaperon/Manager, who must be not less than 20 years of age,
Performance Criteria:	Non-competitive – own choice format and music.
Judging:	Not judged. No Master Sheet

2. Introductory Grade:

Age for Marchers:	Minimum, five (5) years of age, or School Year 1 as at, 1 October. Maximum, ten (10) years of age or School Year 6 as at, 1 October.
Team Officials:	One or two Coaches, one of whom must be not less than 16 years of age, and the other not less than 14 years of age. One Chaperon, who must be not less than 20 years of age. One Manager/Treasurer, who must be not less than 20 years of age.
Performance Criteria:	Non -competitive - format as per detail approved and released by the Board.
Judging:	As per detail approved and released by the Board.

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIPS (NZC)

NZC1 APPLICATIONS TO HOST

(Updated June 2023)

1. The Board will conduct New Zealand Championships each season, for both the Technical Drill and Display phases for Teams of each of the Masters, Senior, Under 18 and Under 13 Competitive Grades, and will invite Associations, approximately two years in advance, to apply to host the organising arrangements.
2. In considering applications, the Board is to take into account the suitability of the venue/s, administrative and organisational ability of Association personnel. Where more than one application is received, consideration will be given to the applicants' location so that there is (as far as possible) an alternate North Island / South Island location.

NZC2 DATES

(Updated June 2023)

1. The New Zealand Championships will be held encompassing part or all of one of the last two complete weekends in March, unless determined otherwise by the Board.

NZC3 ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

(Updated June 2025)

1. For Teams to be eligible for entry into the New Zealand Championships in either the Technical Drill or Display phases or both, they must:

Senior, Under 18, Under 13 and Masters Grade

- Be registered with Marching New Zealand (apart from any Team affiliated to International Drill Sports).
 - Compete in the phase/s they intend entering on at least three days of Championships and/or Competitions conducted, two of which must be in their own Association in their geographic area during the season up to 31 December. This is to exclude Island Championships. A Team will be deemed to have competed if after submitting a written entry the final scheduled Association day/s' is/are cancelled, or if only one Team enters in a Grade and takes part, or due to lack of judges available to judge a phase or phase/s, in this occasion the Team must still march in their chosen phase/phases.
 - Compete in their own Island Championship, to be held in the period 1 November up to and including the third complete weekend in February, immediately ahead of the New Zealand Championship. A Team will be deemed to have competed if, after submitting a written entry, the Island Championship is cancelled, or if only one Team enters in a Grade and takes part.
 - Submit MNZ entry form and fee to Marching New Zealand by the closing date.
 - Have registered the required number of marchers as set down in the criteria both at the time of submitting entry form, and in order to compete.
2. Indication as to intention to compete in either the Technical Drill or Display phases or both will be provided on the entry form submitted by the Team.
 3. Each Masters, Senior, Under 18 and Under 13 Grade Team will be required to march over its entered phase/s (Technical Drill and Display each being a separate phase) on two occasions.
 - Where there are 12 or more teams within the same grade, the first march will be a Qualifying March to determine a "streaming" of Teams according to their skill level. The Qualifying March will be on the "march and go" principle, although at least one Team Official will be required to be in attendance to hear the announcement of "streaming" according to the Timetable of Events. Teams will then complete their second march and the scores from both marches will be combined for determination of Awards, based on their respective stream.

- Where there are less than 12 teams within the same grade, there will be no streaming. All teams will remain in a single Championship division, with the combined scores from both marches being used for the determination of Awards.
4. “Streaming” from the Qualifying March will be allocated as follows for the second march, with each phase being treated separately:

Championship March	1 st to 6 th
Plate March	7 th to 14 th
Bowl March	15 th to 22 nd
Vase March	23 rd to Final Placing
 5. The final “streaming” grouping must have at least five teams for the Bowl and Vase streaming groups to participate separately, otherwise those one, two, three or four teams for subsequent groups will join the next higher “streaming” level for their second march.
 6. Late entries will not be accepted unless the Board deems it appropriate to do so in exceptional circumstances.

