

# National Bylaws & Administrative Procedures – Reprinted JAN 2011

## ENCLOSURE THREE (3) UNIFORM CODE - MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

ADOPTED NATIONAL CONVENTION BOSTON 1986 – EFFECTIVE 1/1/87  
Revised National Convention Cherry Hill – 8/94 – Effective 9/1/94  
Revised and Re-Formatted Convention Cleveland – 8/05 – Effective 8/12/05

### PREFACE

The guidance of this Uniform Code is presented as a standard to establish uniformity and define appropriate wear of the Marine Corps League Uniforms. The word “uniform” itself is defined as “(1) Always the same, as in character or degree; unvarying (2) Conforming to one principle, standard, or rule; consistent”. Because many features about these uniforms clearly resemble United States Marine Corps uniforms, it is very likely that an unmindful public may see that we are the **Marines**; and when today’s Marines see us wearing uniforms that are a likeness to their own, they will be seeing us as **one of their own**. Our appearance reflects upon the Marine Corps and Marines everywhere, and we should ever be aware of that responsibility. Uniforms prescribed in this Uniform Code are considered appropriate to preserve the respect and dignity of the Marine Corps League and the United States Marine Corps.

### I. MEDALS AND RIBBONS

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- A. Marine Corps League and Department of Defense medals and/or ribbons should NEVER be mixed on any uniform. The wearer has only the choice of wearing authorized medals and/or ribbons of either, but never both together and mixed.
  - B. One, two or three Large (Standard) Marine Corps League medals or Department of Defense medals may be worn centered over the left breast pocket of the Marine Corps League Red Blazer Uniform. Medals must be mounted on a single ribbon bar.
  - C. Miniature Marine Corps League medals **-OR-** miniature Department of Defense medals, wings, and badges may be worn ONLY with the FORMAL DRESS Uniform, either on the Evening Dress Jacket, or on the MCL red blazer when worn as the optional jacket for the FORMAL DRESS UNIFORM.
  - D. Enclosure Four (4) should be referenced for proper precedence of Marine Corps League medals and/or ribbons.

- E. Members are expected to know their individual authority to wear Department of Defense medals, ribbons, badges, devices, and awards and the proper way to wear those decorations. Appropriate military uniform directives should be referenced for proper precedence of Marine Corps or other Department of Defense medals and/or ribbons.

## **II. WEARING OF MINIATURE MEDALS**

- A. Miniature medals may be worn on the FORMAL DRESS Uniform ONLY.
- B. Miniature medals worn on the Evening Dress Jacket should be worn centered on the left lapel, and below the tip of the lapel notch.

### **C. The following applies only if wearing the red blazer as an optional jacket with the FORMAL DRESS Uniform.**

- Miniature medals may be worn on the left lapel of the Red Blazer with the medals placed evenly between the left lapel notch and the top edge of the breast pocket and one (1) inch out from edge of inside of left lapel. In those instances where regulation size holding bar/bars cannot be accommodated on the lapel, medals may be extended beyond the edge of the lapel to the left breast of the Red Blazer.
- Additional holding bars on the Red Blazer shall be placed under the top row in such a manner that the medallions of the upper row are in line immediately above the medallions of the succeeding row, unless medal count is uneven.

## **III. MOUNTING OF MINIATURE MEDALS**

- A. When more than one (1) medal is worn, they should be suspended from a holding bar of metal or other material of sufficient stiffness to support the weight of the medals.
- B. When eleven (11) medals are worn, there will be five (5) medals on the first row, and six (6) medals on the second row (medallions cannot be even top to bottom).
- C. The maximum length of the holding bar for miniature medals should be four (4) inches, (3 ribbon Bar). Although a holding bar of maximum length has room for a maximum of five (5) medals side by side, it can however accommodate ten (10) medals if overlapped. Overlapping shall be equal (not more than 50%) and the right or inboard medal shall be shown in full.

- D. Mounting of medals by rows:
- One to ten medals, 1 row only
  - Two medals, mounted side by side on a 1-5/16" bar (1 ribbon bar)
  - Three medals, mounted on a 1-5/16" bar (1 ribbon bar) overlapped
  - Four medals, mounted side by side on a 2-5/8" bar (2 ribbon bar)
  - Five medals, mounted on a 2-5/8" bar (2 ribbon bar) overlapped
  - Six to ten medals, mounted on a 4" bar (3 ribbon bar) overlapped
  - Eleven medals, 2 rows - first row (5), second row (6)
  - Twelve or more medals should be tiered on rows as above.
- E. In the case of Marine Corps League issued medals only, in lieu of the above prescribed overlapping mini-medal mounting, the commercially available mini-medal mounting bars, which display the mini-medals in rows of four [or rows of five, when five, ten, fifteen or twenty are worn], or partial additional rows of one, two or three mini-medals, without overlapping, may be worn.

