

R.S.P.B.A. (Northern Ireland Branch)
Guidelines for Dress and Bands M&D

Dress

- **Glengarries** should all be the same i.e type and bobbles the same colour. The Glengarry should be clean and tidy and free from dust, fluff or dirt. The tails should be neatly pressed (no creases). It should be worn with the point of the glengarry in the line with the nose, 25mm/1” above the left eyebrow and 13mm/0.5” above the right eyebrow.
- **Cap badges** should be worn. They should be clean and tidy and they should be the same type.
- **Shirts** should be clean, pressed and all buttons fastened. The tie should be fastened securely around the neck with the knot tight in the centre under the points of the collar.
- The **kilt** should be clean, neatly pressed and free from creases. The kilt should fit well and the bottom of the kilt should rest just above the half way mark of the kneecap. All tartan kilts have a centre line. This will be found in the pattern and this line is used to centre the kilt at the front of the body. The hem of the kilt should be even, front to rear. The sett (pattern) of the kilt should be level from the apron to the pleats.
- The **jacket** should be clean and free from creases, with no dust/fluff etc visible. The buttons/link chain should be securely fixed and all present, with the design correctly oriented. Buttons/link chain should also be clean. All buttons must be fastened. Insignia, if worn, should be firmly fixed with no loose threads evident.
- The **waistcoat** should be clean, tidy and free from dust, fluff or dirt. It should be worn with all buttons closed and fixed in line. The button line of the waistcoat should be in line with the centre of the kilt. The waistcoat is an optional extra in the dress uniform but if worn, it should be in good condition.
- All parts of the **sporran** should be clean and tidy. The sporran should be worn centrally over the front apron of the kilt (the centre of the sporran in line with the centre line of the kilt) with the cantle (top of the sporran) one hand’s breadth below the buckle of the waist belt. If no waist belt is worn, then the sporran should be one hand’s breadth from the bottom button of the waistcoat. Drummers can wear the sporran to the side or back but it should be in uniformity.
- The **belt** should be clean and polished (both the leather and the buckle) and worn around the waist at the top of the kilt with the buckle positioned centrally (the centre of the buckle in line with the sporran and the centre line of the kilt). The belt should be either black or brown to match the ghillie brogues. (In some cases depending on the colour and style of the uniform, a white belt can be worn – this is acceptable). The belt should be worn firm to the body with sufficient tightness

- to allow one finger to be inserted between the body and the belt. The runners to the belt should be pushed tight to the edge of the buckle.
- **Flashes** should be worn on both legs and be of equal length. The leading edge of the flash should be vertically worn in line with the front of the leg. Flashes should be the same style.
 - The **hose/socks** should be worn with the tops three fingers distance from the bone on the outside of the knee joint. The patterns and seams should be vertically straight. The hose tops/turndowns should be horizontally even. The hose/socks should be clean and should be of the same design and colour.
 - **Laces** associated with ghillie brogues should be tied as follows: Pull laces tight, twist the laces together three times at the mouth of the shoe, pull laces around leg, cross once at the rear and tie horizontally in the mid point at the front of the leg. Laces should be tied correctly and in the same way by all band members.
 - **Shoes** should preferably be **ghillie brogues**, black in colour, although brown ghillie brogues are acceptable if they match the remainder of the uniform i.e. black ghillie brogues with black belts and brown ghillie brogues with brown belts. Ghillie brogues/shoes should be clean and polished. Ordinary plain black shoes will be acceptable.
 - The **kilt pin** should be worn approximately 100mm/4” UP and 75mm/3” IN on the front right side of the front apron of the kilt. These should be clean and tidy; the same style for all band members and the pins should be polished.
 - The **sgian dhu** should be worn inside the hose of the right leg in the centre of the front right portion of the leg. Only 38mm/1.5” of the sgian dhu should be visible above the top of the hose.
 - Drummers should not have spare sticks down their socks.

Marching

- Arms should be straight when marching and swung shoulder height
- Ranks should stay in line when marching and all members should be in correct step.
- Ranks should be evenly laid out in band formation
- Knees should be lifted at counter march and ranks should be straight
- Pipe Major should always be at attention when giving commands
- Drills should be smart when halting and also when getting to ready position to play