

GREAT BRITAIN BATON TWIRLING ASSOCIATION

Rules and Handbook

*President and Founder Member
Mr Albert W Orme
Association Established in 2007*

GBBTA
DANCING WITH PASSION

**“ PERFECTION IS NOT OFTEN ACHIEVED HOWEVER
WITH TIME EFFORT AND DEDICATION IT IS ATTAINABLE “**

A.W.ORME 4th SEPTEMBER 2006

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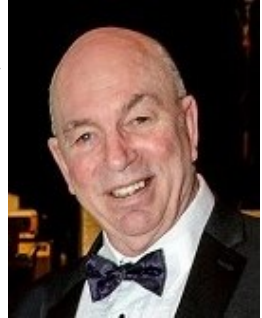
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Amended 2023 Edition

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The Great Britain Baton Twirling Association is committed to bringing together Majorettes, Baton Twirling and Pom Troupes from around Great Britain and Ireland in doing so endeavour to raise the profile of this great sport which is somewhat understated.

Assist in raising the standard of performances promoting training, learning, healthy competition, admiration and friendship between troupes.



The Officials and Myself are committed to making G.B.B.T.A. One of the leading Associations of its kind in Great Britain.

G.B.B.T.A. is an Association run by people who are totally independent and have a vast knowledge and experience of Majorettes and the Carnival World. They will willingly demonstrate and offer advice at all times

Professionalism is paramount as to how we undertake our duties as Officials of G.B.B.T.A.

We want Troupes to feel proud to belong to this Association and in doing so give them a sense of belonging.

Mr Albert W. Orme
President and founder



**These rules have been compiled by Mr A W Orme for the
GREAT BRITAIN BATON TWIRLING ASSOCIATION**

**Please ensure that all Competitors, Staff
Parents / Guardians are fully aware of these rules**

Disqualification should not be an option !

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. The VISION of G.B.B.T.A. is that all Troupes, Supporters and Officials should strive to work Together for the common cause of raising the Profile and Standing of Majorettes/Baton Twirling /Poms in Great Britain.
2. Treat others with RESPECT. Members should promote Equality by not discriminating against any person, troupe or officials of G.B.B.T.A. regardless of their race, age religion or gender.
3. Perform to the best of your ability and within the spirit of the sport (Baton Twirling, Majorettes and Poms) there is no shame in not winning.....winning is a bonus.
4. Show self discipline in terms of Behaviour at your Training sessions as well as G.B.B.T.A. Events
5. No arguing with officials, other troupes, trainers or supporters.
6. At any G.B.B.T.A. events trainers, dancers, supporters and officials will not make racist, homophobic, sexist or expletive remarks to others .Anyone found guilty of this will be asked to leave the Association.
7. Any member of the Association who feels threatened, intimidated, bullied or discriminated against should report this to their troupe leaders or any official of the G.B.B.T.A. as soon as possible.
8. If any member, supporter or official is found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol they will be asked to leave the event immediately.
9. At all G.B.B.T.A. events listen to any instructions and take note of safety issues at all times. Respect the facilities that G.B.B.T.A. have hired for events and leave it how you found it!
10. If food or drink is permitted at any G.B.B.T.A. event rubbish must be cleared and put in any appropriate container and leave nothing behind.
11. Be prepared to learn, improve yourself .Enjoy your sport and time with G.B.B.T.A.
12. Understand the Rules of G.B.B.T.A. and relay those Rules to your troupe and supporters alike.
13. Remember at all times that you are representing YOUR Troupe as well as performing at G.B.B.T.A. events and what standard of behaviour is required. Set a Good Example and be a better Person for it!
14. Baton Twirling and Majorettes is a Fantastic Sport lets enjoy and embrace all that is good about it and in doing so promote Friendship, Admiration and Sportsmanship between Troupes Supporters and Officials alike.

RULES OF GREAT BRITAIN BATON TWIRLING ASSOCIATION

AGES OF PERFORMERS AS ON THE 1st JANUARY

BABIES	Up to the age of 6 years
TOTS	Up to the age of 9 years
TINIES	Up to the age of 12 years
JUNIORS	Up to the age of 15 years
SENIORS	Open age

Ages must be strictly adhered to. Failure to do so will result in Disqualification.