NZC4 WORKING DOCUMENT

(Updated June 2023)

1. Approximately 30 April the preceding calendar year before the New Zealand Championships, the Executive Officer will forward to the host organising Association a Working Document to be completed, which will then form the basis of organising arrangements required by the Board.

NZC5 SPONSORSHIP

(Updated July 2021)

1. Where the naming rights for New Zealand Championships are provided to an outside company or organisation under a Sponsorship arrangement entered into with Marching New Zealand, then Teams are encouraged to provide appropriate support to that company or organisation and its products or services, as part of the conditions relating to their entry, unless authorised otherwise by the Board.

NZC6 ASSOCIATION FEES

(Updated June 2014)

1. Associations, prior to 31 October will forward to the host organising Association, to be used for advertising the event, a fee of three hundred and fifty dollars (\$350) in respect of the New Zealand Championship, irrespective of whether or not any of their Teams are entering.

NZC7 APPLICATION OF OTHER RULES OF PARTICIPATION

(Updated June 2011)

1. Rules of Participation appropriate to New Zealand Championships, as detailed under the “Island and Association Championships and Competitions”, are to be encompassed in the conducting of New Zealand Championships, where applicable.

NZC8 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

(Updated June 2023)

1. The administration of a New Zealand Championship will be in the hands of the Executive Officer who will assume any of the responsibilities outlined in these Rules of Participation in respect of Island and Association Championships and Competitions, for the Secretary, where appropriate and applicable.

NZC9 TECHNICAL APPOINTMENTS AT NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

(June 2021)

1. The Director of Coaching and Director of Judging at New Zealand Championships will assume any of the responsibilities outlined in these Rules of Participation in respect of Island and Association Championships and Competitions, for the Coaching Co-ordinator and Chief Judge, where appropriate and applicable.
2. The Technical Manager, Director of Judging and Director of Coaching are not to be appointed to New Zealand Championships Judging Panels, unless the Board considers, on the recommendation of the Director of Judging, that there are no other alternatives to such appointments.

NZC10 PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

(updated June 2023)

1. The Board will administer appropriate presentations of Awards (open and closed) in respect of the New Zealand Championships, as follows:

NZ Champion Team & Coach	Trophy and Badges
2 nd & 3 rd Champion Teams & Coaches	Badges

The NZ Champion Masters, Senior, Under 18 and Under 13 Team shall be decided by an aggregation of the final total points of Technical Drill and the Display March of the Championship March

- a. Masters, Senior, Under 18 and Under 13 Grades – Championship March

Champion Technical Drill & Display Teams	Trophy and Badges/Bars
2 nd & 3 rd Technical Drill and Display Teams	Badges/Bars
4 th , 5 th & 6 th Technical Drill and Display Teams	Badges/Bars
Coaches of Champion, 2 nd & 3 rd Technical Drill & Display Teams	Badge/Bar
Coaches of 4 th , 5 th & 6 th Technical Drill & Display Teams	Badge/Bar

- b. Masters, Senior, Under 18 and Under 13 Grades – Plate March

1 st Technical Drill & Display Teams	Plate and Bars
2 nd & 3 rd Technical Drill & Display Teams	Bars
Coaches of 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Technical Drill & Display Teams	Bar

- c. Masters, Senior, Under 18 and Under 13 Grades – Bowl March

1 st Technical Drill & Display Teams	Bowl and Bars
2 nd & 3 rd Technical Drill & Display Teams	Bars
Coaches of 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Technical Drill & Display Teams	Bar

- d. Masters, Senior, Under 18 and Under 13 Grades – Vase March

1 st Technical Drill & Display Teams	Vase and Bars
2 nd & 3 rd Technical Drill & Display Teams	Bars
Coaches of 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd Technical Drill & Display Teams	Bar

- e. Masters, Senior, Under 18 and Under 13 Grades – Open Awards

1 st Technical Drill & Display Teams	Trophy
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Only to be awarded when there are any teams from other than New Zealand competing.

