



Rules and Regulations for Carnival:

1. Participation/Competition:

All participants in Carnival are required to complete a registration form. There are registration forms for groups, floats and individual/supporting groups.

2. Benefits for Participating Groups:

1. Belize Carnival Association (BCA) will rope off the group sections
2. BCA will provide space at all BCA events during the Carnival Season for 1 banner of all registered groups and 2 sponsors from all groups who registered by the deadline except where there is a conflict of interest with a BCA sponsor.
3. BCA agrees to provide the following assistance to all registered groups who register by the deadline :

Senior Bands: Size 30-50 revelers - \$1,500
Size 51-75 revelers - \$2,000
Size 76+ revelers - \$2,500

Junior Bands: Size 30 – 50 revelers - \$1,000
Size 51+ revelers - \$1,500

All registered competing groups will receive 50% of these start-up donations upon receipt and processing of their application forms. First-time entrants to Carnival will receive 25%. The balance of these start-up donations will be provided on or before August 15th.

3. The Carnival Groups:

There shall be two (2) categories of costumed Carnival Groups eligible for participation/Competition in the Belize Carnival

(A) Junior Groups

- (1) Junior Groups are groups with revelers from age 5 to 16 years.
- (2) Any reveler being the parent of child/children, though he/she may be chronologically within the age range will not be considered a junior for these purposes.
- (3) Any Junior Carnival Group found guilty of including such reveler as outlined in Clause (2) in their membership, will be deemed guilty of a carnival offence and will be subject to a penalty of a loss of points (up to 10) or disqualification from competition.
- (4) Any Junior Carnival Group found guilty of including a reveler who is older than 16 years or younger than 5 years will be deemed guilty of a carnival

offence and will be subject to a penalty of a loss of points (up to 10) or disqualification from the competition

- (5) All group leaders should ensure that they have some proof of identification to verify the ages of the participating revelers in their group
- (6) All Junior Groups should ensure that the alternates for their King and Queen are also within the age range eligible for a junior group. Failure to do so may result in a penalty of a loss of points (up to 10) from the competition.

(B)Senior Bands – Age 17 years+

- (1) Any reveler being the parent of child/children though he/she may be between the ages of 15 and 16 can become a member of a senior group.
- (2) Any Senior Carnival Group found guilty of including a reveler below the age range and lacking these special conditions mentioned above will be deemed guilty of a carnival offence and will be subject to a penalty of a loss of points (up to 10) or disqualification from competition.
- (3) All group leaders should ensure that they have some proof of identification to verify the ages of the participating revelers in their group

4. Numbers of participants

- (1) To be eligible for competition, any junior or senior carnival group must contain at least 30 revelers inclusive of the King and Queen
- (2) Special consideration may be given to newly formed bands facing difficulties such as financial support for the first time they participate in carnival

5. Costumes

To be eligible for competition, any junior or senior carnival group must array their revelers in recognized carnival costumes i.e. fantastic, colorful representation of a particular theme.

- a. While it is encouraged that costumes reflect tradition or ethnic or cultural themes, the wearing of just traditional, ethnic or cultural attire will not be considered carnival costumes, neither will uniforms of organizations such as scouts, marching bands, etc.

***Note:** Carnival is a time for fun and freedom of expression through dance, costume and reveling. However, the Belize Carnival Association does not encourage or support indecent behaviour, disrespect to others participating in carnival, lewd behaviour and use of offensive language towards one another.*

All Junior Costumers must abide by the following:

- (a) no needless display of children's bodies
- (b) no lewd or suggestive movements from children
- (c) no vulgar or disrespectful lyrics in music
- (d) costumes should cover the navel
- (e) costumes should be no lower than the length of a standard bike shorts

The Junior Section of the Carnival Road March will be separated from the Senior Section by having a float placed between these two sections. A float will be placed between the marching band at the front of the parade and the first Junior Group.

King and Queen Competition

Entries:

- 1) To be eligible for competition, any junior or senior carnival group must enter at least one King and one Queen in the King and Queen Competition and this should be noted on the registration form.
- 2) Any group may enter more than one King or Queen if they so desire
- 3) All Kings and Queens must participate in the Carnival Road March
- 4) The Belize Carnival Association must be notified in advance of all props and special effects that will be used by the groups during the competition. The Belize Carnival Association reserves the right to disallow the use of any special props or effects that may require special permits from the relevant authorities.

Size of Costumes:

- (1) For the Senior Groups, the King and Queen Costumes must be no less than 7 feet in height.
- (2) For the Junior Groups, the King and Queen Costumes must be no less than 2 feet above the person's head.

Note: *Excessive size does not ensure winning the competition.*

Mobility:

Juniors:

- 1. King and Queen can have up to three (3) wheels; however, movement must depend on the person who is displaying the costume.
- 2. If the costume stands independently erect on the players, it will be considered more of a float than a costume.
- 3. Costume must be played, not only pushed or dragged. The judges will be looking for active movement.

Seniors:

- 1. King and Queen can have up to two (2) wheels; however, movement

must depend on the person who is displaying the costume.

2. If the costume stands independently erect on the players, it will be considered more of a float than a costume.
3. Costume must be played, not only pushed or dragged. The judges will be looking for active movement.

Punctuality:

All Kings and Queens must be fully dressed in costume at least one (1) hour before the commencement of the competition for the pre-judging time. The time for pre-judging will be announced closer to the competition date.

Interpretation:

The player of the costume must be able to communicate verbally to the judges what the costume is illustrating and the story related to the costume.

The Group's Responsibilities:

- (1) Each group is responsible for the safeguarding of their king and queen costumes once they have entered the venue.
- (2) Belize Carnival Association will not be held responsible for any loss or damage to costumes
- (3) Only 2 persons along with the group leader or his/her representative will be allowed backstage to assist the King and Queen. Belize Carnival Association will provide backstage passes for these 2 persons and for the group leader or his/her representative.

Carnival Road March

Time: The Carnival Road March will commence at 2p.m. from the junction of Caesar Ridge Road, Belize City and Central American Boulevard, Belize City.

- All carnival groups should assemble in their proper position by 11a.m.
- All carnival groups should ensure that the vehicle with their music is in place by 11a.m. Failure to do so may result in loss of points from the competition.

Order of Participation: The results of the Lotto Pick will determine the order of the competing groups participating in the Carnival Road March. The order of all other

entrants (marching bands, floats, tumblers, non-competing groups) will be arranged by the Belize Carnival Association.

Identification of Groups: All groups must identify themselves with at least one large banner

- No banners are allowed on the hood of vehicles participating in the road march

Music: All groups must supply their own music and means of conveyance and service vehicles

- Each group is allowed one music system before them and one service vehicle behind them in the parade
- All carnival groups should ensure that the vehicle with their music is in place by 11a.m. Failure to do so may result in loss of points from the competition.

Marshalls: Each group should have their marshalls clearly identified. There should be a maximum of 4 marshalls per section of each band.

Belize Carnival Association's responsibilities:

- Pre-judging of carnival groups will occur between 12noon and 1p.m.
- Outdoor bathroom facilities will be provided in the morning from 8a.m. to 2p.m along the Caesar Ridge Road and Yaborough assembly area.
- Each participating carnival group will be roped off and monitored by Belize Carnival Association officials.
- The carnival road march will be assisted by the police, fire and health departments.
- BCA will ensure that the judging criteria and scoring process will be shared and fully explained to all participating competing groups in advance of the competition events.