#### **IV. SHOULDER PATCHES**

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Shoulder patches are worn on the UNDRESS Uniform ONLY.

- A. The Marine Corps League shoulder patch will be worn on the left sleeve, centered on the sleeve and 1-1/2" below the shoulder seam.
- B. The United States flag patch (2"x 3 1/2") will be worn on the right sleeve, centered on the sleeve and 1-1/2" below the shoulder seam. The United States flag patch will have a white border, and will have the Field of Blue to the right (to the wearer's front).
- C. If a member of the Military Order of Devil Dogs, the MODD patch may be worn in place of the United States flag patch, centered on the sleeve and one 1-1/2" below the shoulder seam.
- D. No Service or Unit patches are to be worn on the Marine Corps League Uniform.

#### **V. MARINE CORPS LEAGUE COVERS**

- A. All members of the Marine Corps League are authorized the Red cover. Members elected to National office, or appointed to National Staff/Committees are authorized to wear Gold covers. The National Commandant will wear a White cover. Members elected to, or appointed on the Department (State) level are authorized to wear Red with Gold crown covers.

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B. The Past National Commandants are authorized to wear a Gold with White crown cover. The Past Chief Devil Dogs are authorized to wear a Gold with Black crown cover. Past National Division Vice Commandants, Past National Executive Directors, Past National Directors of Young Marines, Past Department Commandants, Past Pack Leaders, and Past Detachment Commandants, with the years displayed for holding that office, are the only members who are authorized to wear their respective cover after their tour of duty is completed. All other members will revert back to the appropriate cover for their current elected or appointed office, removing their prior officer identification strips.

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C. The only insignia authorized for wear on Marine Corps League covers is the anodized solid gold color or polished brass Marine Corps emblem on the left side. The Devil Dog patch, if authorized, will be worn up front on the right side of the cover. The identification strips, i.e., Department or Detachment strip, or embroidering, will be centered on the right side. If the "LIFE" strip is worn, it will be to the rear of the right side. The "LIFE MEMBER" strip will be worn the same as the identification strips are worn, and should be worn above other strips. NO DIVISION PINS OR OTHER PINS/ORNAMENTS ARE AUTHORIZED ON MARINE CORPS LEAGUE COVERS.

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#### **VI. SPECIAL UNIFORM AUTHORIZATION**

The standard Marine Corps League cover is the minimum uniform item worn by members to be considered "in uniform". Members who are participating in Memorial Services and who are in MCL Uniform may wear "White Gloves" of the same type as is worn by the Uniformed Services. Wearing of White Gloves will be at the discretion of the Senior Officer in charge of the detail. Although clothing and apparel worn with the standard cover may or may not have a Marine Corps or Marine Corps League theme, and may be appropriate attire, that attire is not a uniform of the League. **ONLY** those uniforms that are outlined under "**UNIFORM - MALE**"; "**UNIFORM - FEMALE**"; "**ASSOCIATE MEMBER UNIFORM**"; and "**CEREMONIAL UNIFORM**" are approved uniforms of the Marine Corps League. No variation(s) of the prescribed uniforms are authorized. In case of inclement weather (rain, snow, sleet, or cold), the local Detachment or Department Commandants may authorize appropriate outer wear to be worn over the Marine Corps League Uniform. Proposed changes to the Uniform Code must be submitted through the Bylaws and Administrative Procedures amendment process.

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#### **VII. MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CREST**

The metallic embroidered Marine Corps League Crest has clutch pins on the reverse and pins directly to the blazer pocket, or it may be worn on a plastic pocket sleeve, either glued or pinned to the plastic sleeve. The commercially sold pocket crest,

with the Marine Corps Emblem, Marine Corps League Seal permanently set onto the plastic sleeve, or the embroidered Marine Corps League crest that is permanently embroidered on the pocket itself, may also be worn as optional wear.