MINIMUM NUMBERS

BABIES	5 + Leader Mascot Optional
TOTS	6 + Leader Mascot Optional
TINIES	6 + Leader Mascot Optional
JUNIORS	8 + Leader Mascot Optional
SENIORS	8 + Leader Mascot Optional

Unlimited double dancing is permitted as long as the performer/performers dance above their age group.

Please note that a penalty of 0.5 will be deducted for each member under the minimum number required. This will be carried out by the scrutineer.

TIMES OF PERFORMANCES

SECTION	MILITARY FREESTYLE	DANCE TWIRL	POMS
BABIES	3 to 4 Minutes	2 to 3 Minutes	2 to 3 Minutes
TOTS	4 to 6 Minutes	3 to 4 Minutes	3 to 4 Minutes
TINIES	4 to 6 Minutes	4 to 5 Minutes	4 to 5 Minutes
JUNIORS	8 to 10 Minutes	5 to 6 Minutes	5 to 6 Minutes
SENIORS	10 to 12 Minutes	6 to 7 Minutes	6 to 7 Minutes

Please Note that in the event of a tie the Troupe NEAREST the Maximum time without going over will be deemed to be the Winner

This will also apply to Leader and Mascot placing's .

Please note that a penalty of 0.5 points will be deducted for each minute under or over time . This will be carried out by the scrutineer.

Timings will start once the Leader or first performer steps over the Entry Line and will finish when the last performer steps over the exit line.

Entry and Exit lines will be clearly defined at every Event

Size of the Arena and positioning of the Entry and Exit lines will be relayed to the Troupe Principles A.S.A.P.

LEADERS AND MASCOTS

Plus Points will be awarded. A Maximum of 20 + 5 points can be attained.
Leader and Mascot are to be Identical but Distinct from the rest of the troupe.
Commands and Signals may only be given by Baton, Mace, Arm or Whistle.
Mascots may come from the Section or Sections below

DIVISIONS ONE AND TWO

Will operate in Tines Juniors and Senior Sections .Troupes that finish top of Division two at the end of the season will then go into Division One the following year as with troupes not performing well in Division one will then go to Division Two Please Note this will be at the discretion of the Officials committee .

The two Divisions will help troupes who are New or at a Standard that requires more time to achieve and be able to compete with well established troupes that are of a very high standard in other words troupes in each Division will be competing on a level playing field.

No dancer will be allowed to dance in both Division One and Two

ORDER OF SECTIONS AND DANCE POSITIONS

The Order of the Draw for each section will be forwarded to each Troupe Principle in good time prior to the Event.

Dance times must be adhered to.

Troupes to be ready 5 minutes before they are due to dance .

Please respect the Troupe that are dancing. Do not stand at the Arena Entry line ,have your troupe lined up to the side .

PENALTIES

Dropped Batons 0.2 points per drop will be deducted by the scrutineer.

Up to a maximum of 15 drops.

Uniform / Dress faults i.e. Laces undone, non uniformity etc will incur a penalty of 0.5 points per fault by the Adjudicators on the arena.

1. MILITARY FREESTYLE

Uniforms to be of Full Military style or Semi-Military style, Hat or Head-Dress must be worn.
Routine may consist of Marching ,Turns, Counter Marching ,Formations etc. Batons to be used.
A percentage of the routine must be Freestyle i.e. Dance.

2.DANCE TWIRL / POMS

Costumes to be appropriate i.e. leotards, dress etc also head-dress, hair appropriate.
Smiles Please

3. No Arena markers are allowed.

4. Two Troupe representatives will be required for; Arena duty i.e. picking up dropped batons etc.

One Troupe representative will be required for the Timing table and one for the Music table

5. Video and Photographs will only be taken by an official G.B.B.T.A. designated member.
Unless otherwise informed.

Taking Videos and Photographs of other Troupes is strictly forbidden.

