



# SOMERSET COUNTY GUY FAWKES CARNIVALS ASSOCIATION

JUDGE'S GUIDANCE NOTES – 2022 - Classes 7 to 13, Group 1,  
Judging Categories **General Effect & Entertainment Value** and **Costume / Prop & Make up**

## Overview

The purpose of this document is to offer advice and guidance for the judges of our Carnivals. These notes, as well as guiding judges in some of the less obvious aspects of their task, also provide those taking part with a better understanding of how they will be judged.

## Items to note

(This is applicable to classes 8 and 12 only). Judges should note that the County Rule for Juvenile entries is that: In all juvenile classes, entrants must not have had their 17<sup>th</sup> birthday by the 1<sup>st</sup> November in the current carnival year. In effect all entrants in juvenile classes must be under 17 on 1<sup>st</sup> November in the current carnival year.

Also, for **ALL** walking classes, all personnel shall be a minimum age of 5 on the 1<sup>st</sup> November in the current carnival year.

## Class rules: -

Class 7 (*Adult or mixed Adult & Juvenile walking group*) and  
Class 8 (*Juvenile walking group*)

- Each group should consist of Six to Thirty costumed persons. (The minimum number can include the driver of any motorized vehicle and the driver of any motorized vehicle can be in addition to the maximum number)
- A float or other prop(s), towed or propelled by physical or mechanical means with or without a maximum of 3 personnel on board is permitted
- Up to six ground crew members are permitted to aid the entry in any way other than propelling any non-motorised props (except in emergency situations), these ground crew must be identified as such and not in costume.
- Sound accompaniment is permitted. The equipment may be carried / propelled by the entry's ground crew

Class 9 (*Adult, Juvenile or mixed Adult & Juvenile walking group*)

- Should consist of 3 to 7 costumed persons.
- Be self-propelled, with or without props, with a maximum of 2 persons on board any props.
- Up to two ground crew members are permitted to aid the entry in any way other than propelling the props (except in emergency situations), these ground crew must be identified as such and not in costume.
- No motorised vehicle accompaniment is allowed.
- Sound accompaniment is permitted. The equipment may be carried / propelled by the entry's ground crew

Class 10 (*Adult, Juvenile or mixed Adult & Juvenile Pair*)

- Two costumed persons
- Be self-propelled, with or without props, with a maximum of 1 person on board any props.
- Up to two ground crew members are permitted to aid the entry in any way other than propelling the props (except in emergency situations), these ground crew must be identified as such and not in costume.
- No motorised vehicle accompaniment is allowed.
- Sound accompaniment is permitted. The equipment may be carried / propelled by the entry's ground crew

Class 11 (*Adult Single Masquerader*) and  
Class 12 (*Juvenile Single Masquerader*)

- One costumed pedestrian
- Self-propelled, with or without props, no motorised vehicle accompaniment is allowed
- Up to two ground crew members are permitted to aid the entry in any way other than propelling the props (except in emergency situations), these ground crew must be identified as such and not in costume.
- Sound accompaniment is permitted. The equipment may be carried / propelled by the entry's ground crew

Class 13

- Only Singles or pairs allowed.
- Entrants must use an un-motorized or motorized wheeled prop powered by battery limited to 48volt power supply.
- Sound equipment is allowed The equipment may be carried / propelled by the entry's ground crew
- All entries must comply with the general conditions of entry

**PLEASE NOTE** - For all these classes, judging purposes and for compliance with the rules where the personnel are encased in a prop it should be considered as both a costume and a prop.

Any entries conflicting with the above should be marked as normal and the situation reported to the adjudicators on your return.

*Entries are permitted to break tableau/stop performing if the procession comes to a halt in excess of 2 minutes, points should not be deducted or the entry judged in these circumstances.*

## Where should I judge?

A zone will normally be allocated to you prior to the procession. Judging should not take place in any rest area or other areas as indicated by local judging instructions.

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### *Affiliated Committees:*

Bridgwater, Bridgwater Gangs & Features, North Petherton, Highbridge & Burnham on Sea, Shepton Mallet, Wells,  
Glastonbury-Chilwell, Mid Somerset Gangs & Features, Weston Super Mare and Associates Gangs & Features

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Even avoiding these areas, there are miles of route along which judging can take place. Judges are respectfully requested not to congregate in pairs or small groups and to try not to stand in front of the same people all night.

The judging will be fairer for all concerned if the judges are spread over a wide area within the zones. In addition, if judges do congregate, and they may well be judging different classes, the perception to the public and competitors alike is that collusion is taking place.

Whenever possible, judges are asked to judge both sides of all entries in their class. It is recognised that the sheer number of entries in some classes may make this impractical. Please do the best you can with the time available.

Each entry in these classes are marked under 4 different categories which are - General Effect & Entertainment Value, Costume & Make up, Presentation & Routine and Ingenuity.

Your categories are: -

- **General Effect & Entertainment Value:** The effect, impression created, the effort and enthusiasm portrayed by the entry should be assessed according to the theme.
- **Costume & Makeup:** details of costume and workmanship should be observed to assess how representative of the theme or character of the entry they are. Makeup and facial accessories if used should be complimentary to the costume. Props should be appropriate.

## General Information

Please re-acquaint yourself with the rule(s) for your particular class above.

Single Masqueraders, Pairs and sometimes even groups can be difficult to see, so judges in these classes need to be extra vigilant, it is very easy for them to get mingled up with other groups or pedestrians. The most important element of a walking entry is usually the costume and make up. Please use the full spread of points in all categories.

## What should I do if I see an entry deliberately holding up the procession?

The smooth flow of the procession is critical to the future of our carnival. We therefore seek the assistance of our judges in controlling the flow of entries. If an entry is considered by a judge to be holding back, posing for video cameras perhaps, or creating an "advantageous gap" for judging or effect purposes then the judge should draw the attention of the procession marshals to the offender. If the offence is thought to be serious enough penalties may be imposed on the offender.

Penalties could include the deduction of points from each judge's total for any offending entry. This will be subject to the S.C.G.F.C.A's guidance on the methods of dealing with the imposition of penalties to entrants.