**CH 13-07**    **VIII. LAPEL PINS**

The following lapel pins may be worn only on the red blazer or the Evening Dress Jacket. The Past National Commandant Pin may be worn inboard with the National Marine of the Year outboard. National Marine of the Year may be worn inboard with a Past Department or Detachment Commandant Pin (only one past commandant pin. Kennel Devil Dog of the Year Pin may be worn outboard of National Marine of the Year. The Chapel of Four Chaplains, MCL Membership, or Retired Marine lapel pins may also be worn. (Although there are several types of MCL Membership pins, i.e. Past Commandant, Life Member, Five Year Membership, Ten Year Membership, etc., only one MCL Membership pin should be worn.) Ordained Ministers or Chaplains may wear a symbol of their religion, of the size approved by D-O-D. Whatever pins are approved for wear, **only two pins may be worn at any time** – wearer's choice. Only one (1) miniature ribbon of individual choice may be worn above the lapel pin on the red blazer or evening dress jacket, provided miniature medals are not worn on the evening dress.

**CH 16-10**    **IX. NAMETAG**

A nametag may be worn on the UNDRESS Uniform as optional wear. A nametag will NOT be worn on any other Uniform.

**CH 13-07**    **X. MEDALLIONS**

The medal and ribbon presented by the Chapel of Four Chaplains or the National, Division, Department or Detachment Marine of the Year Medallion may be worn with the CASUAL or FORMAL Uniform (male and female) in lieu of the Military Order of Devil Dog collar at the option of the awardee. Only one of these devices, medallions or collar, may be worn at any time.

**UNIFORM - MALE**

**UNDRESS - (Long Sleeve)**

- Standard Cover (Paragraph V)
- Devil Dog collar, if authorized (optional)
- Nametag (optional) (Paragraph IX)
- White shirt, with military creases (to be Airline pilot style with two (2) pockets with button down flaps and shoulder epaulets)
- Marine Corps League Sunburst insignias on collar, centered 1/2" inside the collar tip, with wings on the emblem parallel to the deck

- Shoulder patches as authorized (Paragraph IV)
- Marine Corps League ribbons **-OR-** Department of Defense authorized ribbons, wings, badges. (MCL AND DoD CANNOT BE MIXED)(NO MEDALS on this uniform)
- MCL ribbons should be centered over the left breast pocket, 1/8" above the pocket flap. DoD awards and decorations should be worn as authorized to the individual.
- Tie, Black, with Marine Corps or Marine Corps League gold tie bar (No open collar).
- Trousers, blue dress (with NCO "red" stripe) with Belt, Marine Corps khaki web, with web belt brass buckle
- Shoes, black, plain toe (military style, highly glossed)
- Socks, black
- OPTIONAL: Trousers, black, dress, with the black leather belt and square gold buckle with Marine Corps emblem may be worn as an option to the blue dress trousers and khaki web belt.

### **UNDRESS - (Short Sleeve)**

The short sleeve UNDRRESS Uniform is the same in every way to the long sleeve UNDRRESS Uniform with the following exceptions:

- The shirt shall be the same Airline pilot style, but short sleeves instead of long.
- The shirt shall be worn with an open collar and no tie or tie bar is worn.

### **CASUAL (Red Blazer)**

- Standard Cover (Paragraph V)
- Devil Dog collar, or other, if authorized (optional) (Paragraph X)
- White shirt, plain collar (No button-down collars. **No sunburst insignias** on collar)
- Tie, black, with Marine Corps or Marine Corps League gold tie bar
- Blazer, Red, with two (2) Marine Corps League buttons on front and three (3) Marine Corps League buttons on each sleeve cuff
- Marine Corps League Crest (Paragraph VII)
- Lapel pin(s) (optional) (Paragraph VIII)
- Trousers, black, dress
- Belt, black leather, with Marine Corps emblem on square gold buckle
- Shoes, black, plain toe (military style, highly glossed)
- Socks, black
- OPTIONAL: A black leather dress belt may be worn as a substitute to the black leather belt with Marine Corps emblem on square gold buckle. (The dress leather belt with a ratcheting gold Marine Corps emblem buckle is an

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- approved optional dress belt.)
- One, two or three Large (Standard) Marine Corps League medals or Department of Defense medals may be worn centered over the left breast pocket of the Marine Corps League Red Blazer Uniform. Medals must be mounted on a single ribbon bar. Sunburst insignias are not worn on the shirt collar and the Marine Corps dress blue trousers are NOT WORN with the CASUAL Uniform.

