**Band Application Pack 2028**

**Application Pack contains the following:**

1. **Band Application Information**
2. **Festival Parade General Terms & Conditions**
3. **Specific Festival Parade Band Competition Information & Terms**
4. **2028 Application Form**

**2028 St. Patrick’s Day Parade Dublin, Ireland.**

**Thank you for considering applying to present your Band in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Dublin.**

**Essential Information for Bands:**

* The 2028 Festival will run from Friday 17th March to Sunday 19th March\*
* The 2028 Parade will be held on **Friday 17th March** at 12 noon (subject to licensing).
* The parade travels through the heart of Dublin City and the route is approximately 3.2km long. It will take about 90 minutes to complete the parade route.\*
* Bands must move continuously along the route and parade marshals will endeavour to ensure that the parade proceeds uninterrupted at a marching pace in the range of **96-126** paces per minute.
* The parade consists of bands, pageants, theatrical presentations and ceremonial elements.
* Logistics determine that only a limited number of bands can be accommodated within the parade on any given year, a selection process is in place.

\*subject to change

**Application Information:**

Please note in order to be considered, all bands are required to complete an application form and to submit the following information with the application in order for a full assessment to be undertaken (incomplete application forms will not be reviewed and will be returned):

1. **Submit a letter of Recommendation.**

Letters may be from Band Associations, Adjudicators, Festival Organisers or College Music Departments. (Letters from within organisations are not considered adequate)

**2**. **Submit a letter of Permission to Travel from the school board/college/university**

Submit a letter from the school board/college/university stating that the band has permission to

travel to St. Patrick's Festival Dublin, Ireland for the 2028 Festival Parade.

**3.** **Enclose a separate Band Biographical Information Sheet and also complete the section within this form**

The details requested on this document are required for preparing the television and grandstand commentary and for the band’s listing on the Festival website.

**4.** **Submit a non-returnable DVD or suitable web-based location (i.e. youtube/vimeo) of a performance that is less than 1 year old and is greater than 2 minutes in duration.**

Please label the DVD with the Band’s name, and the Director’s name and telephone number.

**5. Submit a non-returnable, colour photograph of the Bands in their Uniforms/Performance Dress to be worn during your performance**. [Please note that the festival requires all bands to be in dress uniform/performance dress rather than casual dress.]

This can be sent by email or posted using a disc or USB, or sent as a physical photo.Please label the photograph with the Band’s name and Band Director’s contact details.

**6. Copy of Application Documentation**

It is highly recommended that you keep a copy of your completed application documents as a record of your submission.

**7. Time frame:**

Bands should submit application materials at the earliest opportunity. Please note that the Festival operates a **rolling application process** for marching bands and early application is advised to avoid disappointment. Bands should wait for confirmation of participation from the Festival **BEFORE** making travel arrangements. The Festival will endeavour to reply to bands within **4 weeks** of receiving a complete application. During certain periods it may take longer.

**Due to demand in recent years it is not uncommon for the application process to be closed 24 months in advance.**

**8.** **Application Review and Selection:**

All applications are reviewed in detail by the Festival’s Creative & Development team and the Festival’s Music Consultant.

Only applications that can demonstrate an ability to meet the threshold performance standards will be considered for entry in the Festival. In addition, the Festival has limited capacity in any given year in respect of the numbers of bands and performers that it can accommodate; it will be appreciated by applicants that in a year where demand is high, not all bands can be accommodated.

**9. Travel Arrangements:**

Bands are responsible for their own travel, accommodation and transport for the parade. The Tourism Ireland office in your country can provide details of experienced Tour Operators who can organise your travel arrangements to and around Ireland. For a list of offices visit: <http://www.tourismireland.com>

**10. Application Submission:**

Please send your application materials either by email to: [marchingbands@stpatricksfestival.ie](mailto:marchingbands@stpatricksfestival.ie) *or* by post to Aoife Carry, Artistic Director, St. Patrick’s Festival, Unit 1 Blackhall Green, Blackhall Place, Dublin 7, Ireland. A receipt of safe arrival will be sent**.**

Appeal Process

Where an application is not successful, the applicant is entitled to seek feedback from the Festival. Where such feedback does not satisfy the applicant, an appeal may be lodged with the Festival. Such an appeal must be received at the address provided above with whatever supporting material the applicant thinks fit no later than one calendar month after the issue of the initial determination of the original application. The Festival will arrange to have the appeal reviewed by a qualified individual who had no part in the original consideration of the application. The Festival commits to delivering a decision in respect of any such appeal within one calendar month after the receipt of same.