6. No items of jewellery to be worn on the arena other than sleepers, ear studs, wedding, engagement, eternity rings and SOS Medallions

Make up / Face Decoration will be allowed as long as it is conclusive to the routine
Tattoos should be covered if possible.

7. Practising will be allowed but not in the Venue i.e. Building or around the Arena unless a designated area has been provided.

8. Music must be of good quality. Please ensure you have a number of back ups with you
The Music is your responsibility and not the Associations
Music Media that can be used i.e. Phone, iPod, Tablet, Memory Stick or any Media carrying
device, If Bluetooth equipment is available that may be used

9. Membership of G.B.B.T.A. lasts for one year from the 1st January until 31st December.

10. The G.B.B.T.A. accepts no responsibility or liability for personal injury, damage,
neglect, loss or public liability .
Therefore Troupes be advised to have their own insurance and performing rights
permission.

11. Full Uniform to be worn for presentations.

12. G.B.B.T.A Trophies

Any Trophy that is returnable must be returned prior or on the day of the same event the
following year.

It is the Troupes responsibility to keep the Trophy in good condition and have their name
engraved on the said Trophy.

The End of Season Annual Awards for Troupes, Leaders and Mascots will be presented
at a convenient time to be arranged after the Final Event of the Year.

Please note all recipients of Annual Awards must attend the ceremony to receive such
awards .No award will be carried over after the ceremony date.

Points will be awarded at each of the Associations Events as follows;

Appearance - 1 point

1st Place; 3 points 2nd Place ; 2 points 3rd Place ; 1 point

If there are 9 Troupes competing in a section then 4th Place will be awarded likewise if
12 Troupes and over are competing then 5th place will be awarded.

Please Note No Place Points will be awarded for 4th and 5th places other than the
appearance point.

The points system will apply to Troupes, Leaders and Mascots alike.

13. Troupes and Supporters participating in G.B.B.T.A. Events must be of good conduct at
all times and must adhere to the hosting Venues Rules and Regulations.
Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the competition and Association.

14. The G.B.B.T.A. would like to Encourage and Promote Friendship between participating
Troupes and their Supporters

15. The G.B.B.T.A. Accept no responsibility or liability for personal injury, damage, neglect,
loss or public liability.

Troupes are therefore advised to look into their own insurance and performing rights
permission

16. The Association will require each Troupe when competing to submit a completed entry form and at each event have a list of dancers with their dates of birth from the Junior Sections and below .

This information will be kept on record .

Any Troupe that has clearly misled the G.B.B.T.A . with wrong information regarding ages and dates of birth for Dancers will be **DISQUALIFIED** from the Event and warned to their future conduct within the Association.

REMEMBER winning is a great achievement, there should be no satisfaction if winning while breaking this rule.

17. In certain circumstances entries into sections that have maximum capacity of Troupes will be Limited.

It is important to send in completed entry forms for events A.S.A.P. so as to avoid Disappointment.

18. It will be required that all Dancers and Supporters to pay an entry fee to each event . Fee to be determined by the association. Upon payment passes / wristbands will be issued.

Please Note : No Pass / Wristband No Entry

19. For Weekend Events All Troupes and Supporters must book their accommodation through the appropriate channels as advised by G.B.B.T.A.

No passes /wristbands will be issued to anyone not complying with these rules.

If anyone is found to have breeched this rule the troupe they are connected with will be **DISQUALIFIED.**

The Venue Management requires the names of all those attending to be logged for Health, Safety and Security issues.

20. Payment Details for Weekend Events

Any G.B.B.T.A. Weekend Event will be governed by the terms and conditions of the Venue we are Visiting

In most cases an initial deposit will be required.

The Final balance to be made as required by the Venues booking terms

Any pre ordered accommodation that is then cancelled will be subject to a cancellation fee. Please note Initial Deposits paid to G.B.B.T.A. or applicable venue are Non Refundable

21. G.B.B.T.A and Venue Security reserve the right to refuse entry into any Event Venue to any member of the public.

Please note that any Troupe Member i.e. Dancer, Trainer ,Supporter or Spectator acting Inappropriately at any event organised by the G.B.B.T.A. will be asked to leave or escorted out of the venue. The Police will be called if deemed necessary.

