



CARE OF MARCHING BAND UNIFORMS

We are so proud of our uniforms! We expect these to last for many years to come. In order to make that happen, we ask that you carefully read these care instructions and take every precaution to keep your uniform in “like new” condition.

ADJUSTING PANT/SLEEVE LENGTH

Your uniform has snaps in the seams of the pants and sleeves to adjust the length of both. Your pant hem should just touch your shoes. **YOUR PANTS SHOULD NOT SLOUCH ON TO YOUR SHOES.**

To adjust the length of your pants the first time, put your bib pants on inside-out, and then put on your band shoes. Adjust the shoulder straps so that the pants are comfortable and well-fit on your torso. Next, fold the pants up so that they are the correct length and snap in place. Lastly, remove the pants without unsnapping and lightly iron on LOW heat to set him. **DO NOT IRON WITH HIGH HEAT AND DO NOT IRON OVER THE SNAPS BECAUSE IT WILL MELT THE SNAP IMPRINT INTO THE MATERIAL.**

To set the hem, you may use a press cloth that has been dampened with a 50/50 white vinegar and water solution. This will also help to remove an old hem if your pant length changes during the season. If you have any difficulty adjusting your uniform, please contact a uniform committee member. **DO NOT ALTER YOUR UNIFORM ON YOUR OWN.**

CLEANING UNIFORM

Jackets, pants, and gauntlets are machine washable.

- **Machine wash on gentle / permanent press cycle in cold water.**
- **Use only non-chlorine detergent!**
- **Do not use liquid fabric softener** (may use one softener sheet in dryer)
- **Use Spray and Wash or similar non chlorine stain removers for stains**
- **To avoid scratching buttons, turn jacket inside out and keep zipper closed when washing and drying.**
- **Close Velcro on gauntlets to avoid snagging**
- **Leave jacket/pant hems snapped while laundering**
- **Remove items from washer and dryer immediately to avoid wrinkles (especially to front jacket panels)**
- **Jackets/pants may be machine dried on cool setting. Jackets can also be hung to dry. Lay gauntlets flat to dry.**
- **Jackets should NOT be dry cleaned. It will damage the metallic fabric on the front panel.**



Raincoats may also be machine washed and dried. Raincoats were NOT cleaned at end of 2015-2016 season, so you may want to wash yours prior to wearing. All other uniform pieces have been laundered (pants were dry cleaned and pressed) prior to issuing.

Stain Treatment:

If a stain does occur, sponge with water or treat with an appropriate product before it has time to set and before laundering. Remember to blot the stain. Do Not Rub! You may use “Spray and Wash” and other **non-chlorine** stain removers when washing.

As the collars of the uniforms are white, special attention should be paid to making sure they remain white. Do not wait until uniform inspections to clean them. Check them after each wearing. Clean when necessary.

STORING UNIFORM

- **Always make sure uniform is completely dry and jacket and pants are neatly hung on hangers before storing in garment bag. Uniforms will mildew and wrinkle if not stored properly and it is very difficult to get wrinkles out of jackets.**
- **Make sure shako is completely dry before storing in shako box to prevent damage.**
- **Never leave your uniform in its garment bag when it is wet – this includes when it is wet from perspiration.**
- **It is your responsibility to make sure that all of your uniform parts are dry, without wrinkles and DO NOT SMELL.**

UNIFORM INSPECTIONS

Uniform inspections will occur during evening rehearsals prior to Regional, State and National competitions. **You will be asked to wear your full uniform to evening practice and uniform committee members will be on-hand to inspect you. You must have ALL uniform parts with you – shoes, 2 pairs black socks (provided by student, no ankle socks allowed) show shirt & generic band shirt, pants, jacket, gauntlets, gloves (except percussion), raincoat, garment bag, shako (or beret for tubas) and shako box.**

We will be looking to make sure that your **uniform is clean (and shoes polished)**, that it still **fits well**, that it is **without wrinkles** and that it **does not smell** like mildew or perspiration. If any parts are not clean or are wrinkled, you will be asked to take the uniform home, correct the problem, and return it for inspection the next night. **Please make sure your uniform is cleaned and stored properly every time you are done wearing it.**

If you have any questions about uniforms, feel free to contact a uniform committee member.

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