**Any queries can be directed to Aoife Carry at the Festival Office:**

**Email:** marchingbands@stpatricksfestival.ie

**Telephone:** +353 1 6040090

**11.** The Festival reserves the right and at their own discretion to invite/select bands that they consider will add to the musical component and artistic nature of the Festival parade in given year.

**OVERALL FESTIVAL PARADE TERMS & CONDITIONS 2028**

IN ORDER TO MAKE THE ST. PATRICK'S FESTIVAL PARADE MORE ENJOYABLE FOR BOTH PARTICIPANTS AND SPECTATORS THESE REGULATIONS MUST BE OBSERVED.

THE RULES WILL BE STRINGENTLY ENFORCED. **PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY.**

**1. Féilte Dhuibh Linne Teoranta, the organising body of the St. Patrick's Festival Parade in Dublin, reserves the following rights:**

* 1. That all application forms must be returned to the Festival office by post or email (**rolling application process**).

1.2 It is essential that bands provide biographical information for commentary in the parade. Bands should include information: biography on participating group, detailed information on group's location (i.e. population of area, local history of area, human interest stories etc), and list of music being played.

1.3 The Festival reserves the right to refuse any application if, in the opinion of the Organisers, the entry is not suitable for participation. Participation in the Parade is entirely at the discretion of the Festival Organisers.

1.4 The Festival reserves the right to postpone, abandon or alter the route of the Parade if, in the opinion of the Organisers, such action is advisable in the common interest and no action will lie against the Organisers in respect of any loss incurred by any entrant on foot of such decision.

1.5 Whilst every care has been taken by the Organisers to ensure against accidents and to arrange proper stewarding of the Parade, no responsibility can be accepted by them for any loss or damage caused to exhibits or their personnel, or to members of the general public, parade stage managers / stewards, or the occupants of the viewing stands, arising from any cause whatsoever connected with the Parade.

1.6 The Festival reserves the right (at its sole discretion) to prohibit accredited bands/participants from taking part in the Festival Parade and request that any band/participant leave or be removed from the setup area or Parade route for any reason, including, without limitation, public safety, overcrowding, a breach of these Terms and Conditions or otherwise.

1.7 The decisions of the Festival are final.

* 1. The Festival Parade is subject to event licence.

1. **All participants in the Parade must be prepared to observe the following rules:**
   1. It is the responsibility of each Band/Performance Group to nominate a director/ group leader who will liaise with the Festival Parade Production Team to ensure the smooth continuous flow of the Parade. The Festival should be made aware who this nominee is in advance. The staging / production team at the festival will liaise with the designated person from your band.
   2. It is the responsibility of each Band to ensure that all participants must arrive at the assembly point at their given time and must disembark their coaches when asked. All participants should be in position and ready to move off the assembly area at the designated time. An information pack with your schedule, assembly point and the contact details of your stage manager will be provided to your band in advance of the parade.
   3. The Festival requires that bands are in dress uniform. No street clothing should be worn by any participants in the Parade, *including those people accompanying entries*. A maximum of **four** people (who are not performing) may accompany each band and are expected to dress smartly in band uniform or band colours. No walking groups / individuals who are not performing are permitted in the Parade.
   4. It is the responsibility of each Band to ensure that exhibits and music are in good taste and otherwise arranged so as not to cause harm or give offence to spectators or other participants in the Parade.
   5. Bands are permitted to carry one banner to identify their band and this is to be carried ahead of the band. The Festival may remove any banners deemed inappropriate. Other than the band’s identifying banner or flags carried by flag bearers/performers, no placards or signs containing wording, messages and/or images are permitted in the Festival Parade.
   6. No commercial, sponsorship or other branded messaging or images can appear on uniforms and/or clothing worn in the Festival Parade or be displayed in any way by participants on banners, flags or otherwise. (If unsure please check with Festival personnel in advance).
   7. The Parade is not to be used in any way as a vehicle for a means of protest. Any entry incorporating a protest will not be eligible, and the Organisers will be the final arbiters in deciding the matter. If, on the day of the Parade, any entry should take the form of a protest group without prior permission, the Organisers reserve the right to have that entry forcibly removed from the Parade and will accept no responsibility for consequent loss, damage or injury incurred by the entrant(s).
   8. Bands/participants must maintain the marching pace as directed by Festival personnel, Festival personnel are being directed by the Parade Director who is timing every aspect of the parade to meet requirements for the live audience experience and the TV marks for broadcasting. Under no circumstances are participants to deliberately stop at any point along the route including the viewing stands or TV cameras or for the purposes of filming/photography. Failure to adhere to this rule will automatically disqualify the participant from entering any future parade and may incur a financial penalty.
   9. Bands/participants are not permitted to exit the parade route prior to the end of the designated Festival Parade route unless otherwise directed by Festival personnel.

