

# **SOMERSET COUNTY GUY FAWKES CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION**

## **RECOMENDED DISPUTES PROCEDURE**

Penalties can be imposed for late arrival, abusing marshals or officials, causing gaps or hold ups in the procession, for failing to obey an official instruction and for not abiding by the rules. The penalty imposed could result in a drop in result place(s), appearance money being reduced / withheld or the entry disqualified at the affected carnival. It is for the Town Committee (or its appointed panel) to decide what penalty to impose.

When it is being considered that penalties may be imposed, the results of the class(es) involved are to be announced as 'provisional results' in this case any of the penalties described above can be imposed. For disputes arising after the procession results have been announced the only penalty that can be imposed is reduction / withholding of appearance money.

A panel consisting of members of the Town Committee will be responsible for imposing penalties, the membership of the panel being at the discretion of each Town Committee. The offending entry should be notified of any pending dispute as early as possible, preferably before announcement of the results but definitely by midday on the day following the carnival.

A hearing should be held between the Town Committee's appointed panel (maximum of three members) and the entrant concerned within 48 hours of the affected carnival to decide if a penalty should be imposed. If the entrant is a club then a maximum of two members of that club are entitled to attend the hearing, but may also call witnesses that were involved with the dispute. The panel will give their ruling at the end of the hearing.

If the entrant disputes the findings of the hearing they should put the request for an appeal in writing to the Town Secretary within 24 hours of the ruling being made. An appeal hearing should be held within seven days of the affected carnival.

The Secretary of the Town Committee will be responsible for setting up an appeal hearing and agreeing the appeal panel with both parties. The appeal panel should consist of two members to be drawn from two other county carnivals and one member to be drawn from the gangs & features groups. None of the appeal panel should be connected with the appellant, the carnival in dispute or from the entrant's home town. Both parties should be mindful of the time constraints when agreeing the panel.

The appeal panel will have the authority to reverse the earlier ruling or to amend the penalty imposed as they see fit. Their decision shall be final with no further right of appeal by either party.

The Secretary of the SGGFCA to be kept informed of progress throughout and the outcome of any dispute. It should be realised by all parties that when this process is enacted it might result in a delay in the announcement of all or part of the SCGFCA cup results.

In order for entrants to be contacted they should supply mobile phone contact numbers as requested on all entry forms.

(adopted 14/5/07)