



RYDE CARNIVAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

Thank you for taking part in our carnival procession. We would like to draw your attention to some advice to help keep you, your group, and our spectators safe while taking part.

Communication

Updates on any safety information before the Carnival events, including decisions whether or not the event is to be cancelled for any reason (including bad weather) will be made via our Facebook page and web-site. To ensure you receive real time updates please like and follow our Facebook page Ryde Carnival.

General Information

- Please nominate an adult member of your group to be responsible for all aspects of safety, who is also able to act as a single point of contact between your group and the carnival organisers both before and during the event.
- Although there is first aid provided, it is advisable to carry a small kit. We would also suggest that some drinking water is readily available as the effects of dehydration can quickly set in on a hot evening.
- Children should have an adequate number of adult supervisors.
- We discourage spectators from throwing coins as this can cause serious injury, and in return we ask participants not to spray water or throw objects into the crowd.
- The consumption of alcohol whilst in the procession is strictly prohibited.
- Please ensure any electrical items in use are waterproof, suitable for outside use and fitted safely. Remember light bulbs can get very hot. We also ask that mains-voltage equipment be properly inspected before use.
- We can't guarantee good weather so please come prepared for the forecast conditions, you may need sun screen, warm clothes or waterproofs, for example.
- There is a lot of loud noise particularly around the floats, and you should consider providing yourself and the members of your group with ear defenders.
- There are stewards all along the procession route, who are there to provide assistance in the event of any difficulty.

- If you see a suspicious package, do not touch it, immediately report it to a steward or Ryde Carnival Marshall. If you cannot locate a steward or marshal, dial 999 from a landline or from a safe distance (100m+) and advise others to move away.

Pedestrian Entrants

- Large costumes and high winds don't go well together, and our streets, particularly Dover Street and Union Street, can act as wind-tunnels to make costumes difficult to control. Consider bringing a companion who can assist you.
- Remember, costumes can be flammable; stay away from sources of heat.
- If you have children in your walking group, please keep them together and away from moving vehicles and ensure that you have enough adult helpers for the number of children in your party. Wheelchairs and wheeled entries can be heavy going on the uphill stretches of the first half of the route; consider joining in at the High Street (speak to our Procession Officer about this) if it's likely to be a problem.

Float Specific Entries

- All vehicles should carry a suitable fire extinguisher, and your driver should be familiar with its operation. Make a plan! Practice rapid evacuation procedures in advance. A suitable first aid kit is also required.
- It is recommended that your float does not exceed 4.25 metres (14 feet) in height. Width should be within 2.5 metres (8 feet) and the overall length must not be such that the entry cannot safely manoeuvre from Star Street into the High Street, or make the tight right-hand turn from Union Street onto the Esplanade. For this reason we do not permit the entry of Articulated Lorries.
- The towing vehicle and trailer must be in a legal and roadworthy condition and the trailer must not exceed the maximum towing capacity of the towing vehicle. The driver is responsible for ensuring this; get advice if you are not sure – look after your driving licence!
- The driver of the towing vehicle is responsible for the general safety of the vehicle, towing mechanism, break-away chain and general sturdiness of the float. It is the driver's personal responsibility to ensure that adequate insurance cover is in force.
- Anything that could fall off must be secured.
- The driver of the towing vehicle must have a clear view of the road ahead and both sides of the float at all times.

- If there are people on the float, you should ensure they are seated in securely attached seats, or provide adequate handrails and tethers to prevent them falling off. Keep the number of people on the float to a reasonable level to ensure everyone's safety.
- The driver should keep up with the procession and not allow significant gaps to form which can permit spectators to spill on to the procession route. However, a safety-separation distance of no less than 5 metres must be kept between entries, and this should be extended on the steeper hills. Be aware that spectators sometimes cut across the procession ahead of a float, and pedestrians will often squeeze between the onlookers and the entries if trying to make their way along the route.
- Provide adult marshals to walk alongside the float who can be clearly seen by the driver. They should guard the sides of your float from crowding by spectators and help guide the driver through any pinch points.
- Nobody should ride on a float hanging over the edge, or go in between the towing vehicle and float when it is in motion. Only climb onto or off your float when the vehicle has stopped moving.
- Please try to keep your vehicle centrally away from either side of spectators in case somebody falls or is pushed into the road.
- If you are using a generator, please take all necessary safety precautions when filling it. Use a funnel to minimize splashing. You should never refill a fuel tank while the motor is hot. Carry no more spare fuel than you are likely to need, and keep it stored well away from sources of heat in suitable containers. Mop up any fuel spillages and store the materials you use in an airtight container. We would recommend the use of LPG, Diesel, low-voltage inverter or solar power rather than petrol-powered equipment.
- If the route needs to be evacuated in an emergency, drivers should pull their floats to one side of the road so as to leave a clear space if possible; turn off their engine and sound system, leave the key in the ignition and make their way to safety.

We hope you have safe and fun carnival, and look forward to seeing you again.

Ryde Carnival Association

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