22. THE ADJUDICATORS DECISION IS FINAL.

RESPECT FOR ALL.....

Criteria for Awarding Trophies

Presidents Cups

The President will solely award these Trophies to the Troupes that not necessary excel with their performance on the Arena but will include other elements i.e. General Behaviour of Performers and Supporters alike, Sportsmanship, Attitude, Helpfulness before and throughout the Event.

It is also an award for Troupes that are progressing and making great strides in their performances and are continually improving and to those Troupes that are just outside the placing's

Most Entertaining Troupe of the Year.

This goes to the Troupe that captures and holds the ATTENTION of an Audience with their performances / routines i.e. Dance, Expression, Music, Formations, Baton/ Pom.
To Be Decided by the Adjudicators

Best and most Creative Baton Work of the Year.

This goes to the Troupe that pushes the Boundaries of Baton Work to the Limits in Both Technical Ability and Artistic Impression. This also includes Musical Impression
To be decided by the Adjudicators

Most Improved Troupe of the Year

This goes to the Troupe that has shown significant progress and improvement throughout the year.

To be decided by the Adjudicators.

Dress Award

Scores attained during Troupes performances on the Dress Section of the scoring sheet will be taken into account i.e. any faults will be noted which will include Uniformity of Dress / Uniform ,Footwear , Including Laces. Headwear, Grooming. General Cleanliness and Smartness.

To be decided by the Adjudicators

Trainer / Troupe of the Year

This Award goes to the Trainer who in the opinion of the Adjudicators has excelled in all areas of Majorettes / Baton Twirling and Poms but must have also attained a number of winning performances Throughout the Year

This is the most Prestigious Award in the Association

G.B.B.T.A. HALL of FAME

This is Awarded when the Association receives a Nomination of a deserving person.

The said person must have shown ample Qualities in giving their time ,dedication and made a difference to the cause of Majorettes and all that it encompasses to enable the recipient to be awarded this accolade .

Expectations of a Troupe Leader (c)A.W.Orme 07th Nov 1990

LEADERSHIP.

As the Leader gains knowledge and experience in the many phases of the position they should develop the poise and confidence and insight into the total situation that is essential to being a competent Leader.

Leadership is based on many of the ingredients of which it is composed i.e. Baton Ability, Communication with others, Dancing Ability, Deportment, Personality, Ability to Teach and Show, Technique and Appearance.

Whatever the requirements may be, Leadership based upon one single attribute will not survive on its own it must be supported by many equal important characteristics which the leader must put in hours of training to acquire.

KNOWLEDGE.

As a Leader you must have earned the Respect of the Troupe.....You must also be able to teach as well as demonstrate all movements.....They should have a fair knowledge of music i.e. Tempo, Beat.....They must be proficient at stopping and starting the Troupe as well as changing the Direction and Movement of the Troupe.

ENTHUSIASM.

Enthusiasm is the most important factor in any Leader....It is perhaps the fastest single factor in sparking group support for the Troupe.....The Leader should inspire the Troupe with their enthusiasm ...They should always set an example by being first in the queue, so to speak.

AMBITION.

Ambition is the will to excel, the pride that motivates the individual to self improvement and the constant upgrading of performances even in the face of BAD competition results.

CRITICISM.

A Leader must accept the criticism of other members of the Troupe and in doing so make an evaluation of their faults objectively.

TRAINING.

Extra Training is one of the prices that a Leader must pay. The hours spent in Self Improvement in working for the Troupe...In teaching those who need help and in planning the routines is all part of the Sacrifice a Leader must make.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE TROUPE PRINCIPAL.

The Troupe Principal has the FINAL say in all matters concerning the Troupe routines. The appointment of the Leader is an Expression of the Principals' appraisal of the girls/boys ability and the confidence shown in them by the Troupe Principal warrants the Leaders fullest co-operation at all times, even if the Leader does not agree with the Troupe Principal they should never the less carry out their wishes.

CONFIDENCE.

The Leader should have extreme Confidence in themselves.....their Awareness of the situation, especially in emergencies.

