

2019 National High School Drill Team Championships

UNARMED COMPETITION SOP

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*Best attempts have been made to ensure all changes
from the previous year SOP have been denoted in **YELLOW**.*

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UNARMED COMPETITION SOP **REGULATIONS FOR ALL UNARMED DIVISIONS** **MASTERS AND CHALLENGE LEVEL COMPETITIONS**

SECTION 1 - THE UNARMED COMPETITION

A. Competition Guidelines

1. The Unarmed Division competition score sheets (with the exception of all levels of Color Guard) have been written under the guidelines of the AFMAN 36-2203. However, as stated within the Overall Competition SOP, teams may use any one of the three major service manuals for competition at the NHSDTC. The only exception to this is that the Color Guard competition may ONLY be executed using the MCO P5060.20 w/change 1 OR the Army TC 3-21.5 (most recent version available). Only the mods contained within this SOP will be allowed. Any team wishing to obtain a copy of any service manual should look on the Nationals website with this direct link: <http://www.thenationals.net/judgeregs-MANUALS.htm>
2. **The NHSDTC allows all units to perform in accordance with the requirements outlined in their particular service manual with few exceptions.** However, portions of some events WILL REQUIRE the use of the Army manual (as in Case/Uncase Colors in Color Guard or all rifle movements for Air Force teams within Armed basic event drill). **Specifics on EXACTLY HOW THIS MUST BE DONE are listed in detail under both the Regulation and Color Guard segments of this SOP.** This drill meet SOP has been studied by drill instructors from all services ensuring that it maintains the fairest all-service drill meet format possible.
4. Teams should review the General Operating Procedures in its entirety before readying their unit for the NHSDTC.

B. National Championship Events

1. The events counted towards the National Championship in the Challenge Level: **Unit Inspection, Flight Regulation, Color Guard, & Team Exhibition.** The events counted towards the National Championship in the Masters Level: **Unit Inspection, Flight Regulation, Color Guard, Element Exhibition & Flight Exhibition.** Overall finish is determined by placement valuation in each event (see page 7-9 – 5-C-1 for details).

C. Drill Rifle/Weapon Requirements & Regulations

1. Because this is an UNARMED division, no cadet may utilize any form of drill rifle except during Unarmed Division Color Guard competition. The only exception to the rule above is that a Cadet Commander ONLY MAY carry and utilize a saber or sword. Regulations for rifle bearers within the color guard event are maintained within the Color Guard section of this SOP.
2. As the AFMAN 36-2203 manual maintains no regulations regarding correct handling of a rifle, rifle handling maneuvers will be judged in accordance with Army regulations contained within TC 3-21.5. That said, we believe ONLY rifle maneuvers should change. Air Force cadets should not have to re-learn all basic movements simply because they are holding a rifle. This is detailed further herein.

D. Cadet Commander Regulations

1. Unarmed commanders **MAY** elect to carry a saber or sword during portions of the event. When a commander uses a saber or sword, it is not permitted to leave the commander's hand at any time. (No flipping or tossing!).
2. When using a saber or sword, the commander should maintain EXTREME control and use proper distance around the Head Judge when reporting in and out. Violation of this rule will cause the Head Judge to retreat to a safe distance away from the commander. Although there is no specific deduction for this action, the result is reflected in the overall evaluation scoring from the event Head Judge, as well as the other event judges.
3. Allowing that each drill team is instructed differently, judges will evaluate the vocal projection of cadet commanders in the following manner. During Inspection and Regulation Drill events, an individual's voice projection, confidence, and tone will be the criteria upon which judges will base their evaluations.
4. **CADET COMMANDERS WILL NOT MOVE TO REVIEW THE CADETS FOR PERFECT DRESS & COVER DURING ANY BASIC EVENT(S)!** Cadets will dress & cover only. Cadets at this level are expected to maintain adequate dress & cover without supplemental review from the Cadet Commander. Cadet Commanders who move to review the ranks will be graded down for their efforts - DON'T do it!