### **FORMAL DRESS**

- Standard Cover (Paragraph V) (recommended not worn at indoor formal events/ceremonies)
- Devil Dog collar, or other, if authorized (optional) (Paragraph X)
- Military bow tie - black
- White shirt, formal (standard collar), pleated front. (NO RUFFLES)
- Gold cuff Links and gold studs
- Cummerbund, gold -**OR**- Gold vest front (only approved design)
- Trousers, black tux; -**OR**- trousers, black, with black dress belt (The dress leather belt with a ratcheting gold Marine Corps emblem buckle is an approved optional dress belt.)
- Marine Corps League Red Evening Dress Jacket, medium weight gabardine material with Marine Corps League buttons, gold waist chain, and sunburst insignias at locating holes in jacket collar.
- Lapel pin(s) (optional) (Paragraph VIII)
- Shoes, black plain toe (military style, highly glossed)
- Socks, black
- Miniature medals, wings, badges (Paragraph I, II, and III).
- **OPTIONAL:** The Red Blazer may be worn as an option to the Red Evening Dress Jacket with the FORMAL DRESS Uniform. If the red blazer option is chosen, the following applies.
  - The Marine Corps League Crest (Paragraph VII) is optional if miniature medals are worn.
  - Medals may be worn per Paragraph(s) I, II & III.

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**OPTIONAL:** In addition to the Black Tuxedo Trousers worn with the Evening Dress (Mess) Jacket, the wearer may opt to wear the Marine Corps Dress Blue Trousers w/NCO Red Stripe in place of the Black Tuxedo Trousers.

**NOTE: THE MARINE CORPS DRESS BLUE TROUSERS WILL NOT BE WORN WITH THE RED BLAZER AT ANY TIME!**

### **UNIFORM - FEMALE**

#### **UNDRESS - (Long Sleeve)**

- Standard cover, male or female style (Paragraph V)
- Devil Dog Collar, if authorized (optional)
- Nametag (optional) (Paragraph IX)
- White shirt, with military creases (to be Airline pilot style with two (2) pockets with button down flaps and shoulder epaulets).
- Marine Corps League Sunburst insignias on collar, centered 1/2" inside the collar tip, with wings on the emblem parallel to the deck
- Shoulder patches as authorized (Paragraph IV)
- Marine Corps League ribbons **-OR-** Department of Defense authorized ribbons, wings, badges. (MCL AND DoD CANNOT BE MIXED)(NO MEDALS on this uniform)
- MCL ribbons should be centered over the left breast pocket, 1/8" above the pocket flap. DoD awards and decorations should be worn as authorized to the individual.
- Tie, black, cross over (Marine Corps style) **-OR-** Tie, Black, with Marine Corps or Marine Corps League gold tie bar
- Skirt, black, straight (length should be 1-2" below knees) **-OR-** Trousers, black, dress, with the black leather belt and square gold buckle with Marine Corps emblem.
- Shoes, black, plain closed toe, pumps, (with skirt) **-OR-** Shoes, black, plain toe, Women's Oxford, (with trousers).
- Hose, nylon, black, (with pumps) **-OR-** Socks, black, (with trousers).
- Earrings, (optional) Small white pearl (or pearl like) **-OR-** gold ball, not to exceed 9mm. When worn, earrings will fit tight against the ear and will not extend below the ear lobe.
- OPTIONAL: Trousers, blue dress (with NCO "red" stripe) with Belt, Marine Corps khaki web, with web belt brass buckle (when in color guard)

### **UNDRESS - (Short Sleeve)**

The short sleeve UNDRESS Uniform is the same in every way to the long sleeve UNDRESS Uniform with the following exceptions:

- The shirt shall be the same Airline pilot style, but short sleeves instead of long **-OR-** White blouse, women's, (USMC style worn with the Dress Blues)
- The shirt or blouse shall be worn with an open collar and no tie or tie bar is worn.

### **CASUAL**

- Standard cover, male or female style. (Paragraph V)
- Devil Dog collar, or other, if authorized (optional) (Paragraph X)
- White blouse, women's, (USMC style worn with the Dress Blues) **-OR-** White shirt, long sleeve, plain collar (No button-down collars. No sunburst

insignias on collar)