2. Above are based on there being the maximum number of Teams in a “streaming”. If less than the maximum, then the maximum number of Awards to be presented in that “streaming” will be 50% of the number of Teams.
3. In addition, there will be North Island versus South Island Challenge, adjudged on the best average Team placings achieved in the Technical Drill phase and the Display phase, competed for collectively by each of the Teams in each of the Grade/s competing over the weekend. These placings will be taken from the Qualifying March.
4. As well, there will be a New Zealand versus Overseas Challenge trophy made available for the Masters Grade, where there are any Teams from other than New Zealand competing, adjudged on the best average Team placings achieved in the Technical Drill and Display phases, competed for collectively by each of the Teams competing. These placings will be taken from the Qualifying March.

NZC11 WEATHER CONDITIONS

(Updated June 2023)

1. Should inclement weather prevail in respect of a New Zealand Championship, the President, Executive Officer, Director of Coaching, Director of Judging, and host Association Secretary will confer and decide on an appropriate action. Should such conferral result in an inconclusive decision (equal number of opinions for and against), then the Executive Officer will make the decision.

NZC12 COACH/JUDGE INTERVIEWS/CORRESPONDENCE ON JUDGING SHEETS

(Updated June 2016)

1. At New Zealand Championships, Judging Sheets will be available at the conclusion of each competition march. There will be Coach/Judge interviews to ask clarifying questions only at the conclusion of the Qualifying March to be held at the conclusion of the morning and afternoon sessions.
2. If a Team Coach subsequently feels it necessary to question or comment on the completion of a Judging Sheet/s, then the Coach will write to the Director of Coaching (with a copy to their own Association Coaching Co-ordinator). The Director of Coaching will reply, after consulting with the Director of Judging and Technical Manager if considered necessary. If the Team Coach is still not satisfied after receiving the reply from the Director of Coaching, then a letter may be forwarded to the Board to consider the matter.

NZC13 HOST ASSOCIATION FINANCE REPORT

(Updated July 2015)

1. Associations hosting New Zealand Championships are to forward to the Board, a statement of receipts and payments relating to the event, no later than three (3) months after the Championships are held. When a profit level exceeds \$12,500, the excess be refunded to the Teams to a maximum of the amount they paid for venue entry/pass.

NZC14 TROPHIES

(Updated June 2025)

1. New Zealand Championship trophies are to be engraved with the winning team's name and year only, packed securely in a box with appropriate packing material (bubblewrap etc) and returned to the Custodian of Trophies by the 30 September following their presentation. Should a Team fail to return the trophy, the Board (at its discretion) may refuse to accept the entry of the Team to the New Zealand Championship event.

OVERSEAS MARCHING (OM)

OM1 INTERNATIONAL CONTEST / EVENT

(Updated June 2023)

1. The administration and conduct of any international contest or gathering between Teams of New Zealand and any other Country, where a Marching or Drill Team may be able to meet the conditions of participation, will be covered by an Agreement between Marching New Zealand and any other National Marching Association representing the Sport of Marching in their Country.
2. Any international contest or gathering, when conducted in New Zealand, be controlled by the Board, with an Association co-opted for organisation purposes in accordance with conditions laid down by the Board.

OM2 OVERSEAS TOURS

(Updated June 2023)

1. Teams wishing to travel overseas will advise their Association of this intention at least (4) months before the proposed travel. The Association will obtain from the Executive Officer an application form approved by the Board, for the Team to complete and submit to the Board no later than three (3) months before the proposed travel.
2. Upon receipt of the application form, the Board will consider the application and advise the Team concerned, through their Association, of the outcome of their application, and if successful, of any conditions under which the tour has been approved.
3. Notwithstanding the above time-frames the Board may accept and approve applications outside these if considered appropriate.