SECTION 2 - UNIT INSPECTION

A. General Information

1. Teams will formulate their Unit Inspection in the same way they do every other competition unit at the Nationals. The team will select 12 cadets to stand Unit Inspection, as well as select the Cadet Commander to lead the unit.
2. Inspection at the Nationals will have a different tenor than some may remember from past years. While still designed to be an intense experience, the judges will be briefed, trained and monitored to ensure a common standard is displayed. Inspection questions will ONLY come from FIVE primary areas. These will be military, governmental, historical, current events and first aid. These broad topics will have questions formulated well in advance and will be broken down into easy, medium and hard questions. These questions will NOT be given to the teams in advance. There will be HUNDREDS of questions available to the judges for use and therefore they will likely not be many except the most basic that could be repeated throughout the day. Judges will also be encouraged to ask cadets thought provoking questions involving moral issues, likely ending with, "and WHY" where the cadet will be expected to explain their logic, reasoning or answer in detail to the judge.
3. Judges will maintain a strong presence and cadets should be expected to have impeccable bearing. Judges will provide immediate feedback on deficiencies to the cadet during the review.
4. The scoresheet should be studied to see how your performance can receive the maximum score in each area.

B. Inspection Procedures

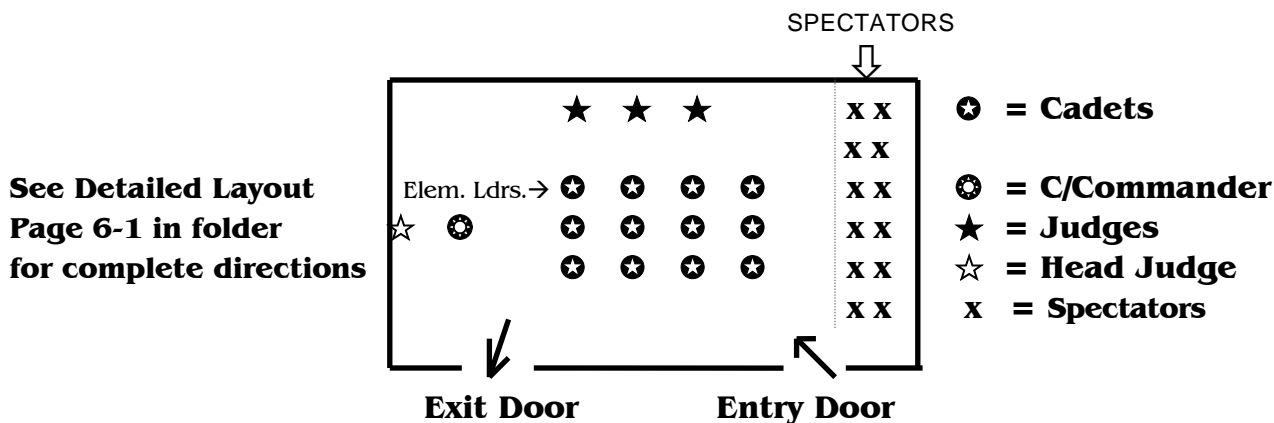
1. Just prior to the Inspection, all spectators should have a seat inside the Inspection room in the spectator seating area. The unit forms outside the Inspection room in the hallway just outside the entrance door.
2. The Head Judge will approach the cadet commander in the hallway as the parents enter the room, impart a few words of wisdom, ensure the unit is ready, and then return back into the Unit Inspection room. The Head Judge will ensure the other judges are ready, and then command in a loud voice, "XYZ High School, REPORT!" The Cadet Commander will then verbally command the unit to enter the Inspection area through a 72" doorway (double doors – 36" each). An extra cadet, parent or team follower should open, hold and close the door(s) for this entry.
3. The unit will be formed with 4 elements of 3 cadets each and centered on the Head Judge in the formation as shown below. **Teams forming into three elements of four cadets will be ripped by the judges!** Teams should NOT simply command "Fall In" and double time into the area. Judges want to see a unit commanded and marched into the inspection room. How you choose to do this is up to your team.
4. Once inside the room, the Cadet Commander halts the platoon and faces the platoon, if necessary. At this point, the Cadet Commander will command, "**Open Ranks, March**", "**Dress Right, Dress**" "**Ready Front**", execute an About Face, salute, and Report In to the Head Judge with the unit at attention. Due to the room size, units must be centered and should not "crowd" the Head Judge when executing "Open Ranks". However, done correctly, the C/CDR should be a minimum of two paces away from the Head Judge.

