

MARCHING 97 ATTENDANCE POLICY - 2016 SEASON

I, _____, realize that my attendance at Marching 97 practices and games is an essential part of membership of this band. Therefore, I will abide by the following Attendance Policy, as outlined by the 2015 Executive Board:

Article I – Definitions

A **tardy** is defined as arriving at ZAC after regular call time (4:10 PM) on a regular practice day OR past the time set by the Drum Major for Saturday morning practice OR remaining in the loft past 4:30 PM. A band member chosen by the Staff Assistant will take note of individuals leaving the loft after this time. A tardy can be excused or unexcused. For a tardy to be excused, a band member must notify the staff assistant by 11:59PM the night before the tardy will take place and receive approval. If this approval does not take place, the tardy is an unexcused tardy.

An **absence** is defined as missing practice altogether OR arriving more than 45 minutes after call time. Absences can be excused or unexcused. Please refer to Article III for more on excused absences.

Band members will be provided a schedule which describes which Marching 97 performances are **mandatory** and **non-mandatory**. The Executive Board may add additional mandatory performances as per the protocol in the Marching 97 Constitution.

Article II – Equivalences

- Two unexcused tardies are equivalent to one unexcused absence.
- Missing Saturday morning practice, but not the game is equivalent to 1 unexcused absence.
- Missing Saturday morning practice and the game is equivalent to 2 unexcused absences.
- Not wearing full uniform (outlined in the Uniform Policy) is equivalent to one tardy.
- Misbehavior at official events (outlined in Article IV) is equivalent to one tardy.

Article III - Excused Absences

For an excused absence from practice, the Staff Assistant must be informed by 11:59PM the night before the practice and the student receives approval. It is at the discretion of the Staff Assistant to determine what is an excusable absence specifically for absences from practice. Excuses include but are not limited to illness, academic obligations, family emergency, etc.

For an excused absence from a home game or official away game, the student must appeal to the Executive Board before the performance. The student is expected to notify the board as soon as they know that they will be unable to attend a game. The latest he/she is able to petition for an excused absence is by the Executive meeting of the same week as the game. A 2/3 majority is required to approve an absence from a performance. Those with an excused absence from a performance will be expected to attend all practices before the performance,

even though they will not be marching the performance. They will act as an assistant to their rank leader and give feedback on their rank's performance during every practice pertaining to that performance. Excused absences are determined by the Executive Board on a case-by-case basis.

Although four o'clock exams are very important to academic study, students will still be expected to attend the remainder of practice after his/her exam. Exams will only count as an excused tardy if the Staff Assistant is notified by 11:59PM the night before practice and the student receives approval. Vehicles will be waiting at ZAC to take the band member to practice after the band member's exam.

Article IV – Personal Conduct

All members of the Marching 97, whether they are Lehigh Students or not, are expected to act in accordance with the University Conduct System as it is written in the Lehigh University Student Handbook. This includes, but is not limited to, the sections regarding Respect for Others, Respect for Property, Respect for the Lehigh University Community, Respect for Self, and Respect for the Law.

In the stands, band members are expected to behave in a professional and respectful manner to both each other and other Lehigh fans. This includes only playing their instruments when brought to attention by the Student Conductor or instructed to play by him/her. Since the Marching 97's main goal at football games is to support the Lehigh football team, members are encouraged to cheer for the Mountainhawks and refrain from using their cell phones or other mediums which distract them from the game.

Members of the Marching 97 are also expected to treat and wear their uniforms in accordance with the Uniform Policy.

Band members who are repeatedly reprimanded by Executives regarding their conduct at football games and practices risk facing negative consequences outlined in Article II.

Article V – Consequences

Main consequences will be based on the number of **unexcused absences** that a band member has accrued.

- **For band members taking Music 021 for credit:**
 - First Unexcused Absence: Will receive a warning.
 - Second Absence: Letter grade will drop to B,

- Third Absence: Letter grade will drop down to a C and band member is required to meet with the Executive Board to discuss how his/her lack of attendance is affecting the band and steps to rectify the problem
- Fourth Absence: Band member is kicked out of the 97 and will receive an F as his/her Music 21 grade Band member is removed from the 97, is forbidden from attending any Marching 97- sanctioned events for the duration of the semester. They may rejoin next semester.
- **For band members NOT taking Music 021 for credit:**
 - First Unexcused Absence: Will receive a warning.
 - Second Absence: Band member is required to petition the Executive Board to remain in the band
 - Third Absence: Band member is removed from the 97 and forbidden from attending any Marching 97-sanctioned events for the duration of the semester. They may rejoin next semester.
- **For both types of band members:** If the band member accrues a second unexcused absence from practice of a set of practices pertaining to a specific drill, the band member will have to attend an Executive Meeting to discuss whether or not they will march that drill on the field. However, the band member will still be required to attend the game, tailgates, and all pertinent practices.
- **Violations of the University Conduct System:** Violations of the University Conduct System will be handled on a case by case basis in which the individual(s) in violation will have a closed meeting with the Executives and Director. The purpose of this meeting is so that the individual(s) involved can present their viewpoints and for the discussion of a potential consequence that fits the particular scenario.

Signature

I agree to abide by the 2016 Marching 97 Attendance Policy.

Sign: _____ Date: _____