



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Royal British Legion Standard Bearers

How can I become a Branch Standard Bearer?

A Branch Standard Bearer should be appointed by the Branch Committee. It is essential that the person selected should be physically strong and well able to handle the Standard under all conditions.

How can I become a County/District or Regional Standard Bearer?

The County/District Standard Bearer is the winner of County/District Standard Bearer competitions. A Branch that wishes their Standard Bearer to take part in the local County competition, should contact the County Secretary. The Regional Standard Bearer is the winner of the Regional competitions. Only the winner of each County/District competition is eligible to compete at their respective Regional level.

How can I become the National Standard Bearer?

The National Standard Bearer is the winner of Standard Bearer competitions at National level. Only County/District Standard Bearers who win their Regional competition may enter the National competition. The competitions are held annually for both Legion and Women's Section Standard Bearers. After winning the competition, the National Standard Bearers are appointed officially by the Board of Trustees.

What are the criteria of eligibility in Standard Bearer Competitions?

Each competitor must be a fully paid-up member of The Royal British Legion / Royal British Legion Women's Section / Youth member (as appropriate) of at least 3 months' standing and must be a member of the Branch which made the original entry. Entrants may represent only one Branch, County/District or Region in any one competition year.

Youth members must be a minimum of 14 years and 3 months of age. They must not have attained the age of 18 years by the date of the National Youth Standard Bearer competition in that competition year.

As soon as a member acts as a judge in a Standard Bearer competition he shall be barred from competing thereafter at any competition level until after the completion of the next National competition. Similarly, as soon as a member competes in a Standard Bearer competition he shall be barred from judging thereafter at any such competition level until after completion of the next National competition.

What action should be taken when there is only one candidate for the County Standard Bearer Competition?

If there is only one competitor in any County Standard Bearer competition, that competitor must be judged. It is recommended that this is done as part of The Royal British Legion / Women's Section / Youth competition (as appropriate) to help keep expenses down.

Who is responsible for the training of Standard Bearers?

Every Legion County should appoint a County Parade Marshal to be responsible for local ceremonial events and the training of Standard Bearers in the County.

What is the dress code for Standard Bearers? (see below for Women's Section and Youth)

Beret: Black or dark navy in colour (to match suit), neat, headband level not more than one inch above eyebrows, join at centre rear, with ribbon neatly knotted and tucked in, cap badge above left eye and polished (unless anodised or 'staybright'), no hairs or fluff, top of the beret pulled over to right side. No adornments (hackles, flashes, etc) should be worn on the beret at any time (with the exception of poppies). Only the current pattern Legion official beret badge should be worn by Legion and Youth Standard Bearers.

Hair: Clean, neat, tidy and not resting on collar.

Facial Jewellery (eg earrings, nose rings, etc): None.

Suit: Neatly pressed plain black or dark navy suit (male – trousers, female - skirt).

Tie: Official Legion tie (multi-motif), neat and pressed with no tie-pin visible. Single motif ties are known as 'crest' ties and should not be worn in uniform.

Shirt: Freshly laundered, pressed, plain white shirt. NOT with button down collar.

Lapel Badge: Official Legion badge denoting the membership status (not tie-pin), polished, in correct position, ie normal button hole position (When a Standard Bearer is on parade with a Standard he will not wear the dress type Standard Bearers' flag pole badge which is an 'off-parade' badge entitled to be worn by all present and by past Standard Bearers.)

Medals: Only official campaign and service medals issued personally to Standard Bearers may be worn when in uniform. Where medals are worn with a pocket insert, they should be attached first, and the Legion badge worn one inch above.

Socks: Black/navy blue socks (men) or black stockings/tights (women).

Shoes: Well polished all over (not patent), neat conventional pattern (not platform) and of black leather.

Bearing: Generally smart military bearing.

Male Standard Bearers should not remove their berets during parades or services except in Church when they are not carrying the Standard. Normally they remove their berets on taking their seat in Church and replace them on going forward to receive the Standard. On this, and similar points, there should, of course, be the fullest consultation with the officiating Clergy, who are the final authority.

What is the dress code for a Women's Section Standard Bearer?

Beret: Black or dark navy in colour (to match suit) with the following details: 'Stiffened' (blocked to height of cap badge) with Women's Section cap badge (obtainable from Head Office) centrally between the eyes; no beret ribbon; bottom of beret not more than one inch above eyebrows; beret worn straight - not pulled over to side. Only the current pattern Women's Section official beret badge should be worn by Women's Section Standard Bearers. Shaped hats are not permitted.

Hair: Clean, neat, tidy and not resting on collar.

Facial Jewellery: (ie earrings, nose rings, etc): None.

Suit: Neatly pressed plain black or dark navy suit (male trousers, female RBL/RBLWS skirt, of regulation length, i.e. approximately one and half inches below the knee, not trousers).