Important Note!

Instructors, you control the Inspection Room! Only those spectators who are with your program should be inside your inspection. An SNI staff member may enter the room to ensure the judges are following the correct procedures during their interaction with your cadets but these people are easily identified. If someone attempts to enter your inspection room and after speaking with them you do not wish to have them inside your inspection, you have the right to ask them to leave. If they do anything but comply fully, tell the head judge to radio for the Competition Director and that individual will be removed from the area immediately by SNI staff.

5. To report in correctly, the Cadet Commander should state: 1) school name & team name; 2) city & state you are from; 3) the drill manual you will perform in accordance with and 4) the military "reg" your uniform is inspected under (AR 670-1; MC Order P1020.34F; AFROTC 36-9, etc.). **NOTE: DO NOT have the entire formation salute the judge – this is an exhibition movement!**
6. Once in formation inside the room, the Cadet Commander halts the platoon. At this point, the Cadet Commander will command, "**Open Ranks, March**", "**Dress Right, Dress**" "**Ready Front**", execute an About Face, salute, and report in to the Head Judge with the unit at attention. Due to the room size, units must be centered and should not "crowd" the Head Judge when executing "Open Ranks". However, done correctly, **the C/CDR should be a minimum of two paces away from the Head Judge AFTER Open Ranks is executed.**

7. After Report-In, the Head Judge will inspect the commander briefly. The Head Judge will tell the commander, "**PRECEED ME through the Inspection**" or similar. Cadet Commander will follow these instructions and LEAD the Head Judge, staying one cadet slot ahead of the judge. The remaining three judges will then step off and begin their Inspection of the other squads. .
8. **Cadets in ranks should provide a very brief greeting to the Inspection judges when a judge halts in front of them.** An example would be, "Good morning Staff Sergeant, Cadet Phillips ready for your inspection" or similar. The name and rank of each judge listed by RANK will be posted just outside the competition area.
9. When the Head Judge inspects cadet #3 of the 1st element, the cadet commander is "in space" to the judges right. When completed with the final cadet inspection in their rank, the head judge then cuts in front of the cadet commander and moves to the rear of the 1st element and at that point the cadet FOLLOWS the head judge. When the judge reaches the end of the rank, both the judge and the cadet move to their original positions at the front of the formation. The cadet then FACES THE UNIT to ensure ALL judges have completed their inspection.
10. When all judges have completed their inspection, the cadet commander **FIRST** will verbally report out to the Head Judge. Upon reply by the judge, the cadet commander will THEN execute "About Face", execute "Close Ranks, March" and then execute "Column of Files" (squad leaders give appropriate supplemental commands) to exit through the exit doorway. On "Close Ranks, March", an extra cadet, parent or team follower moves quickly and quietly to open and hold the exit door for the team. Because a doorway is involved, the Cadet Commander should remain inside the room and follow the 4th squad out the door as they leave.
11. After exiting the room, the team should move away from the exit door and QUIETLY bring the unit to a halt, then dismiss the unit. All parents and spectators leave immediately after the team. **It is requested that the unit instructors be the last ones out of the room and we encourage you to shake the hands of the four judges.** It is not a time to have any real discussion, but we believe this act is important to set the right tone of a less adversarial appearance between the judges and the teams.
12. A single instructor or other designated team representative is encouraged to wait for the runner to execute the Scoresheet Review in the hallway area outside the exit door in the hallway.
13. A map is enclosed following page 6-1 in the school folder describing entrance, formation and exit of the Inspection drill areas (H & I). The formation of the unit must be done exactly as shown in the map and in this description. Please do not ask if you can use a similar formation, entry or execution method; all teams use the method outlined.



