



**EDMONTON BOYS'  
PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION**  
Edmonton, Alberta

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# **Code of Conduct**

Revised 2001-10-01

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Band Background

Formed in 1929, by Pipe Major John Robertson, The Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band is the oldest pipe band in the City of Edmonton. It has operated continuously under the sponsorship of the Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band Association, a non-profit organization, registered with the Companies Branch of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs of the Government of Alberta.

Membership in the Association consists of parents of the youths in the band, and is open to other adults of Scottish ancestry or interest, in sympathy with the objectives of the Association, and willing to abide with its constitution and bylaws.

The Band has always been self-supporting, raising funds for instruction, uniforms, equipment, and scholarships through concerts, parades, bingos and casinos.

The purpose of the Association, as stated in its constitution; "... is to foster and create interest in the **Music, Lore and Tradition of the Great Highland Bagpipe**, as a contribution to the perpetuation of Scottish Folkways in Western Canada; to cooperate, wherever possible, with societies existing for similar purposes; and in particular, to maintain a band of pipers and drummers, drawn from youths of Scottish Ancestry or interest."

The official tartan of the Society and the Band is the Red Erskine, which is derived from the ancient Barony of Erskine, in Renfrewshire, Scotland, during the reign of Alexander II. It was also the tartan of the now disbanded Royal Scots Fusiliers.

The dress uniform of the band is comprised of a kilt, silver-buckled belt, black Argyle jacket, black glengarry, and sealskin sporan. Each piper provides their own bagpipes and practice chanter. Drummers provide their own drumsticks. Drums are the property of the Band Association.

The Band will accept as members, youths whose ages range from ten to eighteen years; no experience in piping or drumming is required. Earlier aged youths may be considered for membership at the discretion of the Band Executive and Instructional Staff based upon such factors as demonstrated skill and maturity. Members will be given instruction, and admitted to the Marching Band with full status, i.e., issued a uniform, and allowed to march with the band in parades and competitions, when the Pipe Major and Instructional Staff decide they are ready for promotion.

The Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band has a long history of accomplishments and awards, and is recognized as a valued contributor to adult bands. This has long been a proud achievement of the Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band Association.

## ***1.2 Purpose of this Document***

This document outlines the Code of Conduct for the band members of The Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band. It therefore details the rules, guidelines and behavioral expectations specifically for the band members.

## **2 Responsibilities**

### **2.1 Band Member Responsibilities**

Members of the Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band share the following responsibilities:

- To contribute to the spirit of the group.
- To do your best at all times. Every time you leave or finish playing a piece of music, you should be able to say to yourself, "That was the best job I could have done." This will guarantee us great results.
- To be prepared. Have all your music learned on time. Have the necessary music with you. Always have a pencil. In other words, be where you should be, when you should be there, and with all the appropriate materials.
- To respect all the equipment and facilities. The Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band has invested a tremendous amount of money in instruments and equipment. Please treat them with the care they deserve.
- To take constructive criticism well. At least once, everyone will find something that will be difficult for him or her. Do not feel bad when a staff member or a fellow piper or drummer tries to help you. Learn to listen and grow.
- To treat the staff with the respect they deserve. Do not talk when any staff member is talking or giving instructions. Remember that they may be talking to you.
- To keep the rehearsal and workshop facilities neat and orderly.
- To take the initiative. Do not wait for someone else to do something. Set the example. You are a leader; your participation in this group is proof of that.
- To follow instructions. If an adult (chaperone/helper) asks you to do something, please follow their instructions.
- To show pride in yourself as a member of the Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band and use common sense and good judgment when representing the band.

### **3 Report Cards**

#### **3.1 Report Card Usage**

The Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band does not generally produce formal report cards for each band member. The instructional staff is, however, aware of the reportable parameters listed below and can be consulted regarding the progress of any child at any time throughout the year.

The attendance of each band member is maintained, and the expected attendance level, with excused absences, is 100%. Excused absences include sickness, mandatory school activities, family crisis, and any other situation assessed as excusable by the Instructional Staff and Band Executive. Absences should be reported to the individual member's instructor prior to that evening as early as possible.

Attendance and other reportable items will be used in assessment of Summer School Scholarship Awards for each year. The exact parameters and awarding of these scholarships will be assessed annually by the Band Executive and recommendations made to the instructional staff on how these awards will be allocated.