ISLAND/ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS/COMPETITIONS (RAC)

RAC1 ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

(Updated June 2016)

1. Associations will combine to organise a North Island and South Island Championship each season, for both the Technical Drill and Display phases for Teams of each of the Competitive Grades.
2. Associations will communicate with one another in respect to date, venue and arrangements for the Island Championship each season, ensuring that the events in any one season are not held over both Islands during the one weekend.
3. Rules of Participation appropriate to Association Championships and Competitions, as detailed under the balance of "Island and Association Championships and Competitions", are to be encompassed in the conducting of Island Championships, where applicable.

RAC2 CONDUCTING OF CHAMPIONSHIPS & COMPETITIONS

(June 2021)

1. Associations are to conduct an Association Championship each season, for both the Technical Drill and Display phases for all Teams.
3. Associations are to conduct Competitions, whether of either Technical Drill or Display phases or both or of other Marching related activities on a regular basis throughout the period 1 October to the following 31 March.
4. Associations are to conduct at least two Competitions for each of the Technical Drill and Display phases, between 1 October and the following 31 December.
5. Competitions are to be held under the jurisdiction of an Association, although hosting arrangements may be conducted by Team/s or Judges.
6. Marching Championships and Competitions are a competitive exercise between Teams, involving Set Drills and Routines (being the Technical Drills phase), Team devised Drills and Routines (being the Display phase) and Uniform Wearing, such conditions and the judging thereof being approved each season by the Board at the Board's May meeting, and promulgated to Associations by 1 July for application from that date.
7. Where only one Team takes part in a Competition, it will be regarded as having competed.
8. Championships and Competitions will be adjudicated upon by a Panel of Judges recommended by either the Director of Judging with the approval of the Board (for New Zealand Championships and Island Championships) or by the Association Chief Judge with the approval of the Association Committee (for Association Championships and Competitions) on the basis of each Team being correctly judged, in a fair and equitable manner, in accordance with the various Drill and Routines Requirements and the Judging Criteria and Judging Sheets issued by the Board.

RAC3 ENTRIES & ENTRY FEES

(Updated July 2003)

1. Entries, with an entry fee, for Association Championships and Competitions will close fourteen (14) days prior to the date thereof. Associations are entitled, but are not compelled, to accept late entries for which an appropriate late entry fee may be charged providing this information is promulgated through Marching New Zealand's circularisation of a Calendar of Events near the commencement of a season.

RAC4 ADDITIONAL TEAM

(Updated July 2003)

1. A Team may enter a second ('additional') Team in either the Technical Drill, or Display, or both phases at a Championship or Competition providing:
 - a. Both Teams have sufficient Marchers to meet the minimum numbers requirement of participation in the phase/s,

- b. A Marcher marches once only in each of the Technical Drill and Display phases, although may march in one phase for one Team and in the other phase for the other Team,
- c. When entering, the 'additional' Team must present one additional word to the registered Team name and must pay the appropriate entry fee for the phase/s entered.

RAC5 TEAMS TRAVELLING

(Updated July 2004)

1. Teams wishing to travel and take part in Championships and Competitions outside their own Association area to apply to their Association for permission to do so.
2. In the case where travel and/or accommodation expenses are involved, the Association is to be satisfied that the Team has sufficient funds in order to meet such commitments.

RAC6 CONTEST INFORMATION

(Updated July 2003)

1. Seven (7) days after the closing date of entries for Association Championships and Competitions, each Team Coach, the Association Coaching Co-ordinator and the Association Chief Judge (with sufficient for appointed Judges) will be supplied with a copy of the Contest Order of Draw, Timetable of Events and possibly other information relating to the contest. In preparing the Timetable of Events, the Secretary will contact the Chief Judge and be guided by any comments which may affect judging of the contest.

RAC7 SECRETARY

(Updated July 2003)

1. The administration of an Association Championship or Competition will be in the hands of the Secretary, who will not act as Chief Judge or a Judge at that event.
2. If necessary, an Association Committee may appoint an Acting Secretary to carry out the duties, and take responsibility, of a Secretary at an Association Championship or Competition.