D. Cadet Verbal Responses

1. Unit Inspection **will include roughly 3-5 questions for each cadet** to determine a cadet's poise, confidence, and overall military/governmental/historical/first aid/current events knowledge. Again, judges will be strident and possibly imposing to a high school cadet, however they will not be screaming, nor touching the cadet or anything on the cadet. Study, but know that a Nationals' Inspection will test knowledge, thinking on your feet and bearing!
2. If a cadet doesn't know the answer to a question posed to him/her, a confident, "Sir, this cadet does not know at this time, sir!" is the best response.
3. If a judge incorrectly applies a regulation to your team's service branch or other type of mistake, do not belabor the point with the judge during Inspection! If the judge presses a point a cadet knows is incorrect, the correct response should be "Sir, this cadet has been instructed that "thus & so" is correct, sir". Do not lose military bearing! After ending the Inspection process, immediately reach the SNI judging director and the issue will be immediately resolved.

SECTION 3 - FLIGHT REGULATION DRILL

A. General Information

1. The required movements in this event must be done regardless of the team's service affiliation, in the order they are listed. This allows every team to perform in other languages & dialects, along with allowing service variations (i.e., "rear march" vs. "to the rear march", etc.). Obvious mis-statements by the Commander may result in point deductions in overall impression of the unit, etc.
2. **ALL UNITS MUST UTILIZE A STANDARD, FULL 30" STEP REGARDLESS OF SERVICE AFFILIATION.**
3. Team Commanders **MAY** be armed with either a rifle, saber or sword. **The cadet commander should Report in and Report Out 6 paces and centered on the Head Judge.**

B. Judging & Scoring

1. The Regulation Drill sequence is composed of many individual scoring opportunities. Also, teams will receive point scores for their report in and report out, and points on the judges' for the overall impression of the routine, for a grand total of 300 points, per judge.
2. Some of these movement combinations are relatively easy while a few are quite difficult. While the execution of many of these movements within the given drill area size is challenging for any drill unit, it can be executed by any well-prepared team worthy of attending the Nationals at any competition level. The unit's ability to perform this sequence **without extra commands** is vital to the team's overall success at this meet.
3. The position of the Head Judge is fixed and denoted by a large "X" placed on the floor. Teams will report in and report out to this spot. It is responsibility of the Head Judge to ensure he or she is on this spot during both the report-in and report-out. **See enclosed drill area layout for exact position of the Head Judge.**
4. To report in correctly, the Cadet Commander should state: 1) school name & team name; 2) city & state you are from; 3) the drill manual you will perform in accordance with. NOTE: DO NOT have the entire formation salute the judge – this is an exhibition movement!
5. A single instructor or other designated team representative can wait for the runner to execute the Scoresheet Review in the hallway area by the exit.

C. Regulation Drill Sequence Movements

1. The sequence is designed to be executed with THREE squads/elements of FOUR cadets each. No other formation is possible to execute the drill correctly.
2. All of the prescribed movements in the Regulation Drill sequence are located on the event scoresheet,
3. All teams should carefully review the Regulation Sequence for their team to ensure their entry and/or exit from the drill floor keeps the element leaders in the correct position to execute the drill as written. Teams may find the need to execute various column commands (left or right, depending on the drill area) to properly enter and/or exit the drill floor with the squad/element leaders kept to the front of the formation.

Important Note!

Judges are encouraged to discuss matters of rule interpretation, boundary violations, and missed commands among themselves immediately after both Regulation and Color Guard sequences. With the all-service format of the event, this remains the best way to ensure a school is graded correctly. Judges DO NOT discuss matters of preference or opinions regarding a performance AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE AWARDS CEREMONY.