2.10 Bands/Festival parade participants may be recorded for broadcast and for use in other audio

and/or audiovisual reproductions and photographs may also be taken of the Festival Parade and participants (“**Images**”). Participants acknowledge and agree that the Festival shall not be responsible for the use and/or reproduction of any such images by third parties. Each participant irrevocably agrees that the Festival may use such images free of charge throughout the world and without any restriction as to manner, frequency and duration of use in any and all media for any present and future promotional purposes.

2.11 For those bands participating in the International Band Competition the Judges' decisions are final.

2.12 St. Patrick's Festival retains all legal rights and title to use, throughout the world of any photograph, DVD or film in connection with the 2028 St. Patrick's Festival for use on print, website, TV, pay TV, theatrical or non-theatrical release, DVD, online or any other type of exhibition or exploitation.

2.13 Bands/ participants must not litter at any point during the Festival Parade. Please note you may be fined up to a maximum of €3000 for littering by Dublin City Council.

2.14 Bands/participants must not in any way encourage viewers to come onto the Parade route.

2.15 Bands/participants must not have consumed alcohol in advance of the Festival Parade, and the Festival shall operate a strict no smoking and no alcohol policy.

2.16 It is not permitted to consume alcohol or drugs while participating in the Festival Parade. Any illegal behaviour and/or violations of the law will not be tolerated and bands/participants will be solely responsible for any fines, fees, arrests, injury and/or imprisonment that may occur as a result of any such illegal behaviour and/or violations.

2.17 Bands/participants may, to the extent permitted by applicable laws, be subject to a search prior to their participation in the Festival Parade and in the interest of public safety, any band/participant that refuses to consent to such search may be denied participation.

2.18 Bands/participants must show respect for the rights of other bands/participants to enjoy the event.

|  |
| --- |
| **Specific Band Competition Information & Terms 2028** |

1. **General**
   1. The St. Patrick’s Festival Parade will feature a competition for bands in Dublin on Friday 17th March 2028 at 12 noon (subject to license).

1.2 The competition is open to all bands. Bands wishing to take part in the parade in an exhibition category only will be welcome to do so.

**2. Categorisation**

2.1 Entries will be accepted from Professional, Military, College/University, Senior High, and Junior High or equivalent e.g. Novice, Contest, Championship, or Premier class bands on the entry form. Bands will compete within their relevant section and only against their peers. Bands should clearly indicate instrumentation type and size.

School bands will be subdivided according to age and school size as outlined below:

### A = school with student population of 001-750

**AA = school with student population of 751-1500**

**AAA = school with student population of + 1500**

2.2 Adjudicators will be sensitive to the varying degrees of experience and instrumental composition of competing bands. There will equally be an awareness of the differing traditions of the competing bands. The awards are structured to reflect these differences and the instrumental diversity of the bands eligible to enter the competition. Entries will be marked Adult or Youth[[1]](#footnote-2) and categorized as follows:

Brass

Brass & Reed (Concert and Wind ensembles)

Drum Corps/Drum and Bugle Corps

Fife & Drum/Flute

Junior High

Senior High

Pipe Band[[2]](#footnote-3)

2.2.1 In addition, the Festival will be pleased to consider entries from other musical formations, e.g. Accordion Bands, Community Bands etc.

* 1. Awards will be offered under three distinct headings:
* **Universal Awards**: Open to all competing bands regardless of age, size, experience, or instrumental constitution.
* **Sectional Awards:**  Focused on designated groups as set out above.
* **Discretionary Awards:** These will be available to the international panel of judges to recognise particular excellence; e.g. drum majors, auxiliaries etc (see 6.3.1 below).

