



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

RECOMMENDED ORDERS OF PRECEDENCE

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1. Remembrance Services

The only person whose precedence at Remembrance services is absolute is Her Majesty the Queen. **The precedence of all others, despite what appears in the published Table of Precedence, may vary from time to time depending on local traditions, the relationship between host and guests, and the requirements of courtesy and hospitality.**

Normally, an acceptable compromise can be reached provided there is adequate consultation beforehand. It is most important to avoid embarrassment. Assuming that all those listed are participating and that the Lord Lieutenant or his representative is not present (otherwise he would take precedence as the Sovereign's representative) and subject to prior consultation and agreement the following sequence is recommended for assembly at a local War Memorial for a Remembrance service:

1. Band.
2. Clergy and choir.
3. Civic VIPs (Mayor, Chairman of Council).
4. Union Flag (if on parade).
5. Legion and Women's Section Standards.
6. Standards of other ex-Service associations (RNA, Army, RAFA).
7. Regular forces (RN, Army, RAF).
8. Territorial and reserve forces.
9. Ex-Service contingents (preferably in one group, but may be in columns by Service and corps, normally with the Legion leading though there may be variations).
10. Uniformed public services (Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance services, St John Ambulance, Red Cross etc).
11. Youth organisations (led by Service cadets, then uniformed organisations followed by non-uniformed bodies).
12. Members of the public (who should be invited to participate in the public Remembrance event).

2. Wreath-Laying

Subject to prior consultation and agreement, and assuming that all those listed are participating, the following sequence is recommended for assembly at the local War Memorial for wreath-laying. It is also assumed that the Lord Lieutenant or his representative is not present otherwise he would take precedence as the Sovereign's representative.

1. Civic VIPs
2. Representatives of regular forces.
3. Representatives of territorial and reserve forces.
4. Representatives of ex-Service associations, including the Legion & Women's Section.
5. Representatives of uniformed public services (Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance services).
6. Representatives of uniformed voluntary services (St John Ambulance, Red Cross, etc).
7. Representatives of cadet forces.
8. Representatives of youth organisations.
9. Members of the public.

3. Simplified Order of Precedence at Legion Events

Assuming that a member of the Royal Family is not present, the following simplified Table of Precedence would normally apply for those attending a Legion event. However, there may be local variations so local consultation is crucial.

1. The Lord Lieutenant of the County in which the event is held or his representative.
2. Archbishop, (Canterbury or York – special occasions).
3. The Prime Minister or a Secretary of State.
4. A Bishop or Moderator (Reformed Church) attending as a guest and not conducting a service.
5. The Lord Mayor and other Mayors and Chairmen of Councils
6. The Recorder of the Borough.
7. The High Sheriff of the County.
8. The Lord Chief Justice.
9. Privy Councillors.
10. Senior Officers of the Military Forces.
11. Judges.
12. The Head of the Civil Service and other Senior Civil Servants.
13. The Chief Constable.

4. Royal British Legion Parade

a. Legion Officers and Standards

On parade, the senior Legion Standard must give precedence to the Union Flag. There shall be only one Union Flag on each parade and it is carried usually by the senior Standard Bearer. The precedence of Legion Standards follows the seniority of Legion formations, i.e. National, County/District, Group (where relevant), Branch (normally led by the local Branch, followed by other Branch Standards). Members of the Board of Trustees will march behind the Union Flag and the National Standard. Members of the County/District Committee will march behind the County/District Standard. A VIP may be invited to march alongside the parade commander. The Branch President would follow with the other officers of the Branch, and then the Branch members. Dressing of ranks during the march past is important giving a good impression.

b. Marching Contingents/ Uniformed Organisations

If it is a Legion-organised parade, Legion Standards and Women's Section Standards should take precedence, and be followed in order by Royal Naval Associations, Army Regimental or Corps Associations and Royal Air Force Association Standards. The same sequence applies to adult marching contingents. When service and other youth contingents are on parade it is recommended that service cadets lead those contingents in the traditional sequence, followed by other uniformed organisations (Boys Brigade, Scouts, Guides, St John Ambulance, Red Cross, etc) and finally any non-uniformed youth organisations. Colours and Standards of youth organisations should be grouped at the head of the youth contingents on parade.

5. Parade not Organised by The Royal British Legion

If a parade is organised by the civil authorities, for example for dedicating or re-dedicating their War Memorial, or a special remembrance ceremony, then it is not a Legion parade and **the sequence of contingents is a matter for the organising body**. The Royal British Legion Standards are not carried, unless they are specifically invited by the civil authority to parade. The Cenotaph Parade and service on Remembrance Sunday are examples of parades not organised by the Legion – they are managed by a Government Department.

6. New Standard Dedication Service

For the march to the Church:

The parade is formed up in threes facing in the direction of the march, in the following order:

- The Band
- County/District Standard Royal British Legion & Royal British Legion Women's Section
- County/District Officers
- Massed Standards (two or three ranks depending on numbers)
- The Old Branch Standard with Escorts
- Branch Officers and Branch Members
- Other Branches and Ex-Service Associations
- Cadet Units
- The Branch Chairman (with the new Standard furled) with Escorts

For the march from the Church via a Saluting Dais to the reception:

County/District Standard Bearers make their way to the Saluting Dais and position themselves either side of it to act as guides for the "Eyes Left/Right" and "Eyes Front" as the Parade marches past.

The Parade then re-forms in threes facing the direction of march in the following order:

- The Band.
- The New Branch Standard.
- The Branch Officers and Members.
- County/District Officers.
- Massed Standards.
- Other Branch Members and Ex-Service Associations.
- Cadet Units.