- Tie, black, cross over (Marine Corps style), **-OR-** Tie, Black, with Marine Corps or Marine Corps League gold tie bar
- Blazer, Red, (women's style) with two (2) Marine Corps League buttons on front and three (3) Marine Corps League buttons on each sleeve cuff
- Marine Corps League Crest (Paragraph VII) (optional)
- Lapel pin(s) (optional) (Paragraph VIII)
- Skirt, black, straight (length should be 1-2" below knees) **-OR-** Trousers, black, dress, with the black leather belt and square gold buckle with Marine Corps emblem, or black dress belt. (The dress leather belt with a ratcheting gold Marine Corps emblem buckle is an approved optional dress belt.)
- Shoes, black, plain closed toe, pumps, (with skirt) **-OR-** Shoes, black, plain toe, Women's Oxford, (with trousers)
- Hose, nylon, black, (with pumps) **-OR-** Socks, black, (with trousers).
- Earrings, (optional) Small white pearl (or pearl like) **-OR-** gold ball, not to exceed 9mm. When worn, earrings will fit tight against the ear and will not extend below the ear lobe.
- One, two or three Large (Standard) Marine Corps League medals or Department of Defense medals may be worn centered over the left breast pocket of the Marine Corps League Red Blazer Uniform. Medals must be mounted on a single ribbon bar. Sunburst insignias are not worn on the shirt collar and the Marine Corps dress blue trousers are NOT WORN with the CASUAL Uniform.

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### **FORMAL DRESS**

- Standard Cover – NOT WORN BY WOMEN
- Devil Dog collar, or other, if authorized (optional) (Paragraph X)
- White shirt, formal (standard collar), pleated front. (NO RUFFLES)
- Gold cuff Links and gold studs
- Tie, black, cross over (Marine Corps style) **-OR-** black military bow tie.
- Cummerbund, gold **-OR-** Gold vest front (only approved design)
- Skirt, black, straight, ankle length, with slit on left side no higher than mid-knee or bottom of kneecap **-OR-** Trousers, black, dress, with black dress belt. (The dress leather belt with a ratcheting gold Marine Corps emblem buckle is an approved optional dress belt.)
- Marine Corps League Red Evening Dress Jacket, medium weight gabardine material with Marine Corps League buttons, gold waist chain, and sunburst insignias at locating holes in jacket collar.
- Lapel pin(s) (optional) (Paragraph VIII)
- Shoes, black, plain closed toe, pumps, (with skirt) **-OR-** Shoes, black, plain toe, Women's Oxford, (with trousers)
- Hose, nylon, black, (with pumps) **-OR-** Socks, black, (with trousers).
- Earrings, (optional) Small white pearl (or pearl like) **-OR-** gold ball, not to

exceed 9mm. When worn, earrings will fit tight against the ear and will not extend below the ear lobe.

- Miniature medals, wings, badges (Paragraph I, II, and III).
- OPTIONAL: The Red Blazer may be worn as an option to the Red Evening Dress Jacket with the FORMAL DRESS Uniform. If the red blazer option is chosen, the following applies.
  - The Marine Corps League Crest (Paragraph VII) is optional.
  - Miniature medals may be worn per Paragraph I, II & III.

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OPTIONAL: In addition to the Black Straight Skirt or the Black Dress Trousers worn with the Evening Dress (Mess) Jacket, the wearer may opt to wear the Marine Corps Dress Blue Trousers w/NCO Red Stripe in place of the Black Straight Skirt or the Black Dress Trousers.

**NOTE: THE MARINE CORPS DRESS BLUE TROUSERS WILL NOT BE WORN WITH THE RED BLAZER AT ANY TIME!**

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER UNIFORM**

The Uniform Code for both male and female apply to all Associate Members with the following exceptions:

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- The Associate member is to wear the Marine Corps League sunburst insignia in lieu of the Marine Corps Emblem on the cover. The 1/2" x 1/2" gold "MCL" insignia will be worn on the shirt collars.
- The Marine Corps League "Associate" shoulder patch will be worn in lieu of the standard Marine Corps League shoulder patch. (Paragraph IV, A)
- Flag patch, on right shoulder, may be worn (Paragraph IV, B)
- No Blazer Crest/Bullion Seal will be worn unless one is designed and approved by a National Convention.
- Marine Corps Dress Blue trousers may be worn, but without the NCO "red" stripe.

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**CEREMONIAL UNIFORM**

Regular and Associate members of Departments and/or Detachments having "COLOR GUARDS" may wear the "CEREMONIAL Uniform" (see Associate Member Uniform), **ONLY** when participating in a Color Guard or Ceremonial Rifle Honor Squad. This uniform is authorized for both males and females.

**NOTE:** There is not a unique Ceremonial Uniform following action at the 2009 National Convention. Whenever Ceremonial Functions are performed, the uniform will be the **UNDRESS** uniform (either long sleeve or short sleeve) or the **CASUAL** uniform as determined by the jurisdictional Commandant.