Tie: Official Women's Section tie; neat and pressed; motif prominently displayed; no tie-pin visible.

Shirt: Freshly laundered, pressed, plain white shirt. NOT with button down collar.

Lapel Badge: Veterans badge may NOT be worn by those WS Standard Bearers/Judges/Marshals who qualify on all occasions

Medals: Only official campaign and service medals issued personally to the Standard Bearer may be worn when in uniform.

Tights/Stockings: Black.

Shoes: Plain black, low heeled lace up shoes; well polished all over; not patent. No toe cap shoes to be worn at any time.

Competition Bars: Awarded to the winner and runner-up at County/District, Regional and National competitions. These are worn on the left lapel by Standard Bearers but are NOT worn in competitions. Once attaining 5 individual bars at the same level these should be removed and replaced with a 5-year bar.

Bearing: Generally smart military bearing.

Female Standard bearers should never remove headgear.

What is the dress code for a Youth Standard Bearer?

Youth Standard Bearers will conform to the dress standard for The Royal British Legion except:

Lapel Badge: Official Youth lapel badge.

At Branch/County/District Level: Youth Standard Bearers who are also members of a uniformed cadet unit may wear their cadet uniform when carrying the Branch Standard for a Branch event or an event within their own County/District. At all other times dress must conform to that laid down for Legion Standard Bearers.

Competitions: Youth Standard Bearers can wear their cadet uniform only when competing in County/District Youth Standard Bearer Competitions. At Regional and National level competitions they must conform to the dress code laid down for Legion Standard Bearers.

What should Standard Bearers wear in bad weather?

In the event of a parade in inclement or uncertain weather conditions Standard Bearers may wear a plain black or dark navy blue raincoat. In the interests of uniformity the raincoat should be single breasted. The decision to wear raincoats should be taken by the Parade Marshal, and as much notice as possible should be given. A parade may need to be cancelled or dismissed if there is a sudden downpour and Standard Bearers are not wearing raincoats. Consideration must also be given to possible rain damage to Standards.

What kind of berets should be worn by Standard Bearers?

Standard Bearers are allowed to wear only black or dark navy berets, which are neat, with headband level not more than one inch above eyebrows, join at centre rear, with ribbon neatly knotted and tucked in. No adornments (hackles, flashes, etc) should be worn on the beret at any time (with the exception of poppies). Only the current pattern Royal British Legion official beret badge should be worn by Legion and Youth Standard Bearers.

Are Standard Bearers allowed to wear poppies?

During the Remembrance period it is normal for poppies to be worn by Standard Bearers. The Poppy (including stem but not leaf) should be worn secured behind the beret badge. The poppy should NEVER be dismantled with the petals worn behind the badge like a flash.

Can Standard Bearers wear Veterans' Badges while on duty?

They can be worn on all occasions except competitions.

Can Standard Bearers wear unofficial medals or medals of their relatives?

Standard Bearers are not allowed to wear unofficial medals or medals of their late relatives; they are allowed to wear only official medals issued to them personally.

What action should be taken when a Branch Standard Bearer resigns?

When a Standard Bearer resigns, a replacement must be appointed. Please contact your local County Secretary or Parade Marshal for further assistance.

Is a Standard Bearer allowed to take the Standard to any event?

Standard Bearers are not allowed to take Standards to any events they wish. They always need to request permission from a relevant Committee. Details available in the FAQs on Standards.

How are Standard Bearers allocated to pilgrimages?

Participation in pilgrimages should in the first instance be for winners of Regional Standard Bearer competitions. The National Parade Marshal co-ordinates the participation of Standard Bearers in pilgrimages and ensure that there is a fair distribution. Participation in pilgrimages should be an incentive for Standard Bearers to attain a high standard.

What is the maximum age for carrying the Standard?

For insurance purposes the upper age limit for a Standard Bearer is 85 years of age. Both Personal Accident Cover and Public Liability Cover apply only up to that age.

How can I become a Parade Marshal?

The National Parade Marshal is appointed by the National Chairman usually for a term of three years.

The County/District Committee is responsible for appointing the County/District Parade Marshal. A Deputy Parade Marshal should be appointed in consultation with the appointed Parade Marshal.

Branches are encouraged to appoint a suitable person to act as their Parade Marshal, with responsibility for ceremonial matters.

Ideally, Marshals should have had some experience of Standard bearing or have a service background.

Ideally, the County/District Ceremonial and Parade Marshal should be an experienced Standard Bearer and possibly a former NCO. He should set a high standard of smartness and drill on parade.

Who organises courses for Parade Marshals?

It is the County/District Parade Marshal's responsibility to organise training courses for novice and experienced Standard Bearers/Marshals.

It is the National Parade Marshal's responsibility to co-ordinate the training of Parade Marshals and Standard Bearer Judges at National level.