

the Crossmen

2007 FRONT ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL TECHNIQUE

1. Always look good.

As a Crossmen you are always in the spotlight and are always being watched. Fans, friends, family, alumni, school administrators, and even school janitors are just a few of the many people who will view your actions while traveling with the Corps. Thus, it is important that we always look good, and appear professional and under control at all times. From the first camp in December until the end of the season in August, our actions – both on and off the field - represent all Crossmen of the past, present, and the future.

Bottom Line: If you think you shouldn't be doing something, DON'T DO IT!

2. To BE ON TIME is to be late!

Rehearsals blocks BEGIN at the scheduled time. In other words, you need to be in your spot to play the first note at the times listed. You should always be there at least five minutes before the scheduled time. If you are ever late...RUN! At times when we have to move equipment during a break, a time will be set for when everyone in the pit needs to be back in order to move equipment to the next spot. Do not be late. Make sure you bring everything that you will need for the rehearsal block with you. You will not be permitted to leave to get things that you have forgotten.

3. Never talk or play when a staff member is speaking – LISTEN WITH YOUR EYES.

In order to learn and receive instructions, you must focus on the instructor who is speaking. It is extremely difficult for a staff member to communicate well if members are playing or talking. Our staff is here to teach us and make us better – we must respect them. By the same token, members who are not paying attention will more than likely miss instructions, resulting in wasted time.

Don't allow your mind to drift during rehearsals. "Listen with your eyes" by looking directly at an instructor when he or she speaks to you. It is respectful and also shows that you are receiving the information.

4. The First Time Rule – If you do not understand something, PLEASE ASK!

We will move at a quick pace throughout the season and instructions may be confusing at times. We cannot afford to waste time because of misunderstood or unheard instructions. It is important we get things right the **FIRST TIME** in order to max out our rehearsal time, and give our staff an accurate idea of where we stand as a drum corps. Instead of just guessing at what we are about to play, raise your hand and ask! NO ONE will be angry at you for asking for clarification, so do so!

5. Body Language and "Stand By"

Remember that because you are standing still in the front of the drum corps, the audience will see your facial expressions and body language at all times. Keep on your performance/game face during all rehearsals so that it will transfer to performances. We must do everything possible to help our staff expedite the rehearsal process. Remaining at "Stand By" ensures a silent rehearsal, and minimizes distractions. Even if our section is not being worked with at the time, which often happens with the pit, we still need to be silent and focused so that we do not distract the rest of the corps.

6. Treat the instruments with respect and care.

Treat all instruments with respect. Use caution when transporting instruments to and from rehearsal, paying attention to the terrain (lift the instruments if needed). Also ensure that the instruments do not scratch or damage the floor.

Do not lean on the instruments for any reason, and avoid touching the keys on keyboards at all costs. Covers should be on the keyboards whenever they are not in use. Please use stick bags, and respect the mallets and other equipment. Cymbals should be placed in cymbal bags for transportation. We also have tarps available that we will use to protect the instruments in case of rain. Tighten all screws, nuts and bolts before and after movement on all instruments.

Regarding the timpani drums, do not push on the rims, or the heads during transportation as this will disrupt the tuning of the drums and can damage the instruments.

7. Equipment truck responsibilities

The primary responsibility of the pit “off the field” is the maintenance and loading of the equipment truck. No pit member should leave from the truck area before the truck is finished being loading unless given permission. Specific tasks will be assigned, and we will review the correct loading and unloading order of equipment. Ensuring the cleanliness of the truck is a top priority.

8. Appearance of equipment

All pit equipment must be organized and stored correctly when not in use. Equipment should not be scattered around the truck because that is often how things are lost. When we are moving the equipment to load the truck, the keyboards should be neatly lined up against the truck in order of how they are loaded. Covers for keyboards should be folded neatly and placed on top of each other. When not in use, covers will also be used on the keyboards.

9. Sound equipment

This will be discussed in detail. The pit will be responsible for the care and setup of all sound equipment. There WILL be an additional “Sound Loading Crew” to help expedite the load-out process from housing sites.

10. Polish all cymbals prior to performances.

Pit players will polish cymbals before performances, to keep equipment in pristine condition.

11. Music should be printed off from the website PRIOR to arriving at camp.

If you have difficulty printing the music, contact Megh in the office. You must arrive at each camp with the most current music, in your binder.

12. Music must be in a black binder in clear plastic sheets and at EVERY rehearsal.

Your music and technique book must be in a black binder with sheet protectors. In addition, bring your music **and a pencil** to each and every rehearsal. You never know when your music will be needed to make a change or to serve as a reference. Music distributed at a reasonable time before the camp should be memorized before the next camp.

13. Bathroom and water

You should have a water bottle at every rehearsal. Ample breaks will be provided. Do not leave rehearsal in the middle to go to the bathroom.

14. Leave the rehearsal site BETTER than we found it.

The Crossmen are a class act both on and off the field. Our rehearsal sites are a privilege not a right. With that in mind, we will ALWAYS leave our rehearsal sites in better condition than we found them. Cafeterias, gyms, hallways should be swept and all garbage should be cleared away. Don’t wait for someone else to pickup the trash or straighten up the room. We are all Crossmen and we are all responsible for the mess created by the Corps. Unity in everything we do!