DEPORTMENT ,APPEARANCE.

Execution of Movements and Dance.....Smart in Appearance, Self Discipline and Deportment.

CREATING A STYLE.

The Leader may Create their own Style, most Leaders do but it must be kept in mind that in doing so they must not Distract from the performance of the Troupe.

A Leaders main responsibility is to have complete control of the Entire Performance.

They must have a Style that will Highlight themselves as an Individual Performer, although too much Showmanship will show the Troupe up for what they cannot do or more to the point what they should be doing.

INDIVIDUAL AND DUO EVENTS

Strictly Dance Twirl

BABIES	1 Minute 20 Seconds to 1 Minute 20 Seconds	6 Years
TOTS	1 Minute 20 Seconds to 1 Minute 30 Seconds	9 Years
TINIES	1 Minute 30 Seconds to 1 Minute 40 Seconds	12 Years
JUNIORS	1 Minute 40 Seconds to 1 Minute 50 Seconds	15 Years
SENIORS	1 Minute 50 Seconds to 2 Minutes	Open

Please note ages must be strictly adhered to as stated .
 In each age section there will be Solo and Duo categories
 Dancers will only be able to enter ONE category unless advised
 Entrance fee....To be determined

Entrants will START and FINISH on arena.
 Entrants will enter and leave the arena in a smart manner.

Timings will commence from the First movement of performance, will cease when the routine is completed

In the event of a tie the competitor nearest the Maximum time will deemed to be the winner...
 Under or over time will result in a 1 point penalty.

Own Music to be usedthis is your responsibility..... Please use a good quality medium i.e. Memory Stick ,Phone or any other acceptable Music carrying device.

Its all about the **PERFORMANCE** .

The choreography must fit your chosen piece of music in Dance, Baton and Story Telling .
 Props maybe used to enhance performance. Dress will also enhance your Performance

Its not about choosing a piece of music and attempting to throw your baton or perform as many tricks as you can without a thought going into your choreography
 There has to be a well thought out structure to your performance

ORIGINALITY is the key to success in all categories of....**PERFORMANCE**, **MUSIC**, **COSTUME** and most importantly **INTERPRETATION**.

Music choice is so important.....Be Original.....Use the Arena.....Tell a Story and above all
THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

Please Note Entrants will be limited on a first come basis. Entrants will only be allowed to perform in either Individual or Duo's section not both.

SENIOR POM SHOWCASE

SENIOR POM SHOWCASE Is a New Concept of Pom Dancing which GBBTA introduced in 2017 .

The Timing to be 2 minutes to 3 minutes in Duration . Troupes will Start and Finish on the Arena. They must face the audience as if performing on a Stage.

A Troupe will consist of a Leader and no less than 8 performers

Although Perfection is always a standard that GBBTA strive for.

We are looking for the WOW FACTOR. Performances full of Entertainment ,Non stop Routines Full of Originality... Music is your Choice unless advised by the Association.

Tell a Story Interpretation of the Music in both dance and body movements is paramount

The Adjudicators Sheets will have 4 sections

Appearance/Showmanship Visual Effect

Timing/Technique/Difficulty Synchronisation

Entertainment/Choreography/Musicality

Formations /Spacings/Difficulty

Each Adjudicator will adjudicate on ONE or TWO Section Only

Although this Section is for SENIORS only, Younger performers maybe used if a Troupe is short on numbers or is conclusive to the Routine

BULLYING IS FOR LOSERS



*Bullying is an Indirect or Direct act of belittling someone else or making them feel inferior
It can be Verbal, Emotional, Physical or Cyber*

The Great Britain Baton Twirling Association
Would like to encourage and Promote Friendship
Between participating Troupes and their supporters

The Adjudicators Decision is Final
Respect for All

GBBTA

DANCING WITH PASSION

GREAT BRITAIN BATON TWIRLING ASSOCIATION



Mr Albert W Orme
16 Kestrel Grove
Halewood
Liverpool
L26 7ZS



0151 498 4435



0777 288 3498



gbbta@gmail.com



gbbta.co.uk



twitter