#### **3.2 Report Card Parameters**

Items for Report Cards:

1. Attendance (punctuality)
2. Attitude at practices
3. Attitude at performances
4. Deportment at performances
5. Work ethic
6. Performance level
7. Respect for instructors, chaperones and parents
8. Respect for equipment
9. Respect for uniforms
10. Practice and progress
11. Respect for facilities
12. Conduct at practices
13. Conduct at seminars
14. Conduct at performances
15. Conduct during breaks.

## **4 Practice & Performance Standards**

### **4.1 Practice & Performance Standards**

Band members are expected to attend all practices, seminars and performances. At times, however, members must miss for good reason. Reasons for missing practices, seminars or performances include illness, conflict with school activities, legitimate study necessity or other unforeseen circumstances. No matter what the reason, any person who is not at a practice, seminar or performance hurts the group as a whole. If you find that you must miss a practice, seminar or performance, call your instructor and tell him or her why. If you are unable to get in touch with your instructor please advise the pipe major.

Practice times are 6:45 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. Be prepared to start playing promptly at 6:45 p.m.

The quality of our parade, field and standstill performances is a direct result of the quality of our preparation. You must be willing to contribute 100% at all times. Be where you are supposed to be, when you are supposed to be there, with what you are supposed to have.

Performances are the culmination of all of our efforts. Strive to be the best. Each and every time we are in the public eye we are judged by our music, marching, appearance, and overall behavior. Here are some performance standards:

- Be on time!
- Have pride in your appearance and behavior.
- Respect other groups that are performing with you.
- After a performance, everyone must help and cooperate with clean up and equipment loading.
- Concentrate and focus on the performance.

### **4.2 Summer School Sponsorship**

One of the criteria for summer school sponsorship by the band is a 100% attendance of practices, performances and seminars with explained absences. The Executive will review unusual circumstances as the need arises.

The Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band will pay for one week's tuition for the summer school that a band member wishes to attend if the attendance and Report Card criteria are met.

Additional fees for room and board, travel, or per diem allowance will be assessed annually by the Band Executive and the membership advised of the decided upon allocations.

## **5 Attitude and Conduct**

### **5.1 Attitude & Conduct**

It is of the utmost importance that members have good attitudes and work toward the betterment of the band. The band executive retains the right to suspend any member, who through his conduct, is considered to be a detriment to the band.

The band does not prohibit smoking by members over 16 years of age, with written parental consent, but reserves the right to restrict time and place while under band care and control.

There will be no use of, or possession of drugs for which a parental permission slip cannot be produced.

There will be no gambling where money or belongings are exchanged.

There will be no use of, or possession of alcohol and no member shall be under the influence of alcohol, while under the care and direction of the band.

### **5.2 Exceptions**

- Band members who are of legal drinking age are permitted to drink alcohol at band functions such as dances, parties, dinners, etc., where alcohol is available for adult consumption.

Members fitting the above exception are required to use common sense and moderation. The Band Executive may withdraw this privilege if abused. Any individuals abusing these rules will be subject to suspension and removal by the Band Executive. Appeals to such suspensions, removals or withdrawals may be made only to the Executive.

### **5.3 Suspension and Reinstatement**

Discipline of band members is addressed in the By-laws of The Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band Association, Section VII, Discipline of Members.

Members may be suspended from the band for any of the following reasons:

- Poor attendance
- Poor conduct
- Disrespect towards instructors or chaperones
- Nonpayment of fees
- Failure to practice and progress
- Unexcused absence from a performance
- Abuse of alcohol or gambling
- Neglect or abuse of equipment or uniform items

Reinstatement is also detailed in the By-laws referenced above.

### **5.4 Grievances**

The grievance process is also detailed in the By-laws of The Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band.

## **6 Equipment**

### **6.1 General Equipment**

The band will supply, on loan, all drums and reeds needed by the members. Members will be responsible for the damage to or loss of issued equipment due to abuse or negligent use.

Band members will be instructed by the instructional staff as to the proper care, maintenance and storage of equipment. Equipment will be periodically inspected to assure proper care. No member is to use another member's equipment, or allow his or her equipment to be used by anyone else. Each member is responsible for his own equipment.

## **6.2 Uniforms**

The band will loan, on payment of a deposit, all necessary uniform items except for shoes, white shirt and hose. The latter items are to be purchased by the band members. The Band will usually have a supply of the appropriate shirts and hose for sale to the band members.

