

**ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE  
PRIORY OF CANADA**

**NATIONAL BRIGADE PATIENT CARE COMPETITIONS  
-2004-**

**"COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS"  
[INTERNATIONAL]**

**A. PARTICIPATION (Canada):**

Teams competing in the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions will have *normally* placed *first* in their Competitions category at their provincial/territorial level. A maximum of one team may be entered by each province/territory in each of the three National Brigade Patient Care Competitions categories [Junior, Senior, Open]. The selection of team members [competitors] is at the sole discretion of each Provincial/Territorial Commissioner.

Each team will consist of four Brigade members with an optional team "*spare*". The composition of each team may be all male, all female, or a combination of both genders. There are no restrictions on the number of St. John Ambulance Association Instructors or on the number of St. John Ambulance Brigade Officers who may compete on a team.

**B. PARTICIPATION (International):**

The Priory of Canada will issue, in April 2002, an invitation to all Pories and Commanderies to participate in the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions. International participation will be limited to a maximum of six teams with selection being based upon the date of receipt of the team's completed "Registration Form for Teams" [Form COMPS 01-1].

International teams may compete in any of the three National Brigade Patient Care Competitions categories [Junior, Senior, Open]. The selection of team members [competitors] is at the sole discretion of the team's National/Chief Commissioner.

Each team will consist of four Brigade members with an optional team "*spare*". The composition of each team may be all male, all female, or a combination of both genders. There are no restrictions on the number of St. John Ambulance Association Instructors or on the number of St. John Ambulance Brigade Officers who may compete on a team.

**C. COMPETITION CATEGORIES:**

The National Brigade Patient Care Competitions consists of three categories: Junior, Senior, and Open. Each of these categories does have specific requirements for competitors within that category, as outlined below.

If the status of a competitor is in doubt, a ruling from the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions Chairperson must be requested in advance of registration. Failure to do so may result in the competitor being disqualified regardless of their category or of their status on their team. The ruling of the National Competitions Chairperson is final and binding.

**Junior Category**

- i. Competitors must be less than sixteen (16) years of age as of 18 May 2004.
- ii. Proof of age must be produced if requested by the Chief Judge or the National Competitions Chairperson.

**Senior Category**

- i. Professional health care workers are prohibited from competing. "Professional health care workers" includes, but is not limited to: MD, RN, RNA, LPN, EMA, EMCA, anyone employed to provide health care services, anyone employed as an Ambulance Officer.
- ii. Competitors must be qualified to a minimum of Level One of the Brigade Training System.

**Open Category**

- i. Competitors must be Brigade members in good standing as *independent patient care providers* [StJCI 2-3-1] for a minimum of one year prior to the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions.
- ii. There are no restrictions on the number of, or qualifications of, "professional health care workers" who may compete.
- iii. Open category Challenges will reflect the skills and knowledge components of Level Three of the Brigade Training System. Certification of competitors at this level, however, is not required.
- iv. Competitors must be prepared to compete at any time during a specified 24-hour period.

**COMPETITION CATEGORIES: [continued]**

**Notes for International Teams**

- i. The age requirement for Junior competitors must be met. Junior competitors on international teams must be Brigade members in good standing, within their country of origin, for a minimum of six months prior to the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions. Certification of such membership is required from the competitor's National/Chief Commissioner at the time of registration.
- ii. The requirement for Senior competitors to be "qualified to a minimum of Level One of the Brigade Training System" is waived but competitors will be assessed/judged on those standards. Senior competitors on international teams must be Brigade members in good standing, within their country of origin, for a minimum of six months prior to the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions. Certification of such membership is required from the competitor's National/Chief Commissioner at the time of registration.
- iii. The requirement for Open competitors to be "*independent patient care providers [StJCI 2-3-1]*" is waived. Open competitors on international teams must be Brigade members in good standing, within their country of origin, for a minimum of one year prior to the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions. Certification of such membership is required from the competitor's National/Chief Commissioner at the time of registration.

