



# INDEPENDENT PARADE

## RULES & REGULATIONS

*Revised 12/28/17*

1. Any organization participating in the parade must abide by the insurance requirements from the Greater Southwest Louisiana Mardi Gras Association.
2. GSWLMGA and Uniformed Police Officers have final word on decisions at line up.
3. Each participating group must complete an official parade registration application form and supply copies of vehicle registration, proof of insurance, signed acceptance of rules form and applicable entry fee.
4. A limited number of floats are permitted in the GSWLAMGA Independent Parade
5. Entries fees are non-refundable.
6. The vehicle must be titled, registered and insured
7. Each unit must keep within the flow of the parade. Unit must stay within 30 ft of each other.
8. All entries must conform to standards. Non-conforming displays (at the sole discretion of the parade officials of GSWLAMGA or police officials) will expelled from the parade. Parades are designed with a fun and family friendly Mardi Gras in mind. Accordingly all float units, vehicles pulling floats, decorations, costumes, signage, throws, etc. must not be profane, defamatory, or abusive. A parade official shall have the ABSOLUTE right to direct that any offending item be removed. The official shall also have the ABSOLUTE right to deny any float entry into the parade or to pull the float from the parade at any time, should the official determine that the float unit or its riders are in violation of this rule. Parade officials are the sole interpreter and enforcer of this rule
9. Vehicles or floats can be no wider than fourteen (14) feet, higher than 13 ½ feet, no longer than forty (40) feet (trailer), and must have a minimum of 6 feet, 6 inches (6',6") from ground to top of sidewall of the throwing area
10. Pulling vehicle must not have wheels that stick out past the body of the vehicle
11. No projections off the body of the float (i.e. open doors, wings) will be permitted
12. The bottom of all floats must skirted or masked to the ground.
13. Each vehicle pulling the float agrees to the posting of GSWLAMGA/co-sponsor magnetic signs on their vehicle floats designating it as an official member of the parade
14. Any throws other than beads or doubloons must be approved by the parade officials prior to the day of the parade. (i.e.-no condoms, coconuts, squids, religious items or items of graphic or sexual nature.) The official shall also have the ABSOLUTE right to deny any throw from being included in the parade.



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15. Float riders must behave in a socially acceptable manner. A float rider must not use obscene, profane, abusive or derogatory language, gestures, clothing, etc. Float riders must remain properly attired during the duration of the parade. Any participant riding in the parade (float or pulling vehicle) in violation of this rule is subject to being removed from the Parade. The official shall have the ABSOLUTE right to deny any rider entry into (or ejection from) the parade at any time.
16. Marching groups must be organized with a clear, designated leader and presented in good taste. Only marching group will be Krewe of Couche Couche
17. In order to keep with the true family friendly Mardi Gras tradition of Lafayette, appropriate attire must be worn at all times before, during and after the parade ends. Anyone in violation of this rule is subject to removal from the Parade
18. To keep music from interfering with other floats we ask that speakers be placed at the front of the float and direct back toward the riders or mounted on the sides facing out toward the crowds
19. No smoke machines, Confetti Launchers or any type of mechanical or kinetic device can be used to launch objects from the float
20. Throwing of "Jello" shots or any other alcoholic based items are strictly forbidden from being thrown from the floats.
21. No glass containers are allowed on the float
22. No vehicles are not to stop along the parade route unless directed to by an official
23. All floats that are carrying a generator must carry an inspected and approved by the Fire Department and have a 2.5lbs (minimum) ABC fire extinguisher on board the float. If your float is a double decker you must carry an additional fire extinguisher on the top deck as well. Float captains are the designated fire fighters on board.
24. Generators must be properly ventilated.
25. No fueling of the generators is allowed to take place along the parade route and no fuel is to be stored on the float
26. No open vehicles (convertibles). Only floats are allowed in the Parade
27. No one is allowed to ride on top of any vehicle of any kind (hood, roof or bed of any vehicle).
28. Drivers are not allowed to throw from windows. Driver's window must be rolled up.
29. The driver/operator of a vehicle shall not consume any form of intoxicant before or during the parade.
30. No Alcoholic Beverages of any kind will be allowed or permitted in the driver or passenger compartment of any vehicle in the parade. Lafayette City Police and Greater Southwest Louisiana Mardi Gras Parade Officials will strictly enforce this rule.
31. The driver must stay with his/her vehicle at all times before the parade, at line up, and during the parade.
32. Absolutely no animals of any type will be allowed in the parade.
33. No 18-wheelers will be permitted.
34. ABSOLUTELY NO throwing of beads (or any type of throw) while parade is stopped



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35. All windows on vehicles must stay up. This includes the float and vehicle pulling float.
36. Driver of the "pulling vehicle" and "contact person" of the float must attend parade meeting.
37. No float will be allowed to stop and disembark riders prior to reaching the Cajundome (end)
38. All floats must remain in the parade until the designated ending point
39. All float drivers are required to attend a Driver Orientation Class conducted by the Lafayette Police Department. If the driver took this class last year, then they do not need to take it again for two years.
40. ALL UNITS WILL BE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION BEFORE PARADE DAY AND UPON LINE UP FOR THE PARADE. Any unit or group violating any of these rules will be expelled from the parade and will forfeit their registration fee.

### **Mardi Gras Day**

All vehicles, floats and groups should begin checking in at 11:30am at the corner of Pinhook and Surrey Street. Vehicles and floats MUST ENTER FROM PINHOOK. Any group or vehicle not in place by 1 :00pm will not be allowed to participate in the parade. No exceptions. Be at the corner of Pinhook and Surrey to begin line up of participants. An inspection will be conducted of all drivers' compartments for any alcoholic beverages, participant vehicle/float for proper guidelines, decorations, sizes and pulling vehicle. A sign must be posted on the pulling vehicle designating it as an official member of the parade. As the Lafayette Mardi Gras Association Parade last float leaves Surrey St. (about 1:30), then the Independent Parade will start.

**\*\*\* Uniformed Police Officers will be there for our assistance. \*\*\***

Floats are to line up on the right side of Surrey Street. When the right side of Surrey is full to Louisiana Avenue, floats will then begin lining up on the left side of Surrey. When the Parade commences, the right side will go first and the left side will follow.

Floats arriving early and parking in lots or streets on or off of Surrey Street (i.e. LA Motors parking lot or adjacent gravel lot) WILL NOT be allowed entry in the lineup. We line up the floats in the order that they arrive.



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I have read, understand and agree to all rules and regulations. I also understand that GSWLAMGA Media, Greater Southwest Louisiana Mardi Gras Association and all subsidiaries are in no way responsible or liable for any damages, physical, emotional or otherwise as a result participation in the Independent Parade.

I understand and agree, as a representative of the above mentioned organization and all of the other participants taking part in the Independent Parade under the above mentioned organization entry, including any and all minors by definition under the laws of the State of Louisiana to participate in the Independent Parade at his/her own risk and each accept full responsibility for any and all damages, emotional, physical or otherwise that may occur as a result of participation in the Independent Parade.

I HAVE REVIEWED AND UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Float Entry Name: \_\_\_\_\_