

# RAFSC&TSW Association Members' Code of Conduct – dress code, medals and badges

## **What is the dress code for Association members on formal parade occasions?**

Members should be appropriately dressed. There is a consensus that ideally, each member present, should wear a dark suit/blazer, Ideally with Association Blazer Badge [or for lady members a suit or dress, overcoat (if necessary), hat (preferably service beret)], black shoes, etc. (A person in a brightly coloured outfit on such a formal occasion seems somewhat out of place.)

## **When should men remove their hats during Association events?**

The Association has decided that, in view of the inclement weather frequently experienced at parades many of which take place in the winter, hats (Civilian Headdress) will be removed only for the National Anthem, the Last Post and the Silence. Service Headdress (Beret) only to be removed when ordered to do so.

## **What are the general rules for wearing medals?**

The Association has decided to follow rules from the Royal British Legion Ceremonial Handbook which states:

***'The official rules for wearing medals allow only official awards to be worn. Unofficial purchased medals and foreign medals which do not have the Sovereign's permission to be worn are not allowed. ALL Foreign/state medals can only be worn on the posthumous side (right breast) if to be worn at all. Members on Association duty are bound by these rulings and unofficial medals must not be worn when on Assn duty.'***

## **For men:**

The following notes are based on the 'Guide to the wearing of Orders, decorations, miniatures and medals published by the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood:

- Medals are worn parallel to the ground just above the level of the top pocket of a jacket (or on a pocket insert).
- The medals may be mounted 'Court' fashion (sewn to the ribbon which extends behind the medal to roughly halfway down) or 'swinging' (where they hang loose from the medal bar). In either case, the bottom edge of each medal should be level, the ribbons should not exceed about one and half inches from the top (medal bar) to the bottom (medal suspender).
- In some cases, the length of the ribbons will vary to ensure the bottom edge of the medals are level.
- Medals are worn side by side unless there are more than five in which case they are overlapped with the first one (to the centre of the body) fully visible and subsequent ribbons being only partly visible. (the Sovereign's head) to the front.

**On Assn occasions**, such as parades and social events, when medals are worn with lounge suits, full size insignia mounted on a medal bar or pocket insert are worn on the left side. One neck decoration, suspended on a miniature width ribbon, of an Order, may be worn under the collar.

**With overcoats**, only those full-size Orders, decorations and medals normally mounted on a medal bar or pocket inserts may be worn, on the left side.

**With morning dress**, full-size orders, decorations and medals normally mounted on a medal bar or pocket insert should be worn, when required.

**With dinner jacket**, when invitations specify decorations, it is correct to wear miniatures, and only one star (or the badge of a Knight Bachelor) and one neck decoration.

**With evening dress**, one sash and sash badge, one neck decoration, up to four breast stars plus

miniature medals on medal bar or pocket insert may be worn.

**The medals awarded to a deceased Service / ex-Service person** may be worn on the right breast by anear relative. Not more than one group should be worn by any individual.

## For women:

The same rules apply for women where the 'neck decoration' from bows and tails is restricted in the same way as men's neck decorations, but they are worn below the medal bar.

Women who have been awarded medals suspended from bows and tails, but which normally fit on the medal bar, wear them in the normal men's method with straight ribbons if they have more than one. For example, a woman with a CBE only, or a CBE and Golden Jubilee Medal will always wear her CBE on bow and tails on her left side and above that her Jubilee Medal from a bow.

## What are the general rules for wearing badges?

The general rules for wearing badges are:

- **Veteran badge:** This badge may be worn by those who qualify.
- **Blazer badge:** Preferably TSW Crest or RAF Crest.

