

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF IOWA



DEPARTMENT CONVENTION COLOR GUARD COMPETITION

TIME & LOCATION

- Held during the Department Convention at a time and location designated by the Convention Commission.

ELIGIBILITY

- All units must be members of The American Legion.
- Minimum of four (4) members per unit.
- If only four members, the American Flag bearer gives all commands.

REGISTRATION

- All members must be registered for the Department Convention.
- Entry forms must be certified by the sponsoring Post or District Adjutant and submitted before the close of the Color Guard Registration Meeting.
- No limit on the number of units per Post or District.
- Performance order is reverse order of receipt of entry forms.

REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

- One representative from each unit must attend the pre-contest meeting with the Chief Judge.
- Failure to attend results in a penalty.

JUDGING

- Five judges appointed by the Convention Commission.
- Judges will rank and score all units.

TIME LIMIT

- Maximum performance time: **4 minutes**.
- Timing starts when the first member crosses the starting line.
- Judging continues until the last member exits.

REQUIRED MANEUVER — POST AND RETRIEVE

- Includes the U.S. Flag and American Legion Organizational Banner.
- U.S. Flag posted to the right of the Saluting Point, facing the field.
- Two salutes required: one after posting, one before retrieving.
- Colors may not remain posted for more than **60 seconds**.
- U.S. Flag must be posted last and retrieved first if not done simultaneously.
- U.S. Flag must be guarded at all times (within three paces).

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

- Uniforms must reflect dignity and propriety.
- Required equipment:
 - U.S. Flag (minimum size 3' x 5')
 - American Legion Organizational Banner
- No flag may be larger than the U.S. Flag.
- Additional authorized equipment: sidearms, sabers, swords, and additional flags.
- The U.S. Flag is never dipped.

CONDUCT & SAFETY

- Units must enter over the designated starting line and exit over the finish line.
- The Commanding Officer and musicians are judged as part of the unit.
- No pyrotechnics, firearms discharge, hazardous materials, or live animals permitted.
- The sponsoring banner must be treated with proper respect at all times.

PENALTIES

- Dropped equipment or uniforms.
- Retrieval of dropped items by unit members (judges only may retrieve).
- Flag etiquette violations.
- Failure to follow contest instructions or procedures may result in penalties up to disqualification.

PROTESTS

- Must be submitted in writing to the Chief Judge within **30 minutes** of contest conclusion.
- Copies must be provided to affected units.
- Audio/video recordings are not admissible as evidence.

AWARDS & TIE-BREAKER

- Highest overall score wins.
- In case of a tie for first place, the unit with the highest **General Effect** score wins.
- Awards and prize money are determined by the Convention Commission and the Finance Commission.