

ABOUT MARCHING

Technical Drill

Marching is based on the traditional 'Military' style of marching and is made up of compulsory drills and set march plans. A technical drill team comprises of 7-10 marchers and combines a set Review & Inspection routine and a set March Plan routine made up of different types of drills and movements depending on the age group performing. Technical Drill is precision in timing, dressing and covering in movements and the execution and correctness of the drills required. Judging is based on an awarding system and the Technical Drill is covered by four judging positions. Technical Judge A evaluates the Review & Inspection from a seated position on the left hand side of the field. Technical Judges B, C and D are seated at the rear of the field and evaluate the correctness of the upper body, including armswing (Judge B), footwork (Judge C) and spacing, dressing and covering (Judge D).

Display March

The Display phase is designed for teams to perform with 7-14 marchers and is the medium for marchers to express themselves to their own choice of music. Artistic and gimmicky type movements are permissible provided that, dignity and modesty is maintained. A Display should have visual value, spectator appeal and should project the team's ability to co-ordinate movement to music with variety and creativity.

Accessories such as hoops, ribbons, flags etc may be used, but must enhance the over-all presentation. Teams may add to, change, or remove items from their uniforms, (eg change glove colour, add capes etc.) these changes must remain within the uniform requirements.

The Display March is evaluated by two Display judges (A & B) from a seated position at the front of the field and teams will present their Display showing an overall degree of excellence, brilliance and versatility.

Gala March

The Gala march is for senior teams only and was introduced more recently to the sport. The emphasis is on competitive entertainment befitting a 'Gala' occasion and is performed on a stage. Teams of 6-8 members perform a 'Gala March' made up of their own choice of drills and routines executed to their own choice of music within the time restriction of 2m 45s – 3m 30s.

The performance criteria includes some Technical requirements but leaves ample opportunity for teams to perform a creative and exciting gala march and together with costumes befitting the theme, teams present a great evenings entertainment for the audience. The judging panel is made up of local guest judges and judges registered with MNZ using a simple awarding system.

CATEGORIES OF PARTICIPATION

Kiwi Marching

Kiwi marching is designed for 5-12 year olds and aims at enjoyable participation by all, regardless of ability or gender. For this grade, the basic skills and key elements of the sport have been simplified and offer the participants an opportunity to build social development, self-esteem, self-discipline and physical fitness. Kiwi marching also develops co-ordination and appreciation of music with the emphasis on fun.

Fernz Grade

The Fernz Grade offers an introduction to marching prior to entering the competitive Under 12 Grade. Designed for a team of 6-10 marchers aged 7-12 years they march a set March Plan of 3-5 technical movements and a Display march of their own choice of music and movements within the time restriction of 1m 30s – 2m.

Under 12 Grade

The Under 12 grade is a competitive grade for marchers aged 7-12 years. Designed for a team of 7-10 marchers, they march a set March Plan of 7-9 technical movements and a Display march of own choice music and movements within the time restriction of 2m – 2m 45s.

Under 16 Grade

The Under 16 grade is a competitive grade for marchers aged 10-16 years. Designed for a team of 7-10 marchers, they march a set March Plan of 9-11 technical movements and a Display march of own choice music and movements within the time restriction of 2m 30s – 3m 15s.

Senior Grade

The Senior grade is a competitive grade for marchers from a minimum age of 12 years with no upper limit. Designed for a team of 7-10 marchers, they march a set March Plan of 11-13 technical movements and a Display march of own choice music and movements within the time restriction of 2m 45s – 3m 30s.

Masters Grade

The Masters Grade is a competitive grade for 'more senior' marchers from a minimum age of 30 years with no upper limit. Designed for a team of 7-10 marchers, they march a set March Plan of 9-11 technical movements and a Display march of own choice music and movements within the time restriction of 2m 15s – 3m

COACHING

Marching New Zealand provides training workshops and a Coaching Accreditation course for all coaches. If you are interested in becoming a coach, be sure to contact your local association for approval to coach a team. Coaches are encouraged to attend workshops and it is a requirement after one years coaching to attain MNZ Accreditation Level One. For coaching assistance the local association has a 'Coaching Co-ordinator' and there is also available through MNZ 'Coaching Mentors' to further assist new coaches.

JUDGING

Training for all judges is provided through the MNZ Judges Accreditation Programme. During the programme each new judge will progress through the levels of Trainee, Qualified and National Qualification (category 1, 2 or 3). Judging is based on the awarding system where teams are recognised when the criteria, as set down, is executed correctly. Judges wishing to return to the sport after two years absence are required to sit a 'refresher' examination to enable them to continue at their previous status.

ADMINISTRATION

Each local association comprises of a committee who undertake to promote, encourage, administer and control the sport of Marching in their geographical area in accordance with the by-laws of MNZ. In doing so the committee should create and provide opportunities for all participants to reach their potential and gain maximum enjoyment from their involvement in the sport.