**D. CHAPERONS:**

Each Junior team must be accompanied by a Chaperon who is over twenty-one (21) years of age as of 18 May 2004. Chaperons cannot be competitors nor hold any other position(s) of responsibility with respect to the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions. All Chaperons must complete the "Guidelines for Chaperons Form" [Form COMPS 01-3] in addition to their personal "Registration Form" [Form COMPS 01-2]. Chaperons will be required to attend briefing sessions with the National and Provincial Cadet Officers and to accompany their teams during all organized activities [other than during Patient Care Challenges].

All Chaperons must have undergone the national St. John Ambulance Brigade "Screening Process" a minimum of one year prior to the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions. For international Chaperons, certification from their National/Chief Commissioner that similar standards have been met, within their country of origin, must be submitted with their "Registration Form".

**E. SUBSTITUTIONS (Spare):**

Each team is entitled to have one designated team "spare" who is included as a member of that team. Individuals are not permitted to enter the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions and compete in the "spares" category unless they are accompanying a team.

Once teams have been registered, the team "spare" will act as a substitute only in situations where a competitor is unable to compete due to an emergency or illness. The team "spare", therefore, is a safeguard against a last-minute withdrawal of a competitor and the resulting disadvantage such a withdrawal would create for their team.

Written notification of a team's intent to use their team "spare" must be received by the National Competitions Chairperson prior to 18 May 2001. On-site substitutions are permitted under extenuating circumstances but require the approval of the National Competitions Chairperson. On-site substitutions with someone other than the registered team "spare" will not be permitted.

If a competitor is unable to compete due to an emergency or illness, and the team does not have a team "spare", the team may compete with three competitors; but will be at a definite disadvantage. Due to scheduling requirements, such a team may not have sufficient competitors at any one time and may be required to forfeit one, or more, of their Challenges.

If not competing as a team member [substitution], team "spares" will have the opportunity of competing in a series of Challenges specific to team "spares". This category has its own awards/trophies and the scores achieved by the individual team "spare" do not go towards their team's overall aggregate score.

**F. SELECTION of COMPETITORS for CHALLENGES:**

Competitors, selected from the members on each of the competing teams, will be assigned to specific Challenges. This selection process will be done randomly, immediately prior to the start of each of the categories, and will be based upon the requirements of the Challenges [Individual Challenge – one competitor; Pairs Challenge – two competitors; Team Challenge – four competitors]. Competitors designated at the team "spare" will have the opportunity of competing in a series of Challenges within their category [provided they are not competing as a *substituted* team member].

As it may be required for logistical reasons to run two of the categories [Junior, Senior, Open] concurrently, competitors are prohibited from competing in more than one category.

Competitors have a choice of competing in either French or English but must make their choice clear in the space provided on their "Registration Form" [Form COMPS 01-2]. It may not be possible to accommodate late requests.

**G. COACHES:**

Each team is limited to one Coach who may accompany their team in the Holding Room. Coaches must, however, register in the Holding Room prior to the start of their team's category. Once the Challenges have started, any Coach(es) not registered in the Holding Room will be denied access.

Coaches may attend the Challenges with their competitors. Coaches are not permitted to interact, in any manner, with anyone other than their Escort while going to, or from, the Challenges. Likewise, Coaches are not permitted to interact, in any manner, with anyone other than the Site Commander while at a Challenge site. Failure to follow this rule will result in their competitor(s) being immediately disqualified from further competition and denial of re-entry to the Holding Room for both the competitor(s) and the Coach.

If at any time during the Competitions day a Coach decides to leave the Holding Room [other than when escorted to/from a Challenge site], he/she will be required to notify the Holding Room Manager and will be denied re-entry to the Holding Room after leaving.

**H. JUDGES:**

The qualifications of Judges will be based upon the requirements of the category and specific Challenge(s), which they will be judging. These qualifications will vary from specific or specialized patient care knowledge and skills at one end of the spectrum, to an understanding of the requirements of the St. John Ambulance Brigade youth programme at the other end. Judges will be selected and assigned based upon their individual knowledge, skills, and credentials.

It is a requirement that all Judges are fluent in both of the official languages of Canada [English and French].

It is entirely at the discretion of the Judge to answer any questions from competitors during a Challenge. Questions should be confined to signs and symptoms; which cannot be realistically simulated. In such circumstances, Judges may have received direction to provide information as part of the requirements of a Challenge whether, or not, questions have been asked by the competitors.

