

Dress Requirements in Heat – Submitted by Suzan Karayel, Northern Branch President

Existing Text (Contest Rules)

**7. Pipe Bands**

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- 7.15. Dress: At all contests bands must wear a uniform of proper Highland or traditional national dress, as designated by the Pipe Major, provided that it is in good taste and does not conflict with any local contest rules. As a minimum for Highland dress, all competitors shall be attired in head dress, shirt, kilt, sporran, hose and shoes.

Proposed Text (Contest Rules)

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- 7.15. ~~Dress~~: ~~At all contests bands~~ **Bands** must wear a uniform of proper Highland or traditional national dress, ~~as designated by the Pipe Major, provided that it is in good taste and does not conflict with any local contest rules.~~ As a minimum for Highland dress, all competitors shall be attired in head dress, shirt, kilt, sporran, hose and shoes. **However, the above does not apply at any outdoor contest at which the temperature reaches or exceeds 90° Fahrenheit. In such conditions, bands may wear the uniform designated by the Pipe Major, provided that it is in good taste and does not conflict with any local contest rules.**

Rationale

WUSPBA should never require anything that may exacerbate a foreseeable health risk under conditions that we have come to regularly expect in our region.

“Highland dress” was designed for cold, wet weather. However, at contests throughout the WUSPBA region, we have to plan for hot, sunny weather at least as often—if not more often—than we do for rain. Additionally, there are quite a number of older competitors amongst our membership. The current rule does not consider weather conditions that may lead to a serious possibility of heat-related illness.

While the rule’s definition of “Highland dress” is already relatively basic, both the kilts and the “head dress” worn by most bands are made of heavy wool. If the conditions are such that some competitors need to start considering their health, bands should have maximum flexibility to decide what uniform to wear in order to keep all of their members safe.

In reality, most all bands will still wear kilts no matter what the conditions. The requirement and definition of “Highland dress” was only added to this rule at the 2014 AGM, and prior to that bands always wore highland dress anyway. This amendment simply reverts to the previous version of the rule in the event that extreme heat may be a factor.