SECTION 4 - COLOR GUARD DRILL

A. General Information

1. As in Regulation Drill, all of the required movements in this event must be done regardless of the team's service affiliation. However, the actual language used to accomplish these movements is at the discretion of each unit. Only extra movements required by your unit's service manual to complete any movement prescribed within this sequence will be allowed.
2. Non-Army units competing in Color Guard competition may use ONLY Army TC 3-21.5 OR MCO P5060.20 for their routine (NJROTC Cadet Field Manual, while nearly identical to the MCO is not an officially recognized manual as Marine Corps judges do not have knowledge of this document. AFMAN 36-2203 is NOT authorized for use at this meet for color guard as it is "too loose" on reg structure).
3. **ALL UNITS will use the Army manual for case and/or uncase procedures.** Using the Army manual is CERTAINLY easier for your team and the judges as you will execute EVERYTHING in accordance with Army regs. However, for clarity, we wish to spell out for competitors and judges what is expected of NON-ARMY teams wishing to compete using either the Army manual or USMC manual.
 - a) Any non-Army school wishing to use the Army manual to compete in Color Guard MUST state their desire during report-in. Schools doing this WILL NOT be required to change their method of stride (i.e., Marine teams may still utilize the 2" toe / 4" heel step style ONLY, Air Force still uses their trained step height as well). **However, all other functions of their routine MUST be done in strict accordance with the Army TC-3-21.5 manual** (including all USAF units which MUST use the Army TC 3-21.5 for all aspects of the sequence).
 - b) Any Navy/Marine Corps unit wishing to drill in accordance with the MCO P5060.20 will do just that for all items OUTSIDE case & uncase procedures (rifles outboard, no armswing, etc.), HOWEVER, when the unit gets to the section on case and/or uncase, **judges and teams are instructed to have Marine units move the rifles to Right Shoulder Arms and then complete all items listed under case and/or uncase procedures as outlined within the Army manual.** Judges and teams are directed to allow the ability for the USMC/Navy units to march utilizing 2" toe/4' heel, **but all other items during case & uncase should be done as per the Army manual.** Therefore, while doing case and/or uncase, Marine/Navy units using the MCO P5060.20 will not use Ready, Cut, locked arms, or any other non-Army commands or movements – **everything will be verbalized and executed as outlined within the text of the Army Manual.** When COMPLETED with case and/or uncase, unit should move the rifles back to outboard. This will signify to the judges that the unit is back in full-on MCO P5060.20 mode.
4. Unlike procedures outlined within Army TC 3-21.5, no SGM commands the unit - the Color Guard Commander (cadet carrying the National colors) will lead the team through the entire performance.
5. After consultation with those involved with writing the Army Training Circular, SNI is making the call that **ALL UNITS WILL EXECUTE SLING ARMS BY CRADLING THE RIFLE** as outlined for the 1903 replica Springfields in 2016 and beyond (as opposed to some rifles correctly executing by GRASPING the rifle). This difference has been created by the current manual omitting the term "sling arms" from the listing of weapon movements to execute exactly as done with the Springfield. This was actually an omission on their part and will likely be corrected in future editions of the Training Circular.
6. The flagstaves and flag casings may be made out of any material and may contain any personalized markings (school name, color, service, etc.) you so desire. This is not regulated by SNI and is left to your discretion. **All flagstaves in use at the NHSDTC MUST be equipped with finials (spear, spade, eagle, etc.) required by your service manual.** Failure to utilize a correct finial will allow the judges to subjectively deduct what they feel is appropriate for this deficiency on the Overall Impression segment of the scoresheet.

7. Several drill events across the country now maintain an event called "exhibition" or "special" color guard. These events often allow fancy foot movements, facing movements and other creative flag and rifle maneuvers during a color guard performance. **THIS IS NOT A PART OF ANY FACET OF COLOR GUARD COMPETITION AT THE NATIONALS!** Every command, movement and procedure you undertake throughout your Color Guard performance at the Nationals needs to be DIRECTLY and STRICTLY out of your competition manual and the Nationals SOP.
8. Teams may compete at the Nationals utilizing either a "flag" or a "color" (usually, a flag adorned with gold fringe). In either case, the item will be treated as a flag for the purposes of cadet actions/grading.
9. Teams should be CENTERED on the head judge meaning the close interval maintained between the two color bearers should be in front of the head judge.
10. Teams must ENTER THE FLOOR to begin grading their routine. Do not execute your drill before entry.