Once issued, uniforms will remain in the care of the band member until the end of the season. A new uniform or alteration designated by the Uniform Director, due to natural growth, will be done without charge for any band member. Once you have received your uniform you are responsible for the care and cleaning expenses.

- Do not appear in public in partial uniform. The uniform is to be worn properly and in its entirety (glens and jackets to be worn as specified by the Pipe Major), unless specifically authorized by the instructional staff.
- There is to be no smoking while in uniform.
- There is to be no eating or drinking in uniform unless authorized by the instructional staff.
- Members will be responsible for the damage to or loss of any piece of the uniform due to abuse or negligent use.

## **6.3 Uniform Inventory**

- Black Argyll Jacket
- Kilt (Erskine Tartan)
- Glengarry (Black)
- Sporran (Sealskin)
- Flashes (Red)
- Tie (Black)
- Silver Buckled Belt

In addition, the Band will provide white shirts, crests, tie tack and hose at a nominal charge. Black shoes are to be provided by the Band members.

## **6.4 Uniform Care**

- Kilt, Jacket, and Glengarry are to be dry-cleaned.

- Shoes must be cleaned and polished before performances.
- Garment bag is to contain jacket and kilt hung on a hanger.
- Shoes must be kept in a shoe bag with the uniform.

## **7 Travel**

### **7.1 Conduct on Buses**

- Keep the buses clean, no shoes on the seats, no smoking on the bus, no glass bottles, gum, sunflower seeds, or unshelled peanuts.
- Amplified stereo units (Ghetto blasters) will be allowed but please use with discretion. If you are disturbing people you will be asked to turn them down or turn them off.
- Do not sit on the backs of seats, or sit on the armrests.

### **7.2 Travel Permission Slips**

Travel Permission slips shall be completed by each Band member prior to boarding buses. Identification, parental permission and pertinent medical information must be included.

A first aid kit is carried on each bus.

### **7.3 Valuables**

Valuables are the responsibility of the band member, i.e., cameras, walkmans, hair dryers, jewelry, etc.

### **7.4 General Rules of Conduct**

- Prior to each trip all chaperones will be identified. Be sure you know who these people are.
- Chaperones will define boundary areas. No band member may leave an assigned area without the consent of the head chaperone.
- When on free time, members will be required to be in groups of at least 2.
- Profanity and abusive language are not acceptable at any time.

## 8 Workshops/Seminars

Members shall notify the Pipe Major when:

- reporting late due to employment or other unforeseen circumstances
- unable to report due to illness
- leaving the workshop before all members are dismissed

The Pipe Major will notify the instructional staff of any attendance changes.

## 9 Tour

### 9.1 Visiting Privileges

Any band members wishing to visit friends or relatives while on tour are requested to provide a letter of permission from the parent or guardian which is to be given to the head chaperone prior to departure.

The letter is to contain:

- Name, address and phone number of the party the member wishes to visit.
- Acknowledgment that the parent or guardian fully understands that the band will not be responsible for the member during the period of time he leaves the care and control of the band.

The chaperones will be responsible for defining the time the member is to return to the band; there will be no sleepovers allowed.

**Band members found abusing any of the listed rules may be sent home at the expense of their parents or guardians.**

## 10 Awards and Scholarships

The Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band honors those members whose efforts stood out in improving the attitude, expertise, and overall performance of the band. The following awards are normally presented at the spring or fall ceilidhs:

### Presented at the Spring Ceilidh

- Tom Young Award
  - Trophy presented to the 'Most Improved' marching drummer
  - Trophy kept for one year
  - Keeper plaque also given
  
- Willie Watt Memorial Award
  - Trophy presented to the 'Most Improved' marching piper
  - Trophy kept for one year
  - Keeper plaque also given
  
- Most Improved Non-Marching Drummer
  - Presented to a non-marching drummer who shows the most improvement
  - Only keeper plaque award given
  
- Most Improved Non-Marching Piper
  - Presented to a non-marching piper who shows the most improvement
  - Only keeper plaque award given
  
- Rob Barbulak Memorial Scholarship
  - One week of summer school at Coeur d' Alene for the band member who meets an acceptable standard of excellence as the most deserving member, as determined by the instructional staff
  - Keeper plaque also given

