

# **FRESNO STAG AND THISTLE PIPES & DRUMS**

## **OPERATING POLICIES**

Whereas the bylaws of this Band are considered its' operational document, these operating policies will reflect day-to-day subjects not normally included within the bylaws.

1 April 2015

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# FRESNO STAG AND THISTLE PIPES & DRUMS

## OPERATING POLICIES

### Bank Account

The Band will endeavor to maintain a minimum of \$2,000 in the checking account. Checks will require only one signature by one of the authorized officers identified on the bank signature card. Generally, these officers will be the Band Manager, Pipe Major and Treasurer.

### Business Meetings

Business meetings will generally be held in conjunction with band practices at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month unless otherwise scheduled.

### Committees and Teams

**FaceBook / YouTube Custodial Committee.** This committee will oversee the appropriate operation and content of these two links. The members of this committee will be Eric Schmitt and Marcia Vander Poel.

**Music Team.** This committee will assist the band leadership in determining the musical direction of the Band to include goals, music selections, recruiting of new members, and the general direction of band activities. The members of this team will be Mark Little, Eric Schmitt, Colleen Wilson, Jason Hubbard and Ryan Mackenzie. This committee will not be inclusive. Others may participate as desired or necessary to achieve the common goals of the Band.

**Web Site Committee.** This committee will oversee the operation and content of the band web site. The members of this committee will be Brooks Wilson, Mark Little and Eric Schmitt.

### Contract For Services

The Band Manager, with the consent of the Officers, will prepare and present to organizations, groups and individuals desiring the Band to play at their event with a contract for services. Contracts will be voted on by the regular band membership prior to execution. Mileage will be requested on the contract except for events such as parades and events listed under Events and Gigs below.

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### **Fees**

Band performance fees will be negotiated by the Band Manager and all monies earned placed in the band account. Fees will be agreed upon by the elected Officers.

The fees for band appearances will generally be no less than \$500, but care must be taken with whom we are dealing to preclude setting a precedent for other similar groups. The Band Manager should strive for \$1,500 or more. Pricing should be kept conservative, but increase as the Band improves.

There will generally be no fee charged for veteran events such as Honor Flight, return of military personnel from a combat zone and the annual Peace Officers Memorial service. Other events will be voted on a case by case basis.

Individual piper performance fees will be negotiated by the piper and all monies earned retained by them.

### **Events and Gigs**

The Band will perform at events and gigs on an annual basis, if able and available to do so:

Scottish Society of Central California

St. Andrews Ceilidh

Burns Night Supper

Fresno Highland Games

Spring ceilidh

Membership meetings [piper]

Those events highlighted on the annual calendar

### **Insurance**

The Band comes under the Scottish Society of Central California general liability insurance umbrella. The Band Manager will keep a copy of the insurance policy in his / her files.

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### Music

The Music Team will determine who may play in the Band by audition or other means they determine appropriate. Practices and instruction will be held at McLane High School in Fresno on Thursdays, or as called by the Pipe Major. The following practice schedule is provided as a guide:

6 - 7 p.m.	Level 1 [Beginners] practice with instructor
6 - 7 p.m.	Level 2 [Advanced Beginners] practice with instructor
7 - 7:45 p.m.	Levels 3, 4 & 5 Pipers practice on practice chanter
7 - 7:45 p.m.	Levels 3, 4 & 5 Drummers practice on practice pads
7:45 - 8:30 p.m.	Levels 3, 4 & 5 Pipers tune and perform set# together
8:30 - 9 p.m.	Level 5 Pipers & Drummers [Level 4 optional] practice & perform

Tunes and sets are generally decided by the Pipe Major.

### Band Levels, How To Advance, Responsibilities and Expectations

#### Level 1 [Beginner]:

Attends practices Thursday nights at the times stated in Music above under the direction of an instructor. Learns the fundamentals of playing the bagpipe, to include reading music, playing the practice chanter and finger positioning, executing grace notes, proper practice routine, introduction to the bagpipe, blowing, tuning, band protocol and learn simple tunes under proper instruction. As the student advances, he / she will learn to play a tune from each of the band's Sets 1, 2 and 3. When the student has mastered the prescribed tunes and sets, the instructor will determine the appropriate time to graduate the student to Level 2.

#### Level 2 [Advanced Beginner]:

Attends practices Thursday nights at the times stated in Music above under the direction of an instructor. Continues to learn and execute the fundamentals of playing the bagpipe to include reading music, playing the practice chanter and finger positioning, executing grace notes, proper practice routine, introduction to the bagpipe, blowing, tuning, band protocol and expand his / her list of tunes and multiple tunes from the pipe band's Sets 1, 2 and 3.

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Become proficient in all areas of bagpiping. When the instructor and student feels ready, the student will perform tunes on bagpipes from a set in front of the Music Team. The Music Team will determine if the piper meets expectations to advance to Level 3.