B. Color Guard Inspection (Masters Level Only)

1. In the Masters Level competition, all color guard units will stand a brief Inspection immediately prior to entering the drill floor. This Inspection is conducted in an alcove area directly adjacent to the competition area. No such Inspection occurs during Color Guard competition at either the Challenge or Open Level events.
2. The CG Inspection judge will move to the ready area and introduce him/her self, ensure the team in the ready area IS the team next up and is the team listed on the scoresheet. CG Commander will be asked to initial the scoresheet to witness school is correct. The judge will then move to a yellow "X" on the floor roughly 30' away where he/she will stand for both Report-in and Report-out. On a visual signal from the judge, the unit should march into the inspection area with the colors CASSED and stop approximately 3 paces from the position of the Head Judge. The correct procedures to follow are:
 - 1) **Forward, March** (*Unit marches at close interval toward the judge - at this point, **judging starts***);
 - 2) **Color Guard, Halt** (*EIGHT paces or so will put the unit on or about the yellow line where they are expected to halt*);
 - 3) **Order, Colors** (*Brings the flags and rifles to Order, Arms position with staff on the ground*);
 - 4) **Present, Arms** (*Rifles move to salute, FLAGS ARE CASSED AND THEREFORE DO NOT MOVE!*);
 - 5) **Verbal Report In** (*Unit gives the school and/or team name and service affiliation along with "we will drill in accordance with XXX manual – Judge will salute and say "Carry On" or similar to signify he/she is ready"*);
 - 6) **Order Arms** (*Rifles move to Order position*);
 - 7) **Parade, Rest** (*Cadets will move to Parade, Rest. Visual & verbal inspection begins. When fronted by a judge, cadets will move to attention. When the judge leaves the cadet, cadet returns to Parade Rest position. Judge moves from L-to-R, then circles the color guard - when the judge returns to the starting spot, c/cmdr states:*
 - 8) **Color Guard, Attention** (*All cadets come to attention*);
 - 9) **Present, Arms** (*Rifles salute, FLAGS ARE CASSED AND THEREFORE DO NOT MOVE!*);
 - 10) **Verbal Report Out** (*Unit gives the school and/or team name and service affiliation and makes clear they have finished with the inspection – Judge will return salute and say "Carry On" or similar to signify he/she is done"*);
 - 11) **Order, Arms** (*Brings the rifles to Order*);
 - 12) **Carry, Colors** (*Brings the flags to Carry, rifles to Shoulder Arms position*);
 - 13) **Colors Reverse, March** (*Unit executes Reverse March - as unit marches away, **judging stops***);
3. The unit will Report-in with the same verbiage used during Unit Inspection: 1-school name & team name; 2-city & state you are from; 3-the drill manual you will perform in accordance with and 4-the military "regulation" your uniform is inspected under (AR 670-1; MC Order P1020.34F; AFROTC 36-9, etc.).
4. All color guards are reminded that before, during and after the color guard inspection, this area is a low-noise zone. Units should use strong conversational volume when interacting with the judge. Please ensure spectators maintain no loud cheering or other loud celebrations or outbursts that could disturb other color guard competitors just a few feet away during the color guard inspection process.

