

New Ross and District Pipe Band Code of Conduct

Rationale

- The New Ross and District Pipe Band shall always aspire to the highest standards of performance, behaviour, demeanour, discipline, and uniform.
- The band is a democratic, non-political and non-sectarian organisation.
- All decisions are reached by consultation with band members and by the consensus of band members.
- Logistical, financial, and organisational decisions pertaining to band activities are made by the band committee in consultation with the band membership.
- All members agree to abide by the decisions of the consensus of the band membership.
- The band is governed by the membership which in turn delegates the authority to the committee for organisational, financial, and logistical purposes and the Pipe Major and Drum Sergeant for band outings and practices.
- Traditionally, pipe bands are run along militaristic lines, and although not a militaristic organisation, the band agrees to abide by the authority of the Pipe Major and Drum Sergeant on all outings, practices, and competitions.

Band members agree to:

1. Never bring the good name of the band into disrepute.
2. Always treat each other with respect and dignity.
3. Always aspire towards high standards.
4. Accept the instructions of band officers when performing as a band or when travelling as a band.
5. Adhere at all times to the band's Child Protection Policy.
6. When difficulties arise, members are expected to talk to an officer of the band at an appropriate time, in an appropriate manner and in an appropriate place. (personal abuse of any type from one member to another is inappropriate, offensive, and unacceptable)
7. Always make a verbal or text contact with the PM or Drum Sergeant whenever they can't make it to a practice or outing.

Band Outings & Fund-Raising Activities

- Band outings and fund raising activities are extremely important for the band's local profile, Public Relations and finances and also for the learning experience/practice experience provided to younger and newer members.
- All members are expected to turn up for as many outings/fund-raisers as possible.
- A high standard of uniform must be maintained at all outings.

Competitions

- Competition is the road to a good standard of musicianship. The band wants to pit itself against its peers and the band wants to be the best among equals.
- Fail to prepare. Prepare to fail.

- The band is as good as its weakest member. Each player has a responsibility to his/her colleagues to practice well and sufficiently. Each player must be the best they can.
- Contests are a collective effort. If something goes wrong for any individual, it is totally unacceptable for any other member to criticise. Things will go wrong from time to time.
- All members are expected to attend regular practices prior to competition.
- All members are expected to arrive on time at a designated place and time.
- All players are expected to take part in the March Past, Prize Giving and Parade ,unless otherwise excused by the Pipe Major.

Overseas Trips

- The New Ross and District Pipe Band has built up a very solid reputation for professionalism, friendliness, and competence on overseas trips.
- The band committee undertakes to organise adequate travel arrangements, accommodation arrangements, practice arrangements, supervision arrangements ,etc. prior to departure, so as to minimise any possible areas of conflict. These arrangements will be communicated to all members of the band prior to the trip, and all members will be kept informed of any changes to schedule,etc. as soon as is possible during a trip.
- Once the members of the band congregate for a trip or event , the members of the band are expected to behave according to the agreed code of conduct.
- All members are expected to play or take part in all activities that are scheduled on trips- Concerts, Parades, Practices, Meetings ,etc. Any member who needs to excuse himself/herself from any item/activity must first receive the permission of the Pipe Major.
- Members **and guest musicians and accompanying adults** are expected to maintain a high standard of behaviour and courtesy in airports, on board flights, on public transport, in hotels and dormitories,etc.
- A member or guest or accompanying adult who does not adhere to the above codes of conduct may be banned from future trips abroad.

Intruments and Uniform

- Each member agrees to maintain his/her instrument to a high standard of functionality, tone, and cleanliness.
- Each member agrees to maintain his/her uniform to a high standard. This necessitates regular dry cleaning of kilt and jacket, ironing of kilt, jacket, shirt, flashes as well as regular polishing of shoes.
- Each member agrees to repalce at his /her own expense any lost item of uniform or instrument, including badges,

Breaches of the Code of Conduct

Where a serious breach of the Code of Conduct takes place , a member will be asked to appear before the officers of the band for a review of the incident. The officers of the band may impose a suitable sanction on the member wich may include suspension from band activities or in very serious incidents expulsion from the band.