

## 2009 L.D. Bell Blue Raider Marching Band Uniform Care and Hemming Instructions

**You may not cut any fabric!!!!**

- No glue, iron on hems, or machine stitching. Only a light hand stitch should be used to modify lengths. Please be conservative in the amount of stitching that you do.
- Pants - Parents or guardians are responsible to hem (or have hemmed) the uniform pants to the proper length. The pant should reach and touch the top of the shoe. The pant leg should touch lightly enough so that the crease line in the leg does not buckle or bend. The pants will need to be adjusted, use only a light stitch to hem them. No machines, glues, or iron on hems should be used on the uniform. To adjust the length of the pants, first adjust the torso length from the shoulder to the crotch of the pant by adjusting the suspender straps, high and tight. Then adjust the length of the pant leg to just reach the top of the shoe. The pant leg length should be adjusted only after the straps have been adjusted. To adjust the leg length, take the hem completely down and then hem the pant to the proper length. Do not cut excess fabric.
- Hand-sew it yourself or use a tailor for hem lengths.
- If your pants need adjustments other than hemming, such as the leg width is too wide, you may have them adjusted. Keep in mind that your student will need maximum flexibility for marching and other marching show visuals. **Again do not cut off excess fabric**
- If in doubt, ask!!!



The following people have agreed to hem uniform pants for an \$8 fee for anyone who needs help getting their pants hemmed by the 14<sup>th</sup>:

Jerry Burgess      817-858-0321  
Kim Wells          817-428-9493

New uniforms may **NOT** be dry-cleaned. They are machine washable in warm water with like colors. Use low heat to dry and hang immediately.

- Never iron directly on the fabric. You must use a pressing cloth for protection. To crease pants, cover pants with a towel and press with a warm iron.
- Students are expected to maintain clean shoes, gloves, gauntlets, cinch, baldric, shako (hat), shako box, and cords.
- **Do not wash cords.** If dirty, you need to return to band hall for a clean pair.
- Shoes must be cleaned and shined before every event.
- White socks are to be worn with the uniform.
- Gloves will need to be washed weekly and air-dried.
- Plumes will be handed out just before the show and collected right after the show.
- You should always wear a short white t-shirt under the uniform to protect the jacket from perspiration.
- When hanging uniform, be sure to hang the pants evenly balanced, and folded with the creases of the pants to avoid wrinkling
- Never eat in the uniform without specific instructions to do so from the director.

What follows comes from the manufacturer. Please, when in doubt check with Leisha Dupree, Wendy Sloan, Jo Bryan, Lara Wallace or another experienced band parent. It's easier to answer a question than to fix a messed up uniform. FJM recommends machine washing on a gentle cycle and low dry temp.

All garments are washable, unless otherwise stated. However, this does not mean that careful care and repair are not necessary.

### **Jackets and Bib Pants:**

- **Always wash whites with whites and darks with dark colors.**
- **Avoid washing bib pants and jackets together! Never wash in hot water!**
- Jackets and bib pants are made of completely washable polyester-gabardine. Machine wash and dry on the gentle / knit cycle, but **do not overload machines.** Launder 4 to 6 pieces at a time.
- **Do not use liquid fabric softener on Cesario band uniforms!** If a softener sheet is required, use only one (1) sheet per dry load (see drying directions below.)
- If a stain does occur, sponge with water or treat with an appropriate product before it has time to set and before laundering. You may use "Spray and Wash" and other **non-chlorine** stain removers when washing. **Use only non-chlorine detergent!** Many detergents are harsh and have a bleaching ingredient that will cause even colorfast fabric to migrate.
- **Dry garments completely before storing.**
- **Caution: Do NOT use a hot dryer setting!** A hot dryer setting will remove the press. Use a cool setting. When dried on a cool setting, uniforms will require very little touch up. **Remove them from the dryer and place on a hanger immediately. Steam**

**pressing shoulders and collars is required to retain their proper shape and appearance to renew the heat bonded interfacings.**

Touch up pressing on pants may be desired occasionally, or the **pants** may be professionally pressed after several washings and drying.

#### **Garments or Pieces with VELCRO:**

- Make certain the hook side of the Velcro is **not** exposed when laundering uniforms to avoid a 'picking' of the fabric. If a jacket has both the hook (hard side) and loop (soft side) of Velcro, **hook pieces together evenly so the hook side is not exposed.**

#### **Baldrics and Gauntlets:**

- Wash poly gabardine baldrics and gauntlets on a gentle cycle and dry on a permanent press setting in a dryer observing all laundering instructions previously provided for this fabric type. **Make sure to hook the Velcro closure together when laundering in a machine to avoid picking of fabric.**

#### **Vest and Cinch Belts:**

- All back belts on vests and cinches have a six-inch elastic with a layer of stretch fabric. These items are to be **hand washed and then dried flat** because continued drying in a dryer will eventually destroy the elastic.

#### **Shako:**

- Always store your shako in the box when not in use. The new shakos are covered in white fabric so extreme care will be necessary to keep the shako looking new. Please keep the plastic sleeve that is on the shako and put your shako back inside the plastic each time to protect the shako from other items that might be in the shako box. You may spot clean with a mild liquid cleaner, such as Woolite, diluted with cold water. Do not dry clean or use spot-cleaning chemicals or bleach on any part of the hat. If your shako gets wet, do not store it in box until it is dry. If at all possible only handle the shako by the plastic brim or when wearing gloves. Even clean hands will leave oils on the fabric.

- Realize that your uniform is very expensive. Uniform replacement cost is approximately \$400.00.

- The student is financially responsible for the full uniform. If any pieces are lost or destroyed due to neglect, the student must pay for them. Failure to turn in your assigned uniform at the end of the season will cost student approximately \$400.00.

- To turn in your uniform at the end of the marching season, uniform must be turned in clean with the student name pinned to the jacket. If not, you will be charged for the final cleaning fee of \$15.00 dollars.

- Though some special circumstances may warrant, if you are in uniform, you are in FULL uniform. Treat your uniform with pride.

**NO LINES MAY BE SEEN UNDER THE BIB PANTS (FLESHIES MUST BE WORN)**

## The making of “Fleshies”

The L.D. Bell Band uniform requires that underwear worn underneath the uniform pants be a flesh-tone color (“Fleshies”). Because of the fabric of the pants and stadium lighting, unsightly “panty lines” can be seen without this technique.

In order to alleviate this problem, cotton briefs only (**NO BOXERS**) must be dyed to a flesh tone color that matches your skin color. The easiest and cheapest way to do this is TEA DYE:

# How to Tea Dye

## What you need:

- Cotton briefs
- Tea bags --cheap ones with the generic label are just fine.
- Hot water
- Containers to hold the tea bath

## What you do:

Set the water to boil.

When the water has come to a boil add two tea bags for each 8oz. cup of water.

Let the tea steep for about 5 minutes. You should have a really dark brown liquid.

Squeeze out the tea bags if you wish. It doesn't hurt to leave them in, though, except that they might get soggy and break.

Rinse the briefs in cold water, wring out your wet fabric, and add to the pot of tea water. Turn off the heat and allow it to steep for several hours, stirring occasionally to dye evenly. Remember when checking the color that it seems darker when wet. When the fabric has reached the color you like, rinse it under cold water until the water runs clear, put in the dryer and dry thoroughly for the best results. Be sure to clean the dryer after use, so you don't stain the next load of laundry. The heat helps to set the color, then gently wash with the mild detergent, rinse and dry again. \*\*\*Helpful hint: Don't drink the tea!