C. Judging & Scoring

1. The position of the Head Judge is fixed and denoted by a large "X" placed on the floor. Teams will report in and report out to this spot. It is the responsibility of the Head Judge to ensure he or she is on this spot during both the report-in and report-out. **See enclosed map layout for the exact position of the Head Judge.**
2. The sequence for drill is comprised of many graded regulation movements and a Judge's Overall Impression. In the Masters Level competition divisions, score yielding 275 points per scoresheet are found. Also, a fifth judge will conduct a color guard Inspection worth 100 points. This will yield a combined 1,200 points from the five scoring judges. Challenge Level and Open Level CG competition scoresheets reflect a possible 300 points per scoresheet for a combined score of 1,200 as no CG Inspection occurs at these levels.
3. The judge will ask each of the four individuals several questions. To best prepare for this Inspection, cadets should possess the snap & knowledge of all other team members along with a detailed understanding of the history & ceremony involved with color presentation. This one-person judging process is designed to take approximately 6-7 minutes.
4. The intensity of this Inspection is solely determined by the intensity/nature of the CG Inspection Judge. It is designed to be low-key in nature and is not put forth under the stresses maintained within Team Inspection.

D. Color Guard Regulations & Performance Issues

1. As the sequence outlines, CG units should enter the Color Guard area, then uncase the colors (***WHERE*** this occurs is left up to the competing unit). The team should THEN report in with uncased colors and complete the routine. **NOTE: Open Level and Challenge Level Color Guard units report out and then immediately exit the drill floor without casing their colors for the judges.** A special area has been set-up just outside the Color Guard area for these schools to re-case the colors (again, ungraded) before proceeding back to their seats.
2. All units must contain 4 cadets only. Two cadets will bear arms and two cadets will bear flags. The rifles used within the Unarmed Division Color Guard competition can be any weight or style regardless of the gender of the person holding the drill rifle - however they must have a fully functional sling to execute the drill properly. The National Colors will be the senior flag with a state, service, or other appropriate flag used as the second color. The Cadet Commander for the Color Guard unit must be the National Colors bearer. However, at the Nationals, the Cadet Commander is not required to be the highest ranking member of the Color Guard unit.
3. Standard minimum flag dimension for color guard are 3'x4' not including fringe. Judges will note teams utilizing a larger flag and/or a longer pole and will take this into consideration during event scoring, especially during case and uncase procedures.
4. While the Navy does not perform case/uncase colors movement by an exacting competition-worthy standard, it is required in the Color Guard at the Nationals. All movements on the scoresheet are to be executed by all services.
5. Units should ensure their entire uniform in Color Guard is in full compliance with the NHS DTC uniform regulations on page 7-7 within the General SOP entitled, "***E. Uniform & Rank Regulations***".
6. To Case / Uncase colors: the proper commands shall be given as follows: **UNCASE:** 1. **Sling, Arms**, 2. **POST** (move 45-degrees, turn about facing your origin); 3. **Uncase the Colors** (move to colors, remove covers, place in left hand); 4. **Present, Arms / Order, Arms** (render honors); 5. **POST** (move to rear of formation, tuck covers in center of color bearer's cartridge belt, move back on-line, un-sling arms, shoulder the weapon). **CASE:** 1. **Sling, Arms**, 2. **POST** (untuck cases put in left hand, move back on-line and immediately move to a 45-degree angle to colors, turn about, 3. **Present Arms / Order Arms** (render honors), 4. **Case the Colors** (move to colors, put the covers on the colors, move back on-line, un-sling, shoulder the weapon)
7. All other prescribed movements in the Color Guard sequence are located on the event scoresheet, located in Section 10 of this folder under "Event Scoresheets". Teams should review the General Operating Procedures located in Section #7 of the Team Folder in its entirety before readying their Color Guard unit for the ***NHS DTC***.