Every effort will be made to ensure identical conditions for all teams. In the event of a discrepancy, the Chief Judge, in consultation with the National Competitions Chairperson, will make an unbiased, final, and binding ruling.

**I. PATIENTS:**

Patients will be assigned to specific Challenges based upon the requirements of that Challenge [patient's age, gender, etc.]. Patients will be briefed by both their Judge(s) and their patient simulator(s) with respect to their interaction with the competitor(s) [proper acting, proper portrayal of symptoms, etc.].

It is a requirement that all [conscious] patients are fluent in both of the official languages of Canada [English and French].

**J. SPECTATOR INTERACTION:**

Competitors are forbidden to interact, in any manner, with spectators while being escorted to/from their Challenges sites or while competing. If a specific Challenge requires/permits/expects the use of *bystanders*, these *bystanders* will be available within the Challenge site and obvious to the competitor(s).

Failure to comply with this rule will result in the immediate disqualification of the competitor(s) from further competition and re-entry to the Holding Room will be denied.

**K. STANDARDS:**

The National Brigade Patient Care Competitions is based upon:

- |      |                 |   |  |
|------|-----------------|---|--|
| i.   | Junior Category | - | St. John Ambulance Association<br>Emergency First Aid (Priory of Canada) |
| ii.  | Senior Category | - | Brigade Training System Level One, and                                   |
| iii. | Open Category   | - | Brigade Training System Level Three.                                     |

Upon receipt (and approval) of the team's completed "Registration Form for Teams", international teams will be provided with a copy of the applicable [based upon their chosen category] Priory of Canada:

- a. training manuals/texts, and
- b. patient care standards and protocols for Brigade members.

Also, each registered team [Canadian and international] will receive a *sample* Challenge for the category in which they are entered.

The above information will be distributed to *international* teams a minimum of six months [December 2003] prior to the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions.

In addition to the above, certain Challenges may reflect the full scope of the Brigade Training System and the Brigade youth programme by assessing skills and knowledge other than those required to provide direct patient care. These Challenges will evaluate teamwork, problem solving, risk taking, leadership, and personal initiative.

**L. COMPETITION CHALLENGES:**

All Challenges will be simulated to bring as much realism as possible to the scenario. Many will be held outdoors, regardless of the weather.

Challenges may involve emergency situations, continuing care situations, one or more patients, or other conditions which will evaluate teamwork, problem solving, risk taking, leadership, and personal initiative.

Challenges are designed to be *real-life*. Competitors should approach the scene and provide care as if the situation were real. As in *real-life*, any equipment or material found at, or around, the scene should be taken advantage of by the competitor [unless instructed otherwise by a Judge].

**M. CHALLENGE SITES:**

All competition activity will occur within a designated area call the "Challenge Site". Exceptions to this rule include:

- i. if a patient leaves the designated area and a competitor must follow him/her in order to continue treatment/care [unless instructed otherwise by a Judge],
- ii. a telephone is located outside of the designated area and a competitor requires it to call for assistance [unless instructed otherwise by a Judge], or
- iii. if a competitor is instructed by a Judge to leave the designated area [for any reason].

Spectators will not be permitted entry into areas designated as "Challenge Sites" [unless instructed otherwise by a Judge in which case they will become *bystanders* and may be utilized by the competitor(s)].

**N. EQUIPMENT:**

Competitors will not be permitted to take equipment or reference material with them while competing. All patient care, or other, equipment will be supplied at each of the Challenges sites. Any equipment or material found within a Challenge site may be used by competitors [unless instructed otherwise by a Judge].

Competitors will have an opportunity to view, prior to the commencement of the Challenges, any major equipment that they will be required/expected to use.

No item of a competitor's uniform or clothing will be used as improvised material.

**O. MARKING GUIDES:**

Judges are required to place a score beside each of the items listed and to sign each completed "Marking Guide" prior to sending it, in a sealed envelope, to the tabulation room. Judges will assign scores based upon their objective assessment of each individual competitor's performance.

In a Challenge, which involves more than one competitor or more than one patient, Judges may be assigned so as to evaluate only one of the competitors or the care received by only one of the patients. Under such circumstances, the space beside those items not observed by the Judge will be left blank.

