Surrey Santa Parade of Lights
Rules & Regulations

1) First and foremost, HAVE FUN! Participants are encouraged to smile, wave, sing, dance, laugh and have a good time. The community will be attending to see you and engaging them makes the experience more fun for everyone.

2) ALL PARTICIPANTS must adhere to all Rules and Regulations to participate in the parade. These rules have been designed to ensure the safety of the participants and spectators and to ensure the best presentation of the parade participants. The Cloverdale Business Improvement Association reserves the right to approve or deny entry of any participant.

3) PARADE OFFICIALS. Participants must heed the instructions of the Parade Marshal and the Street Marshals. Any refusal to follow instructions or abuse will not be tolerated, and the Parade Marshal or other parade officials may remove your entry from the parade if this should occur.

4) PARADE ORDER. All participants must remain in parade order after being directed to their staging spot.

5) POLITICAL MESSAGES. No political messages or literature is allowed.

6) CHILDREN. All children under 13 must be closely supervised at all times.

7) HANDOUTS.

a. The City of Surrey Bylaws prohibit the throwing of candy or other items to spectators for safety reasons

b. Any handouts to the spectators must be preapproved by the CBIA by November 15, 2026,

c. Any pre-approved handouts must be handed directly to the spectators and the parties handing out the items must walk beside the curb to ensure that children do not run out into the parade and to discourage all spectators from leaving the sidewalk.

d. Edible treats are discouraged and must contain no allergens.

8) REGISTRATION TENT
    - Check-in 3:00 PM
    - The Registration tent will be located on the Cloverdale Fairgrounds.
    - CHECK IN AT THE REGISTRATION TENT to receive your staging number.
    - Your entry must BE IN POSITION no later than 5:30 PM.
    - Assembly Area Parking – Please refer to Staging Map.

9) PARADE PACE & GAP MONITORING.
    - The logistics of producing a parade Parades are fun for the participants and the spectators. Producing a really good parade requires that the participants have an awareness of several important factors.
    - NO STOPPING TO PERFORM. When a parade stops, it is hard to get it restarted. Restarting a parade is difficult because all the entries bunch up and must get started again too, and there is a time lag. This is much like starting a train. It takes a lot of time to get it going again.
    - MAINTAIN A CONSISTENT PACE. Large gaps create dead spots.
    - You must maintain a gap of 30 feet or 10 metres from the entry in front of you
    - The gap must be monitored and adjusted throughout the parade
    - A consistent pace is required to avoid “dead spots” in a parade.
    - When an entry gets too far from the entry in front of them, the entry behind must run to close the gap. For marching bands, it is not always possible to close a gap and it remains for the entire parade so gaps must be avoided at all times.
    - NO BUNCHING UP. When entries get too close, the parade goes too fast.

- If the entry in front of you stops, you must stop immediately to maintain the gap!
- When entries bunch up, the parade goes too fast. The spectators don't have enough time to enjoy the entries, and the participants are not fully appreciated either.
- NO SPREADING OUT. Stay compact to avoid diluting your entry and creating a dull spot
- When entries spread out it creates a dull spot, which slows the parade and makes it too long.
- All participants must be sufficiently fit to maintain the parade pace. If your entry spreads out because there are walkers that cannot keep up, the entry behind you will hang back and create a gap.
- Walkers that cannot keep up must withdraw from the parade and watch from the sidewalk.

10) PARADE TIPS:

- Participants are encouraged to smile, wave, sing, dance, laugh and have a good time. The community will be attending to see you and engaging them makes the experience more fun for everyone. Since you can't see your entry, we offer these tips to make your entry more visually appealing and memorable to the spectators!
- COSTUMES & COLOUR. Have more impact with the spectators
- Consider a uniform look with everyone wearing the same colour or colours.
- ACCESSORIES. Use toques, gloves, scarves, antlers, and other holiday accessories.
- There are many inexpensive options available at PartyCity, the Dollar Store and online.
- PROPS. There are many ordinary things that can be used
- MARCHING STYLE. Spectators love synchronized marching routines.

- Simple mini dance routines or synchronized marching routines make you stand out.
- Routines don’t have to be lengthy. A few moments when everyone does the same thing looks great.
- MAINTAIN LINE FORMATIONS. They look sharp and make you stand out
- Make a plan to walk in lines and assign someone to monitor how you look.
- STAY IN THE CENTRE OF THE ROAD. It is easy to wander to one side of the road
- Use the centre line as a guide and monitor yourselves.
- SMILE AND WAVE, REST AND REPEAT.
- It is fun and fulfilling for everyone when you smile and wave to the spectators.
- ENGAGE THE SPECTATORS. Clap and the spectators will join in.
- If you have music, periodically clap to the music to engage the spectators.

11) PARKING

Please refer to Staging Map.