

Mandarins Brass Code of Conduct

2008

Welcome to the Mandarins Brass Line. As a member of the brass line, you are part of the Mandarins Drum and Bugle Corps, a long-standing Sacramento tradition providing the highest level of outdoor musical performance. The Mandarins are highly respected, thanks to the many Mandarins alumni who have maintained the tradition of hard work, dedication, and class. To help you get comfortable with the “Mandarins way,” here are some guidelines that are expected from all brass members:

Perform as professionals. You are part of a team of performers who want to achieve near perfection. You are expected to behave as professionals, doing your job with a positive attitude without complaining.

Treat everyone with respect. Apply the Golden Rule: Treat others just like you want to be treated. Someone is always watching how you interact with others.

Watch and listen for instructions at all times. You must be focused and attentive to the leaders who are giving instructions and commands. This is vital to the health and mobility of the organization.

Get to wherever you are going quickly. This will allow more time for rehearsal.

Be on time to all events – rehearsals, bus loadings, meetings, meals, etc. Being five minutes early is being on time.

Have an expectation to learn. We disseminate a lot of information. You should be ready to ingest as much as you can.

Understand the goals and expectations of each rehearsal block. Once you know the expectations, you are more likely to achieve your goals. If you do not know the goals, please raise your hand and ask.

Prepare yourself mentally and physically for each rehearsal block. Distractions can prevent you from learning all the knowledge you will gain. Relaxing and stretching prior to rehearsals will allow you to focus on your tasks.

Make the people around you better. One hallmark of a great performer is the encouragement you give to your fellow members. This strengthens to whole corps. Lead by example.

Bring a backpack, towel, valve oil, sunscreen, three-ring binder, page holders and a pencil to all rehearsals. You will be given a lot of music that needs to be organized. We often make changes and enhancements to the music. You are expected to write all changes in your own music.

Line up cases in an orderly manner. This keeps our rehearsal area neat and makes it easier to account for all the instruments.

Turn off your cell phone at rehearsals.

Wear clean gloves when handling your instrument. Fingerprints and skin oils can permanently damage your instrument. You may be responsible for re-finishing your instrument if you are careless about wearing gloves.

Oil valves before every rehearsal. This is essential for your performance and makes the instrument last longer. Do not interrupt your rehearsal time to oil your horn.

Bring a towel to all rehearsals and wipe down your instrument at the end of rehearsals. You will need a towel when you place your instrument on the floor or ground. This prevents scratches and makes the instruments last longer.

Report any damage to your instrument immediately. You may be responsible for the cost of repairs if you do not tell an instructor of the damage.

Do not leave your instrument in the car. There is a high chance for theft if your horn is left in your car. You are responsible for the cost of replacing an instrument if it is stolen while in your possession.

Use the corps' instruments only for corps functions. Do not use it for other activities such as school or private performances.

Eat healthy and drink lots of water. Proper nutrition is good fuel for the very demanding physical shows of drum corps. Limit your fast food and replace it with healthy foods like fruits and vegetables. Drink lots of water to maintain hydration. Avoid too much soda with high amounts of sugar. Replace sodas with water, milk, tea and sport drinks.

Adapt a physical aerobic training regime. This will maximize your chances for a peak performance and will keep you healthy during the summer tours. A little bit of training everyday over a longer period is more beneficial than doing a lot of training in short spurts.

Practice daily. Your personal success adds immensely to the overall success of the corps.

Wear a hat to all outdoor rehearsals. This keeps you cool and prevents sunburn. It may also reduce your chances for skin cancer.