



Royal School of Artillery **Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess**



March 2024



The Royal Artillery Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess

Mess Rules

Introduction

1. Rules and regulations are essential for the comfort, welfare and stability of every society. These rules aim to provide harmony and good feeling within the Royal Artillery Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess, both of which are an essential part of Mess life. Inappropriate behaviour is unacceptable, and failure to adhere to the rules detailed below may result in disciplinary action being taken against you.

General

2. The rules governing the Royal Artillery Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess apply to all who may be permitted to enter by virtue of their rank or as a guest of a Mess member.
3. The behaviour of all guests, including spouses, is the responsibility of the Mess member who hosts/introduces them to the Mess.
4. It is the duty of all Mess members and visitors to read the rules and customs of the Mess. It should be noted that each Mess will have a different set of rules.

Social Standing

5. All Mess members are on an equal footing in the Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess and are entitled to share the same amenities.
6. Due courtesy is always to be given in respect of a Mess member's rank in keeping with the traditions of the Service.
7. All Mess members have a duty to the Commanding Officer to ensure that their support for and conduct within the Royal Artillery Warrant Officers' & Sergeants' Mess is always of the highest standard.

Mess Management

8. The President of the Mess is the RSM, who is responsible to the Commanding Officer for the regulation and tone of the Mess. In the absence of the RSM, a senior Warrant Officer will be appointed to perform the duties of President.
9. Mess members - are not permitted to sign for drinks on a bar chit at any time. The bar is cash only
10. The Mess Committee is under the direct control of the PMC who, in turn, is responsible to the RSM of the Mess for the property, standard of accounting and good management.
11. Mess meetings are to be held monthly or as directed by the Commanding Officer. The President of the Mess or their deputy is to preside at these meetings.



Dress - General

12. The standard of a Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess is judged on the appearance of its members. The standard of dress in the Mess must always be of the highest standard. Modern fashion is not always in keeping with the standards required in a Mess, members should dress traditionally when in civilian clothes in the Mess.
13. The dress of the day may be worn in the Mess from 0730hrs until 19:00hrs except that:
 - a. Head dress is not to be worn in the Mess and is to be placed in the cloakroom.
 - b. Medals are not to be worn in the Mess other than miniature medals on Mess Dress, unless directed by the RSM.
 - c. Coveralls are never to be worn in the Mess.
 - d. Uniform is not permitted in the Mess after 19:00hrs less for duty personnel or when permission has been obtained from the RSM/PMC.

Topcoats

14. Topcoats (including field jackets, waterproofs etc.), are not to be worn in the Mess or placed over the backs of chairs. They should be hung in the appropriate public room or cloakroom.
15. The dress for all Regimental Dinner Nights or Guests Nights will differ dependant on the event, however it will always be one of the following:
 - a. No 10 Dress (Mess Dress).
 - b. Lounge suits.
 - c. Black tie.
16. All Mess members are reminded that Mess Dress is an approved uniform and an individual's turnout is always to be of the highest standard.
17. Casual clothing may be worn in the Mess bar at any time except during a function when the function dress code is to be adhered to.
18. Mess members and guests are not to remove their jackets unless authorised by the RSM.
19. Dress in the bar is as follows:
 - a. Lunchtime - Casual/Uniform. See Para 35.
 - b. Evening - Casual. See Para 35.
 - c. Weekends/stand down – Relaxed. See Para 30.
20. Exceptions to this rule are:
 - a. When a dress is specified for an official function either formal or Themed Event.
 - b. When guests are in the mess, i.e. seminars, games nights etc, dress will be dictated by the RSM.

Relaxed Dress: Weekends and Regimental Stand Down Periods

21. Relaxed dress allows members to feel comfortable and "at home" in the Mess. It covers such items as blue jeans, t-shirts, tailored shorts (in summer) which may be worn in the Mess, but it must be clean and of good repair. Sports attire, vests, flip-flops and carpet slippers are the exception to this rule and are not permitted at any time.

22. Mess members may only wear relaxed dress in the Mess bar area at the following times:
 - a. During weekends.
 - b. During Regimental stand down periods.
 - c. If a Mess member is on leave when the Regiment is at work, they are expected to be clean shaven and wearing casual dress when attending meals.

Casual Dress

23. Casual dress is defined as follows:
 - a. Shirt or polo shirt.
 - b. Jumper/Cardigan.
 - c. Trousers/smart dark jeans (not to be torn or frayed).
 - d. Shoes.
24. Casual dress does not mean shabby dress. Badges, slogans, studs etc are not to be worn on clothing with the exception of blazer badges. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times.