1. **Format**
   1. Bands will assemble on Mountjoy Street in accordance with instructions from the parade

stewards. An information pack with assembly details will be forwarded in February 2027.

* 1. The Parade will commence at **12:00 noon**. All bands must be in position and ready to depart the

assembly area at the time designated by stage management (between 10.30am and 11am).

3.3 The Parade route\* runs from Parnell Square, O’Connell Street, Westmoreland Street, Dame Street, through Christ Church, Patrick Street, Kevin St. The route is 3.2kmdistance in total (c. 1.75 miles) and is 7 metres (c. 23 ft) wide at the adjudication zone in O’ Connell Street. (\*route subject to change)

* 1. Bands are requested to carry an identifying banner.

3.5 A parade stage manager will accompany each band.

3.6 Adjudication will take place within a designated area of c. 275 metres (c. 300 yards) at the VIP viewing grandstand opposite Clery's Store on O’ Connell St. which is approximately 900 metres (c. 984 yards) along the route.

* 1. The adjudication area will be clearly marked and signalled c. 225metres (250 yards) and c.45 metres (c. 50 yards) in advance. Assessment will take place only within this area.
  2. PLEASE NOTE: Bands must play on the march. They are **not permitted to stop voluntarily at any point on the route,** unless requested to do so by a Parade Stage Manager. Bands **will not deliberately stop** within the adjudication zone. Failure to comply will result in automatic disqualification.

1. **Adjudication**
   1. An international panel of judges will undertake adjudication. Dr. Joseph Ryan will chair the

panel.

4.2 The judges will be positioned in the VIP viewing grandstand opposite Clery's Store on O’ Connell St.

There are no set pieces; bands are free to perform a selection of their own choice. Directors are advised that a sense of fun and showmanship (presentation), in keeping with the spirit of the Parade, will be appreciated by public and adjudicators alike. The appeal and quality of the music presented will be a feature in the adjudicator’s deliberations. Bands can be inspired by the theme of the year’s Parade when selecting music if they wish. The Artistic Director will be in touch to inform you of the theme in summer/autumn 2027 and will ask you to submit your repertoire in November 2027, in order to avoid duplications of the same pieces where possible.

1. **Marking**

5.1 Points will be allocated as follows:

Music Quality 55 points

Marching 25 points

Presentation[[3]](#footnote-4) 20 points

* 1. All judges will contribute to the final score and comments will be given in written form. The Adjudicators’ comments will be available to the competing bands.
  2. Bands will be graded in accordance with internationally recognised standards.

Superior 85 points and above

Excellent 74-84 points

Good 63-73 points

Fair 50-62 points

* 1. Formal announcement of the competition results will be made on the afternoon of March 17th 2028.

1. **Awards and Ratings**
   1. Universal Awards
      1. Best overall band
      2. Best contribution to the spirit of the Parade
      3. Sectional Award Adult Band
      4. Sectional Award Youth Band
   2. Sectional Awards
      1. Superior and Excellent rating trophies will be awarded in the categories as set out in 2.2 & 2.3
   3. Discretionary Awards
      1. Such awards will have the same status as Sectional Awards and may be instituted at the

discretion of the panel of judges. They may be employed;

* To recognise the excellence of a particular ensemble e.g. Accordion Band, Brass Band, or a particularly fine small ensemble ‘A’ category etc.,
* To award excellence in a particular section e.g. Drum Corps

**2028 ST. PATRICK’S FESTIVAL MARCHING BAND APPLICATION FORM**

**Section A**

**1. Participant Information**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Band Name:** |  | |
| Band Postal Address: |  | |
|  |  | |
| Director’s Name: |  | |
|  |  | |
| Director’s Email Address: |  | |
| Director’s Telephone: | (Day) | (Evening) |
| Band’s Website : |  |  |

**2. Main Contact in the Band dealing with this application**

(Preferably someone who has good conversational English)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Contact Name: |  |
| Contact’s Email Address: |  |
| Contact’s Mobile Phone Number: |  |
| Time difference between Dublin and your location (e.g. +6 hrs): |  |

**3. Moving Footage of the Band performing**

Please list website details where footage of suitable quality would be available to view remotely (if available)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * http://www. |  |
| * http://www. |  |
| * http://www. |  |

**4. Planned Dublin Itinerary (if known)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Group Arrival Date: Group Departure Date: | |
| Hotel/Accommodation Address: | |
|  | |
| Telephone: | Fax: |

**5. Type of Group**

For the following please mark with a tick or “X” alongside the appropriate group types.