#### **Level 3 [New Band Member]:**

Level 3 is a probationary band member position. A Level 3 band member will be issued a kilt and other equipment provided by the Band. He / she will provide all other items of uniform worn by the Band and personal instrument not provided by the Band. Attends practices Thursday nights at the times stated under Music above. Continue to expand their repertoire of tunes from the pipe band's Sets 1, 2 and 3. Attend band performances and gigs with the Pipe Major's approval. Once a Level 3 member plays at an acceptable level and demonstrates the desire and dedication to the Band, the Pipe Major or any Level 4 band member can nominate the Level 3 member to become a Full Band Member. The Band will vote to accept the Level 3 member to Level 4.

#### **Level 4 [Full Band Member]:**

Level 4 members will commit themselves to become the best piper / drummer they can be. They will endeavor to attend practices Thursday nights at the times stated under Music above. Commit themselves to learn all the tunes from the pipe band's Sets 1, 2 and 3. Encouraged to learn the competition set of the year and dance tunes. Provide leadership and guidance to Level 1, 2 and 3 members. Maintain a positive attitude and promote the Band to the public through professional behavior and performances. Level 4 members are encouraged to compete individually and / or the competition pipe band though this is not mandatory. A Level 4 member may elect to advance themselves to Level 5 at anytime, but the Pipe Major has the discretion to return him / her to Level 4 for lack of proficiency or performance at Level 5.

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Level 5 [Full Band Competition Member]:

Level 5 members will fulfill all duties and responsibilities of Level 4. They will attend practices Thursday nights at the times stated under Music above. They will attend gigs, performances and competitions. They will be encouraged to learn how to advance their playing skills. They will learn and play to grade level all competition sets, dances and specialty performance tunes. They will commit themselves to promoting our bylaws mission statement. If a Level 5 member is not playing music to grade level, the Pipe Major may elect not to have them compete. They will continue to work at becoming as proficient as possible.

\*Note: Any Level 3, 4 or 5 member may attend the advanced beginner class if they so choose for additional help and instruction on core issues.

The following sets and specialty tunes are determined by the Music Committee:

### Standard Sets

**Set #1:** When Pipers Play / Scotland The Brave / Rowan Tree  
Itchy Fingers [with chord]  
Amazing Grace [solo, band, solo]  
Highroad to Gairloch  
Cockney Jocks  
No Awa Tae Bide Awa  
Green Hills of Tyrol / When The Battle Is Over

**Set #2:** La Baum  
Gallo Theme and Jig  
Donald Ross of Vancouver  
Specialty tune or Drum salute  
Bonnie Dundee / The Mucking of Geordie's Byre  
Cabar Feidh / Farewell to Camraw  
No Awa Tae Bide Awa

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**Set #3:** 1976 Edinburgh Police Tatoo  
Gael  
Morag / Wings  
Cabar Feidh [entire tune]  
Lord Lovat's Lament  
Specialty tune or Drum salute  
Camp tune [TBD]  
The Maids of Mourne Shore / The Leaving of Liverpool

#### **Specialty Tunes:**

Steam Train to Mallaig  
The Gathering  
King George V's Army  
Sleepy Maggie

#### **Posting Meeting Minutes**

To allow members to be more aware of what occurs at meetings, the Band Manager will send the minutes of all meetings, to include the fiscal report from the Treasurer, to members via e-mail after each meeting.

#### **Purchasing Authority**

The Pipe Major, Drum Sergeant and Quartermaster are authorized per the bylaws to make purchases up to \$100 for items needed quickly for the Band. Receipts will be presented to the Treasurer for reimbursement. Such receipts will be kept on file by the Treasurer for future reference and any audits which may be called.

#### **Sponsors**

The Band Manager will seek businesses and individuals willing to support band activities to provide monetary sponsorship. Sponsors, depending on their level of support, may have their logos and business information put on the web site and attached to the band tent at the discretion of the Band Manager.

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### Uniforms and Equipment

The Quartermaster will keep and maintain all band uniform and equipment items not signed out to band members. He / she will also keep an inventory sheet of band uniform items issued to each band member.

If a band member decides to leave the Band, he / she will turn in all band items signed for from the Band. If an outgoing band member keeps any of the items, they will be billed a fair price.

Uniform items provided to members by the Band will include:

Kilts [Mackenzie tartan], flashes [Mackenzie tartan], sporrans, black vests, black jackets with jacket crest badges [generally not used for competitions or performances], hat badges, bagpipe covers with band patch and red bagpipe cords.

Uniform items provided by the individual will include:

Ghillie brogue shoes with laces, charcoal hose, kilt pins, belts with buckle [optional - band has some available - vest cover belt area], white, long sleeve shirts [non-military], and Glengarry hat. Sgian dubhs and dirks are generally a personal choice as well. Dirks usually get in the way when performing and are not advised.

Note on hats:           Pipers will wear an all black Glengarry with red fuzz ball on the top.

Drummers will wear a black Glengarry with red and white checkered hat band and red fuzz ball on top.

### Website

The band website is considered the property of the Band. The Band will pay domain and server fees as required. The Band Manager will be the website manager for the Band and work with the Pipe Major concerning changes.