RAC8 TEAM OFFICIALS/MARCHERS JUDGING

(Updated June 2011)

1. A Team Official (Coach, Manager or Treasurer) or Marcher is permitted to judge a Grade in which that person's Team is not competing at that Championship or Competition, with the exception of Island Championships, with other competing Teams' permission, or at a Championship or Competition when the said Team is not competing. A Team Chaperon is permitted to judge at a Championship or Competition when the said Team is not competing.

RAC9 HEALTH AND SAFETY

(Updated June 2015)

1. First aid facilities will be provided at all Association Championships and Competitions.
2. The Team Chaperon and First Aid Officials are to be given immediate access to any Marcher who requires medical assistance during any marching phase.
3. Confirmation of the approved competition/championship 'First Aid' official will be advised to the Chief Judge, Chief Marshall, and Team Coaches at the commencement of each competition/championship.

RAC10 CHIEF JUDGE

(Updated June 2014)

1. The Chief Judge of a Championship or Competition will be responsible for the judging and for all aspects such as marshals, marshalling, false starts, re-marches, music timing, replacements, complaints, dispensations etc, to ensure that all Teams compete on a fair and equitable basis.

RAC11 CONDITIONS OF CONTEST

(Updated July 2021)

1. If a Team does not comply with a requirement detailed in Drills and Routines published by the Board, or subsequent direction or ruling by the Technical Manager or Championship/Competition Secretary, and such non-compliance causes an unfair advantage to

a Team, or causes disruption to a competitive phase, then the Chief Judge will recommend a penalty relative to the offence. Such penalty will not exceed twenty-five (25) points and will be endorsed or otherwise by the Coaching Co-ordinator, or in the case of New Zealand Championships by the Director of Coaching, such penalty to be included in the Judging System prior to the completion of the Master Sheet. Should the Coaching Co-ordinator also be a Coach of a Team competing in the particular Grade, another Association Committee member will act as a third party. The same procedure will be adopted should an impasse occur but in the case of New Zealand Championships, the third party will be a member of the Board.

2. Marching Championships and Competitions will be conducted in a manner that is fair and equitable to all Teams, and in no-way should conditions (other than those of weather) favour or prejudice any one Team.
3. It is the responsibility of all Championship and Competition Officials to ensure that the technical requirements and decisions of Marching New Zealand are capable of being and are adhered to.
4. If any condition arises which would adversely affect any Team in so far as it competing fairly and equitably with other competing Teams is concerned, the Team Coach/s should immediately report such occurrence to either the Coaching Co-ordinator or Chief Judge.
5. Upon receipt of a complaint from a Team Coach/s, and after consultation with the Coaching Co-ordinator unless that person is also a Team Coach of a Team competing in the particular Grade, and having received all the relevant information, the Chief Judge will take whatever action may be considered necessary in the interest of all concerned. The decision of the Chief Judge on complaints of this nature will be final.
6. The Chief Judge must report the circumstance of a complaint to the Committee of the conducting authority.
7. It will be the responsibility of each Team Coach to check that all the figures on Judging Sheets are correct and correspond with the Master Sheet. Should there be an anomaly the Conducting Authority will be notified by 8 pm on the day following the Championship or Competition. After checking the Judging Sheets and Master Sheet, the conducting authority will take such steps as are necessary to rectify any alteration in the Presentation of Awards.
8. Teams will compete in either the Technical Drill or Display phases or both, of a Championship or Competition, according to which phase/s they have entered, in the order in which they appear on the Contest Order of Draw and according to the Timetable of Events, and any Team which fails to take part or which fails to report in the order of appearance without having negotiated for a re-arrangement with the Secretary, will be deemed to have defaulted from the contest.
9. No one person shall have the authority to disqualify a Team.

RAC12 RECORDING

(Updated July 2003)

1. The Board will, prior to 1 October each year, issue to Associations, details relating to the management and operation of the Recording Room to be set up at all Championships and Competitions to produce a Master Sheet from the various Judges markings on Judging Sheets to a Results Sheet for the Presentation of Awards.

