



How can I become a branch standard bearer?

A branch standard bearer is appointed to the post by their branch committee, with the decision being minuted in a committee meeting.

The role is of a physical nature so a minimum level of fitness is required, and the individual must be able to handle the standard in all weather conditions. A standard bearer must complete the MSIB to confirm their physical fitness and adherence to the safeguarding declaration. Any changes to these circumstances must be reported to The Royal British Legion as soon as possible. Please refer to the Membership Handbook for additional information on the role.

How can I become a county/district standard bearer?

A county/district standard bearer is appointed to the post by their county/district committee, with the decision being minuted in a committee meeting. Many counties/districts follow the convention of appointing the winner of their respective county/district standard bearer competition, although this is not mandatory.

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How can I become the national standard bearer?

County/district standard bearers that have won their regional competition are eligible to put themselves forward for the national standard bearer competition. The competitions for both the Royal British Legion and the Women's Section are held annually at Annual Conference. After winning their respective competitions, the National Standard Bearer and the Women's Section National Standard Bearer are officially appointed by the Board of Trustees.

What are the criteria of eligibility in standard bearer competitions?

Competitors must be a member of The Royal British Legion or a youth standard bearer of at least three months' standing and must be a member of the branch (or associated with the branch in the case of youth standard bearers) which is entering the competition. Entrants can only represent one branch, county/district, or region in any given competition year.



Youth standard bearers must be a minimum of 14 years and three months of age to enter. They must not have reached the age of 18 years by the date of the National Youth Standard Bearer competition within that competition year.

An individual who acts as a judge in a standard bearer competition will be barred from competing in any following competition of any level (county, regional or national). Vice versa, any individual that competes in a standard bearer competition will be barred from judging in any following competition of any level. Restrictions in both scenarios will remain in place until the completion of the following National Standard Bearer competition.

What happens when there is only one candidate for a county standard bearer competition?

If there is only one competitor in any county standard bearer competition, judging must happen regardless. To ensure costs are kept to a minimum, it is recommended that judging occurs as part of another county's competition, or as part of the Women's Section or Youth competition.

Who is responsible for the training of standard bearers?

Counties should appoint a county parade marshal who assumes responsibility for local ceremonial events and the training of standard bearers in the county.

What is the dress code for standard bearers?

Refer to The Ceremonial Handbook for the dress code for standard bearers, Women's Section standard bearers and youth standard bearers.

What considerations need to be taken in inclement weather?

In the event of inclement or uncertain weather conditions during a parade, Parade Marshals may make the decision to allow the wearing of plain black or dark navy raincoats. To maintain uniformity, these jackets should be single breasted. As much notice as possible should be given. If rain commences immediately before or during a parade and rain jackets are not available, it may need to be cancelled or dismissed.

Consideration must also be given to the potential rain damage to standards.

Can standard bearers wear unofficial medals or medals of their relatives?

Standard bearers can only wear official medals awarded to them personally. They are not permitted to wear unofficial medals or medals of their late relatives.



What action should be taken when a branch standard bearer resigns?

When a branch standard bearer resigns, a replacement may be appointed if the branch deems it appropriate. Contact the county secretary or the county parade marshal for further assistance.

Is the standard bearer allowed to take a standard to any event?

Standard bearers must obtain the permission of the relevant formation committee to take the standard to an event, and this must be minuted during a committee meeting. In short notice scenarios, a branch or county/district chair may grant approval, and this must be recorded during the following committee meeting.

How are standard bearers allocated to pilgrimages?

Participation in pilgrimages is typically reserved for winners of the regional standard bearer competitions. The National Parade Marshal co-ordinates the participation of standard bearers in pilgrimages and ensures fair distribution. Participation in pilgrimages should be used as an incentive for standard bearers to work towards high standards.

What is the maximum age for carrying the standard?

For insurance purposes, the upper age limit for a standard bearer is 85 years. Personal accident cover and public liability cover will not apply to standard bearers exceeding this age.

How can I become a parade marshal?

Branches are encouraged to appoint a parade marshal, who holds responsibility for ceremonial matters. Speak with your local branch to discuss this further.

A county/district committee is responsible for appointing the county/district parade marshal. In particularly active counties, a deputy parade marshal should be appointed in consultation with the parade marshal. Speak with your local county/district to explore options.

At both branch and county/district level, parade marshals should have some experience of standard bearing or a service background. They should set high standards of smartness and drill on parade.

Who organises training courses for the parade marshals?

It is the responsibility of the county/district parade marshal to organise training courses for standard bearers and parade marshals.

At national level, it is the responsibility of the National Parade Marshal to coordinate training of parade marshals and standard bearer judges at national level.