There may be more than one category that applies to your group or sections within your group.

**(a)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Marching Band | * Concert Band |
| * Brass | * Orchestra |
| * Brass & Reed | * Pipe Band |
| * Jazz Band | * Fife & Drum/ Flute |
| * Drum Corps/Drum & Bugle Corps | * Other: (please specify) |
|  | |

**(b)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Amateur | * Professional |

**(c)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Total Number of People Performing: | Total Number of People Travelling: |

**(d)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Ages of those Performing (i.e. adults, teenagers etc): |  |

**(e)**

|  |
| --- |
| Usual Marching Pace: (pace per minute) |

**6. Festival Participation**

Please tick (or mark with an “X”) the events your group would like to participate in.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * St. Patrick's Day Parade |  |
| * International Band Competition (which takes place during the Parade) |  |
| * Other Performance Opportunities during the Festival |  |

**7. Bands Biography** *(please insert relevant details about how the Band was formed, where you are based, who your musical director is, they types of participants in the band, places you have performed and any prizes won etc)* Minimum of 100 words. (This information may be used for publicity purposes)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

**8. Tour Operator Company Information** *(if applicable)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company Name: |  | Contact: |
| Postal Address: |  | |
|  |  | |
| Email Address: |  | |
| Telephone: |  | Fax: |

**9. Irish Handling Agent** *(if applicable)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Company Name: |  | Contact: |
| Postal Address: |  | |
|  |  | |
| Email Address: |  | |
| Telephone: |  | Fax: |

**Section B**

**International Band Competition**

The International Band Competition is a feature of the St. Patrick’s Festival Parade and is *optional*. Please read the Rules and Regulations for the Band Competition (see attached) prior to completing this section of your application.

**Categorization**: (please tick or mark with an “X” alongside the appropriate category or categories)

**(a)**

**Bands from Educational Institutions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * A = student population of 001-750 | * Junior High School |
| * AA = student population of 751-1500 | * Senior High School |
| * AAA = student population of 1500+ | * University/College |

**Other Bands** (please also indicate what standard your group is)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Youth | **Standard** |
| * Adult | * Junior |
|  | * Intermediate |
|  | * Senior |

**Section C**

**Musical Performances**

In the past the festival has created additional performance and promotional opportunities for bands during their visit. Potential performance opportunities could include: outdoor ‘pop up’ performances in the city centre across the Festival weekend, or indoor concert style performances. If you are interested in additional performances and promotional opportunities during the Festival please indicate your availability:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Morning** | **Afternoon** | **Evening** |
| Thursday 16th March 2028 |  |  |  |
| Friday 17th March 2028 |  |  |  |
| Saturday 18th March 2028 |  |  |  |
| Sunday 19th March 2028 |  |  |  |

**Willingness to do Informal Outdoor Performances and any Relevant Additional Information in regards to Additional Performance Opportunities**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Section D**

In signing this application I acknowledge that I have read and agree to be bound by the St. Patrick’s Festival Parade terms & conditions outlined and indemnify St. Patrick’s Festival (see below).

The group hereby undertake to indemnify Féilte Dhuibh Linne Teoranta (St. Patrick’s Festival) against all actions, proceedings, claims, demands, damages, expenses and costs, whatsoever arising out of or in any way concerned with the group’s participation in the 2028 St. Patrick's Festival.

The group further agree that they participate in the 2028 National St. Patrick's Festival entirely at their own risk and not as either agents or employees of Féilte Dhuibh Linne Teoranta.

Signed: Date:

Director/Group Leader

Witness: Date:

1. ***Youth Band*** *= 90% of performing members are 18 years of age and under.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. ***Pipe Band*** *The term Pipe Band will be understood to mean a band composed exclusively of war pipes and drums. A full marching band with pipe component will not qualify under this particular heading but will be welcome to compete for the other relevant awards and in a distinct category.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. *It may be fully understood that bands will be assessed under this heading consistent with the innate traditions of their category.* [↑](#footnote-ref-4)