RAC13 INTRODUCTORY/OPEN FREE CHOICE GRADES

(Updated June 2023)

1. Marchers who have taken part in a Masters, Senior, Under 18 or Under 13 Grade activity at a Championship or Competition, may not also take part in the Introductory or Open Free Choice Grades at that Contest.

RAC14 TROPHIES/MEDALS/BADGES

(Updated June 2025)

1. Trophies, Medals, Badges and Bars (or similar), or any other tangible item may be presented to Teams or Leaders at a New Zealand, Island or Association Championship, and also at Association Competitions where Trophies may be awarded for one-off marches, and Medals, Badges and Bars (or similar) may only be awarded where two or more marches (on the same or separate days) are aggregated for the purpose of making Awards.

2. Trophies, Medals, Badges and Bars (or similar), or any other tangible item may be presented in respect of only the Technical Drill Team and Display Team phases together with Achievement. There must be at least two Teams eligible for an Award before an Award can be presented. However, for an Island or Association Championship, where only one Team competes in a Grade, the Championship trophy may be presented to that Team.
3. Trophies won by a Team, are to be returned to the respective Associations by 1 July each year, in excellent condition and well cleaned.
4. Medals, Badges and Bars (or similar), or any other tangible item presented to Teams will be up to ten (10) in number for both phases. Additional medals, badges and bars for further Team members attending the Championship or Competition in uniform, can be obtained free of charge from the Secretary of the conducting Association.
5. Medals, Badges and Bars (or similar) may only be worn during the non-competitive parts of a Championship or Competition, and gatherings not under the auspices of Marching New Zealand. The only medals/badges to be worn are those won during the current season, and those won at previous Interdominion Championships, International Challenges or Island and New Zealand Championships.
6. Open Free Choice and Introductory Grade Teams may be given a participation certificate or an appropriate presentation for participation, except Trophies (or similar such as cups, plates, shields, rosebowls etc) or medals and badges (or similar).

RAC15 WEATHER CONDITIONS

(Updated July 2021)

1. Should inclement weather prevail in respect of an Association Championship or Competition, the President, Secretary, Coaching Co-ordinator, and Chief Judge will confer and decide on appropriate action. Should such conferral result in an inconclusive decision (equal number of opinions for and against) then the Secretary will make the decision.

RAC16 AWARDS CRITERIA

(Updated June 2025)

1. The Champion Technical Drill Team at a Championship or Competition will be decided by an aggregation of the total points of all Judges during the Technical Drill phase.
2. The Champion Display Team at a Championship or Competition will be decided by an aggregation of the total points of all Judges of the Team during the Display phase.
3. Provided that there is more than one Team eligible in a Grade after other Team Championship or aggregated Competition awards have been decided, the Association can have an Achievement Award at each Championship and aggregated Competition as follows:
 - a. The Achievement Award winner will be the Team whose Technical Drill Team points have increased to the greatest extent from their Technical Drill Team points at the previous Championship/average of aggregated Competition conducted by the Association where the Technical Drill phase formed part thereof. If none of the eligible Teams have had a increase in points, the Achievement Award winner will be the Team whose points have decreased the least.
 - b. If a Team did not attend the previous Championship/aggregated Competition where the Technical Drill phase was held or did not take part in the Technical Drill phase forming part of that Championship/Competition, conducted by the Association, it will not be eligible for the Achievement Award.
 - c. Teams receiving Awards for placings in the Technical Drill Team, Open, Local or Visitors Technical Drill Team phase of a Championship or Competition will not be eligible for the Achievement Award.
 - d. The Achievement award will also apply to the Display phase with the same criteria as in the three preceding paragraphs.

1. Associations will forward to the Technical Manager, Director of Coaching, Director of Judging and the Executive Officer, a copy each of the Master Sheet of every Championship and Competition conducted under their auspices, within one week of the contest being held.
2. Team Coaches and officiating Judges will be provided with a Master Sheet showing the markings from each Judge and the Team placings for each phase of the Championship or Competition. On request, where aggregated Competitions are held over more than one day, Team Coaches will be provided with a Master Sheet showing markings only for the earlier day/s.