

# **MARCHING 97 UNIFORM & INSTRUMENT POLICY: 2026 SEASON**

Your uniform and instrument are the property of the Marching 97. You are responsible for their welfare as long as they are designated as yours, and you will be held accountable for any damage done to them past normal wear and tear when returned at the end of the season.

All fines must be paid by the game before Lehigh-Lafayette for the band member to be allowed to march in the Lehigh-Lafayette performance. All fines accrued after this point must be paid by the band final. Failure to pay fines will result in an Incomplete for the class or your suspension from the Marching 97. Any individual expelled for fines may rejoin the Marching 97 for the next season if that student petitions the next Executive Board and is granted permission to rejoin the Marching 97.

## **Uniform Guidelines**

If your uniform fails to fit properly, there is any damage, or any other uniform-related issue arises, notify the Uniform Manager immediately, hereby referred to as “Suits.” Small damages will not be fined if brought to the attention of Suits, but they reserve the right to fine you if the damage is excessive.

Examples of possible fines for damaged uniforms:

- Holes in the bottom of your pants from not being properly snapped/pinned up: \$20
- Stains on your jacket/pants: \$15
- Excessively dirty berets, shakos, etc.: \$6
- Lost or excessively dirty bandanas: \$3

Suits reserves the right to perform a uniform inspection at any time. If a uniform is damaged, Suits determines whether the band member owes a fine. You may be fined for damages not listed above at Suits’ discretion.

A full uniform is defined as:

- Marching 97 White Game Day T-shirt
- White Socks, Shoes, & Gloves
- Plume (Bird)
- Cape
- Shako and Yellow Headwear (Beret, Beanie, Bandana, etc., as approved by Suits)
- Uniform Jacket & Pants

Flame Attire is defined as:

- Marching 97 Brown Flame T-shirt
- Blue jeans, khakis, or shorts as decided by Suits
- Dink
- Brown Lehigh University Sweatshirt/Jacket

The 97 will provide each new member one (1) Marching 97 white game day shirt, Marching 97 brown flame shirt, yellow beanie, and bandana. Members are responsible for these items; if any of the above are lost or damaged beyond repair, members are responsible for purchasing a new item.

The full uniform for rainy/bad weather days is defined as:

- Standard uniform with a raincoat (if applicable) OR Flame Attire

If there is any problem meeting these uniform requirements, band members may speak to Suits. A full uniform is expected to be worn at all times, except when specified by Suits, while at official performances. This includes in the stadium, where band members are required to wear their beret/beanie/bandana, as well as the day's required shirt (white game day shirt/flame shirt), as decided by Suits the morning of the game. Anyone found not wearing their full uniform will be marked as tardy for the performance at the discretion of Suits and Staff Assistant and may not be able to perform in the show.

### **Proper care for the uniform:**

It is to be stored inside its uniform bag to avoid damage, with the bag unzipped and the jacket and pants being properly hung up, as demonstrated by Suits when they assign your uniform. If the uniform is wet, notify Suits and hang it up outside of its uniform bag to dry properly. Once dry, it should be stored away as described above. After all performances, your uniform should be stored and hung on hangers in its respective cubby inside the cage. Any member who fails to leave their uniform in this condition may have their uniform confiscated until a fine is paid at the discretion of Suits.

### **Equipment Guidelines**

You are assigned an instrument with an identifying number (e.g. TP03 or PC35). You, and only you, are permitted to use your assigned instrument. This applies to all Marching 97 events including, but not limited to, practices, games, and flames. Ranks 3 and 12 may switch instruments at non-marching events at the discretion of their Rank Leaders. No one may march a field show with an instrument that is not their assigned instrument unless given permission by the Instrument Managers, Student Conductor or Drum Major.

It is expected that you take proper care of your instrument as outlined for your particular instrument by the Instrument Managers and your Rank Leader. After the first instance of mistreatment of your instrument, you may receive a fine or warning from the Instrument Managers, hereby referred to as “Toots.” Any instance of mistreatment after this will result in a fine at the discretion of Toots.

If there is any damage to your instrument, notify Toots immediately. Reasonable wear and tear will not be fined if brought to the attention of Toots. An individual who loses or damages Marching 97 property is responsible for its material or monetary replacement. Toots may issue fines or require band members to cover repair costs if instruments are damaged on purpose or by negligent behavior on behalf of the band member. Fine amounts will be determined by Toots on a case-by-case basis.

Some instruments require consumable materials (e.g, reeds, valve oil, etc.), which will be provided free of charge by the Marching 97 for use during the football season and at other Marching 97 events. Toots may charge band members for excessive consumption of these materials.

Your 97-issued instrument is to be kept in the loft at all times unless given permission to remove it by Toots. If you need to use an instrument for any events besides practices, home games, official flames, and the official away game, you must notify and get permission from Toots beforehand. If given permission by the Toots, you must also fill out the “Instrument Release Form” before taking it for tracking purposes. This form reinforces the responsibilities you assume when the instrument leaves the loft. While not in use, your instrument must be kept in its case in its designated cabinet with the case securely closed unless instructed otherwise. Any member who repeatedly fails to leave their instrument in this condition may be fined at the discretion of Toots. By the end of the academic year, all instruments must be in the loft or in the possession of Toots. Failure to do so or refusal to return the instrument will result in charges to cover the loss.

### **Music Guidelines**

Each band member is assigned and responsible for a clear music folder (Librarian) and a black plastic flip folder (Toots), both labeled with their name. You are expected to use your own folder at all times, except in extenuating circumstances. Fines will not be issued due to reasonable wear and tear. If a folder and/or music is lost or damaged purposefully or due to negligence, the Librarian or Toots may issue fines for a replacement or other consequences.

I agree to abide by the 2026 Marching 97 Uniform and Instrument Policy.

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_