### Presented at the Fall Ceilidh

- Jack McEachern Trophy
  - Trophy presented to the 'Best Piper'
  - Trophy kept for one year
  - Keeper plaque also given
  
- Army, Navy and Airforce Trophy
  - Trophy presented to the 'Best Drummer'
  - Trophy kept for one year

- Keeper plaque also given
- Strathcona Legion Executive Award
  - Trophy presented for deportment, i.e. the member who exhibits the best conduct/dress during band functions
  - Trophy kept for one year
  - Keeper plaque also given
- Dave Saul Memorial Award
  - Large plaque presented to the member who has provided the most assistance to other band members/instructors
  - Plaque kept for one year
  - Keeper plaque also given
- Perfect Attendance Award
  - Keeper plaque presented to the member with perfect attendance for the year

#### Other Awards

- Promotion To Playing Member
  - Keeper plaque presented upon being promoted as a full playing member
  - Promoted member will also receive a band tiepin bearing the Cock of the North insignia
  - The member now has the privilege of wearing the band uniform
- Departing Members
  - Members leaving the band in good standing will receive a plaque recognizing their contribution while they were members of the Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band

## **11 Fund Raising**

Raising funds to supplement the band fees is an important part of every band member's responsibility to the band. This is accomplished primarily through working bingos and casinos, as well as performing at parades and concerts. Band members are encouraged to assist in these fund raising activities when it is possible.

## **12 Bingo Information**

### **12.1 General Bingo Information**

The Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band Association is one of the owners in The Castle Downs Bingo Association. We participate in the management and operation of the Castle Downs Bingos and as such this is the primary source of income for The Edmonton Boys' Pipe Band. This allows us to keep our membership registration fees as low as they are, and allows us to hire the quality instructional staff we have, and enables the Band to participate in the competitions and summer school activities we support. We encourage our members to participate in this fund raising activity for this reason. It takes the support and participation of all members to make this Association as productive and successful as it has always been.

Book your bingos with the Bingo Chairperson (Second Vice-President), and call the Bingo Chairperson with any questions concerning you bingo, or if you are unable to work a bingo, and have replaced yourself. This is your responsibility, not that of the bingo chairperson although they may be able to help you with a list of names to phone. Also, the Bingo Chairperson would like to know which family member(s) will be the ones working the bingo.

Remember that it is in your best interest to work hard at every bingo you are scheduled for. The Bingo Chairperson has the right, and will exercise the right, to ask you to go home if you are not pulling your weight. This option may also be exercised if you are late for your bingo.

To help band members, new and returning, as well as parents, the following is everything you ever wanted to know about working a bingo:

### **12.2 Duties**

- Check with bingo chairperson or alternate and sign in the bingo book.
- Obtain cash float and verify amount from the bonanza or satellite/odd & even controller.
- Obtain bonanza or satellite/odd & even cards from the bonanza or satellite/odd & even controller.

- Responsible for the sale of bonanza or satellite/odd & even cards to players and accountability of cash from sales, call back bingos and verify winning cards.
- Verify all bingos, check cash register receipt and receive payout from the paymaster upon verification.
- Responsible for making sure the caller is aware of the color of the card being called and also serial number if calling back a bonanza winner.
- Ushers will cooperate with bingo chairpersons or alternate with regard to hall operations according to format.
- **Most important duty of the ushers is to be friendly and helpful to the bingo patrons. You are a big part of the reason they spend, or do not spend their money. Please, put your best foot forward.**

### ***12.3 Tips for Bingo Workers (As Offered by Bingo Players)***

Bingo players realize that bingo workers are giving up their time to volunteer and we do appreciate that. We are happy to be able to support your organizations but here are just a few tips that might make your job a little bit easier

- Please do not travel as groups - the more area you cover, the more cards you will sell.
- Please do not gather as groups and stand by the players and visit, as it is very distracting.
- Please do not sit and visit amongst yourselves or with other players, if you are not out there selling then you are not making money.
- When paying a player, please do not put their money down in the middle of their cards while they are playing. Place it to the side or in front of the cards.
- Please do not become annoyed when a player holds up a large bill and then asks for only one or two cards. Try to ensure that you have sufficient change at all times.
- Please do not be afraid to ask players for help if you need it when checking a bingo, most players will be more than happy to give you a hand.

- Last but not least, make a mental note of where your winning player is sitting (table number is usually the easiest) so you do not forget where they are when you go back to pay them.