At the completion of each of the Challenges, the scores on the completed "Marking Guides" will be added-up by the tabulation staff and an aggregate score assigned to each team for that specific Challenge.

At the completion of each category, the scores achieved by each team in all of their Challenges will be added-up by the tabulation staff and an overall aggregate score assigned to each team for that specific category.

Copies of blank "Marking Guides" will be available to competitors at debriefing sessions held at the conclusion of each of the categories. Scores will not be released during the Competitions weekend.

Registered Team Captains may make application to National Headquarters [Priory of Canada] at the conclusion of the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions for a copy of their team's "Marking Guides". These "Marking Guides" will exclude the name(s) of the Judge(s) and will be released only to the registered Team Captain.

**P. HOLDING ROOM:**

Competitors are required to register in the Holding Room prior to the start of their category and to remain in the Holding Room while competition is in progress.

Once the Challenges have started, any competitors not registered in the Holding Room will be denied access and, therefore, will not be permitted to compete. Under such circumstances, substitution with the team's "spare" will not be permitted unless the team's "spare" has accompanied his/her team into the Holding Room.

Competitors will be escorted to, and from, their assigned Challenges by a designated Escort. While being escorted, competitors are not permitted to interact, in any manner, with anyone other than their Escort. Failure to comply with this rule will result in immediate disqualification from further competition and denial of re-entry to the Holding Room. At the discretion of the National Competitions Chairperson, once a team has completed its full cycle of Challenges, that team may be released from the Holding Room [as a team including Coach] to view the remaining competition in their category. Due to scheduling restrictions, not every team will be permitted this early release.



**HOLDING ROOM: [continued]**

While waiting in the Holding Room, competitors will be provided with various activities to fill their time. Competitors are also encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to interact with their international and Canadian colleagues. Competitors should avoid, however, having discussions that may be overheard by other competitors with regard to any of the Challenges in which they may have already competed. Competitors may bring their own books, magazines, games, etc. into the Holding Room.

**Q. CLOTHING:**

Competitors are not required to wear their Brigade uniform unless they so desire. If the Brigade uniform is worn, the *work dress* uniform is appropriate. Competitors on the same team are expected to dress similarly for identification purposes and may wear a team *competitions uniform* [provided that this uniform meets all corporate copyright and graphics requirements]. Competitors are encouraged to wear their *work dress/competitions* uniform throughout the Competitions weekend whether, or not, they are competing.

Challenges may be held outdoors and, since this is an all-weather event, competitors must have appropriate clothing [for all environmental conditions] with them at the start of their category. Competitors will not be permitted to leave the Holding Room during their category to retrieve alternate clothing should the weather change.

All competitors may require a bathing suit and personal towel for one, or more, of their Challenges. Swimwear must be of an appropriate design and must be brought into the Holding Room, along with other personal items, at the start of the competitor's category.

**R.     AWARDS:**

Trophies are awarded to the first place team in each of the three categories. These trophies are engraved with the winning team's name and are retained at National Headquarters [Priory of Canada] where they are kept on permanent display.

Each winning team [first, second, third] is presented with a *keeper* trophy/plaque which they will take home with them. In addition to the above, each competitor on a winning team is presented with a medallion [first place – gold; second place – silver; third place – bronze].

A trophy, *keeper* trophy/plaque, and medallions are also awarded for the team "*sparcs*" category.

International teams [or team "*sparcs*"] are not entitled to win any of the above awards as these awards are presented to the highest scoring Canadian competitors. International teams [or team "*sparcs*"] placing first, second, or third in their category will be recognized with a *keeper* trophy/plaque which they will take home with them.

Based on the above policy, it may be possible to have two teams [or team "*sparcs*"] placing first, second, or third in any one category - one Canadian and one international.

The one exception to the above is the "Spirit Award". If won by an international team that team's name will be engraved on the trophy and the team will be presented with the appropriate *keeper* trophy/plaque. Similar to all trophies, however, the "Spirit Award" itself is retained at National Headquarters [Priory of Canada] where it is placed on permanent display.

All participants [Canadian and international] will be issued a "Certificate of Participation" in the National Brigade Patient Care Competitions. The participant's name will appear on the certificate as it was submitted on their personal "Registration Form". "Participants" includes everyone involved with the Competitions other than spectators.

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