Planters

25. The definition of Planters is:
 - a. Shirt/blouse (Sleeves may be rolled up in Summer months).
 - b. Trousers.
 - c. Skirt/dress (knee length).
 - d. Socks and Shoes.
 - e. Collar and Tie
26. The definition of collar and tie is:
 - a. Jacket.
 - b. Shirt/blouse.
 - c. Tie (females are to wear a brooch/pin badge when a tie is worn).
 - d. Trousers.
 - e. Skirt/dress (knee length).
 - f. Socks and Shoes.
27. When ties are worn, they are to remain correctly fastened at all times. Gunner ties are to be worn on Fridays as directed by the RSM.



Lounge Suits

28. When lounge suits are worn, they are to be dark in colour. They are to be of a conventional cut and style. Ladies may wear trouser suits, or knee-length skirt/dresses.

Mess Dress (No 10 Dess)

29. Mess Dress is a uniform and is to be kept to the highest standards of presentation and cleanliness at all times.
30. When formal dress is ordered, female guests are to wear ankle length dresses.

Mobile (Cell) Phones

31. Mobile phones are not to be used in public rooms of the Mess. If a call must be taken Mess members are to go outside to answer their call.
32. UK SIM cards are available from Tesco in Amesbury, SP4 7RT.

The Bar and Sale of Alcohol

33. The Mess bar is open at the following times:
 - a. Mon - Fri 1900 - 2300 hrs.
 - b. Sat - Sun 1200 - 1400 and 1900 - 2300 hrs.
34. The area behind the bar is out of bounds to all Mess members.
35. Alcohol. Beer or spirituous liquor is only to be sold within the Mess and to the Mess members during the hours appointed by the Commanding Officer.



Living in Members

36. Living in members are responsible for the cleanliness of their living quarters, this includes rooms, store rooms, garages and general bin areas at all times. Any member who moves out of the Mess and does not clean their room may incur a cleaning charge.
37. All bikes are to be placed and secured in the bike racking provided. Bikes are not to be stored in corridors or entrance ways.
38. TV licenses are the responsibility of the individual and must be purchased.
39. Complaints about the cleanliness of public rooms and corridors in the accommodation are to be directed to the PMC.
40. Living in members are to respect other mess members concerning the volume of music systems, radios and televisions.
41. Living in members may have visitors to the Mess, they are permitted by invitation only and the host is responsible for the guest.

Discipline

42. The senior Warrant Officer or SNCO present in the Mess is responsible for the maintenance of good order and the adherence to the Mess rules.
43. No Mess member or guest is to abuse, find fault or be unduly familiar with the Mess staff. Any complaints a Mess member may have should be addressed to the PMC or Mess Manager.
44. Non-dining members are requested to have regard for the privacy and comfort of the dining members whilst they are at meals.
45. Dogs are not permitted in the Mess unless authorised by the RSM. If authorised, Mess members must comply with the Garrison Dog Policy. A £100 refundable deposit may be requested for all SLA for damages/cleaning.
46. The Mess Kitchen, Property Room, Stock Room and area behind the Bar are out of bounds to all.
47. Gambling is strictly forbidden in any part of the Mess premises.
48. Newspapers are purchased by the Mess for the benefit of all Mess members. Under no circumstances are they to be removed from the public rooms.

Guests

49. Any member bringing guests into the Mess are to introduce them to the President/Senior member. The Mess member introducing a guest is responsible for their conduct during their time within the Mess.
50. Accompanying children are permitted to enter the Mess on occasions authorised by the RSM/PMC. Children are to remain under the strict control of their parents and behave in a manner in keeping with Mess etiquette.

Maintenance and Breakages

51. All Mess members are to take due care of all property and fittings in the Mess. Mess Members who damage any item of Mess property are to report this to the PMC or Mess Manager as soon as possible.
52. All accommodation stores, fittings and buildings occupied by the Mess are maintained by the Garrison Management Team through service agencies. Mess members are to report any faults with Accommodation directly to ASPIRE 01980 885102 and inform the Housing Member/Mess manager.
53. In the event of any damage to the Mess due to neglect of either the Mess membership as a whole or section thereof, a charge to make good the cost may be imposed by the Commanding Officer.

Subscriptions

54. Additional charges may be raised to cover the specific functions such as Regimental Dinners, and Themed Events.
55. All Mess members when out of station are to pay a Mess Bill at the unit they are visiting, for liability of any food and beverage charges under PAYD arrangements and those minimal mess charges directly associated with their stay (e.g. Laundry charges for bedding not laundered at public expense).
56. Any questions regarding the RA Warrant Officers' and Sergeants' Mess please direct to the Mess Staff or the Defence Engagement Team (RSA).

Taxi

57. These are the local taxi firms who have permission to enter the camp:
 - Griff's Taxi – 07900 483030
 - AVID Taxi – 07738 439728
 - Stephens Taxi – 07788 727616 (8 seater)
 - Vision Cabs – 07757 424151



