

POLICY 15

PIPE AND DRUM CORPS

Wisconsin EMS Honor Guard Association



1. Purpose

The Pipe and Drum Corps exist to provide **solemn, dignified musical honors** in support of funeral services, memorial ceremonies, and official Honor Guard functions. The Corps enhances ceremonial presence through traditional music that reflects reverence, respect, and tradition.

2. Authority

The Pipe and Drum Corps operate under the authority of the **State Honor Guard Command Staff** and is subject to all policies governing ceremonial conduct, uniform standards, and deployment.

- Final authority: Executive Board
- Operational control: Honor Guard Commander or Pipe Master
- On-scene coordination: Officer in Charge (OIC)

3. Mission

The mission of the Pipe and Drum Corps is to:

- Render **musical honors with precision and dignity**
- Support funeral and memorial services for EMS personnel
- Preserve and uphold **time-honored ceremonial traditions**
- Provide a professional and emotionally appropriate musical presence

4. Activation & Deployment

The Pipe and Drum Corps may be requested for:

- Line of Duty Death (LODD) services
- Active or retired member funerals
- Memorial services and anniversaries
- Official Honor Guard ceremonies and public events

4.1 Request Process

- Requests shall be submitted through the **State Honor Guard activation system**
- Availability is based on personnel, travel distance, and mission priority

4.2 Priority of Response

1. LODD funerals
2. Active member funerals
3. Retired member services
4. Ceremonial and public events

5. Performance Standards

All members shall perform in a manner consistent with the highest standards of the Honor Guard.

POLICY 15

PIPE AND DRUM CORPS



5.1 Conduct

- Maintain **professional bearing at all times**
- No unnecessary conversation during ceremonies
- Movements shall be deliberate, controlled, and respectful

5.2 Musical Standards

- All music shall be **ceremonially appropriate**
- Standard selections include:
 - *Amazing Grace*
 - *Going Home*
 - *Scotland the Brave* (processional/recessional as appropriate)
- Tempo, tone, and timing shall match the solemn nature of the service

5.3 Coordination

- The Pipe Major coordinates directly with the Commander or **OIC**
- Music shall be synchronized with:
 - Casket movement
 - Flag folding
 - Final honors

6. Uniform Standards

Members shall wear the **approved Pipe and Drum Corps uniform**, which must be clean, pressed, and standardized.

6.1 Required Elements

- Approved Honor Guard or Pipe Corps uniform
- Headgear (Glengarry, Balmoral, or approved cap)
- Polished footwear
- Instrument-specific dress (kilt, sporran, etc., if applicable)

6.2 Prohibited

- Improperly worn or unkempt uniform components

7. Equipment Standards

All instruments and equipment shall be:

- Maintained in **clean, serviceable condition**
- Standardized to the extent possible
- Approved by the Honor Guard Command Staff

7.1 Instruments

- Bagpipes (properly tuned prior to ceremony)
 - Snare, tenor, and bass drums
 - Trumpet(s) or bugle(s)
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POLICY 15

PIPE AND DRUM CORPS



8. Chain of Command

- **Pipe Major** – Leads musical performance and internal discipline
- **Drum Sergeant (if assigned)** – Oversees drum section
- **Honor Guard OIC** – Maintains overall ceremony control

All members shall follow the established chain of command at all times.

9. Training & Qualification

All Pipe and Drum Corps members must:

- Demonstrate **musical proficiency** for the Pipe Master
- Be trained in **ceremonial timing and coordination**
- Participate in scheduled rehearsals and Honor Guard training events

9.1 Certification

- Members may be required to pass a **performance evaluation**
 - Continued participation is based on maintaining standards
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10. Conduct & Discipline

Members represent the Honor Guard and the EMS profession.

- No conduct that detracts from the dignity of the ceremony
 - Zero tolerance for disruptive, disrespectful, or unprofessional behavior
 - Violations may result in removal from the Corps
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11. Safety

- Maintain awareness of surroundings during movement and performance
 - Ensure safe spacing when marching or positioning near the casket or the family
 - Weather considerations must be addressed (instrument protection, footing, etc.)
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12. Optional Honors Integration

The Pipe and Drum Corps may be integrated with:

- Casket watch rotations
- Flag presentations
- Final escort or recessional

The OIC will direct all integration.

13. Guiding Principle

The Pipe and Drum Corps shall serve as a **musical expression of honor, remembrance, and respect**, ensuring that every note played reflects the dignity of the individual being honored and the profession they served.

14. Motto

"With Honor in Every Note."