SECTION 5 – ELEMENT, FLIGHT, TEAM & DUAL UNARMED EXHIBITION

A. General Information

1. Element and Flight Exhibition as two events is offered in the Masters Level. A single "Team" Exhibition event is offered only within the Challenge Level.
2. Unarmed Dual Exhibition is offered ONLY to teams entered within the Unarmed Division competition at the NHSDTC. Other entered teams competing outside the Unarmed Division of the Masters Level MAY enter this event with up to TWO entries but would have to enter on a space available basis
3. Challenge Level schools MAY enter the unarmed dual competition also with a separate fee as their registration does not cover their inclusion in this event. See the General SOP, Team Folder and website for details.
4. Each Masters Level Unarmed school may enter up to 2 dual entries total. All Solo & Dual entries may be male, female or mixed (dual) teams. Gender is not a determining factor. Therefore, schools entering two teams will get only 2 entries PER SCHOOL.
5. All exhibition routines consist of stationary/marching drill movements as well as trick maneuvers that are limited by the imagination & creativity of the drill unit, and the regulations in use at the Nationals. Please keep in mind however that this is a **military competition with military judges**. Cadets may not use a thrown or flip dismount, basket catch/basket toss or other "cheerleading-style" maneuvers during any facet of exhibition drill. This prohibition is due exclusively to safety concerns and frankly we are saving you from gaining zero scores in "Military Flavor" on the scoresheet. If undertaken, these types of maneuvers may result in your unit being disqualified from this Exhibition event.
6. In team exhibition events, the unit commander MAY BE armed with a sword or saber. Unarmed Dual Exhibition entries may NOT utilize swords or sabers.
7. **The Head Judge IS FIXED ON THE FLOOR DIAGRAM for BOTH Report In and Report Out in all exhibition competitions.** This may not be altered under any circumstance – please do not even ask.
8. During all facets of exhibition drill, cadets MAY utilize blindfolds and/or hoods during routines. These are the only "props" allowed. No other outside items may be utilized within a routine.
9. **No cadet may be lifted off the marching surface by any means.** Therefore, all cadets must drill and perform ENTIRELY on the floor. Any cadet who is lifted or otherwise raised off the floor in any manner will cause the judge to immediately move to the team and tell the raised cadet to dismount and the team to leave the floor. The team will also be disqualified from that event at that point.
10. Teams should review the General Operating Procedures located in Section #7 of the Team Folder in its entirety before readying their Exhibition unit for the **NHSDTC**.
11. Along with the standard Report-in/Report-Out procedures used during all NHSDTC events, Solo and/or Dual Exhibition competitors ARE REQUIRED to state their LAST NAME(s) during BOTH the Report-in and Report-out.
12. **VERY IMPORTANT:** Exhibition performances often maintain motivation displays prior to the unit moving into the drill area and therefore before event timing begins. These displays can be quite involved and therefore time consuming and actually part of the exhibition display. Because of this, teams performing any synchronized, team display of any kind just prior to entering the drill floor (after the judges are ready for you to begin) will have the clock start and judging begin to include this exhibition display. We are not discouraging this action, we are simply ensuring this display is judged, graded and timed as part of your exhibition performance. Please ensure your performance does not go over the maximum time limit if you plan to include this in your routine. Post-event displays (done outside the drill area) are not regulated as judges have their head down and are scoring at this point.

B. Judging & Scoring

1. Judging during any exhibition event is obviously quite subjective. However, all judges are asked to look primarily at the mechanics of the routine as well as the togetherness and "snap" the unit presents -- while also reviewing with equal intensity the overall style and flow of the performance. While the degree of difficulty a unit displays is also a strong consideration in judging, flawless perfection cannot be overlooked. The scoresheet maintains points for many disparate areas of the routine and judges are trained to look in ALL OF THESE AREAS ONLY to provide scores.
2. While the degree of difficulty a unit displays is also a strong consideration in judging, flawless perfection cannot be overlooked. These are the two basic components in play in all exhibition drill.
3. Nobody receives bonus points for large groups of competing cadets, however judges are told when computing scores they MUST take into consideration the size and complexity of the routines when scoring several areas on the scoresheet.
4. The scoresheets for Element, Flight & Dual Exhibition are all virtually identical. These scoresheets should be studied to learn how your performances may be tailored to have the best chance of receiving the maximum points available in these events.
5. Space limitations just outside the entrance to the armed exhibition areas may force a team utilizing correct formation spacing to either start their performance with cadets just inside the entrance boundary, or complete their performance with halted cadets still just inside the drill area exit. If this should occur, the team will not be penalized for boundary or time related issues related to insufficient space to enter/exit.

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