



Maeng Das Pup Tent 6

Grand of the Pacific Areas
Military Order of the Cootie

Revised September 2018

"General Guidelines of Policies and Procedures"

INTRODUCTION:

The duties and responsibilities for Pup Tent Shavetails are generally defined in Sections 310 thru 324 of the Supreme By-Laws. Secret Signs and Passwords are in the Supreme Ritual. Most Pup Tents have their own "General Guide of Policies and Procedures" of special requirements for conducting Scratches, forbidden activities, uniforms, fines and etc., which may not be found in the "Supreme By-Laws and Rituals" but have been accepted as "Standard Operating Procedures" or "Law" similar to Maeng Das Pup Tent 6.

As Cooties depart and new Cooties join, Policies and Procedures may not get properly passed on resulting in some Shavetails not being sure of their exact responsibilities and new Cooties, in general, not being sure about how they should conduct themselves during Scratches.

This "General Guide of Policies and Procedures" has been accepted, used and updated over a number of years, and therefore considered the "Law" for Pup Tent 6.

OBJECTIVES:

[A] "The Military Order of the Cootie of the United States was primarily organized as a fun organization, with no valid reason to duplicate the solemn work of our parent organization." (Ritual Manual)

[B] "Clean Fun, harmless frolic, good comradeship and a desire to increase our circle of friends in the V.F.W. and the M.O.C. service to the V.F.W., the surviving spouses and orphans in our National Home, the hospital program of "Keep 'Em Smilin' in Beds of White." At all times, neat appearance, conduct becoming a Cootie and gentleman, while in public and at V.F.W. and M.O.C. activities." "Stay on the beam, heed good advice, keep our organization clean" (Ritual Manual)

FEES and DUES:

- [A] Annual Dues for New Continuous and Reinstated Members is \$40.00
- [B] New Members will not be charged and Initiation Fee
- [C] Upon attaining the 3rd Degree Cooties are also intitled to purchase a Cootie Challenge Coin for \$10.00

UNIFORMS:

- [A] Green tassels will be provided as part of the initiation ceremony.
- [B] The Official Cootie Bug, Official PT Insignia and a copy of the "Ritual of the Military Order of the Cootie of the United States, is given to each new Cootie upon completion of the 3rd Degree. The official Cootie Hat may be purchased from the Cootie Depot at your own expense.
- * Please Note: The Cootie Bug and PT Insignia must be worn at all Official Cootie events and All Pup Tent Officers must have an Official Cootie Hat with the proper color tassels.

Those who have placed a pin on the back of a "one-sided" hat can have it "traded away" if another Cootie takes a liking to that particular pin. Of course, the Cootie that possesses the pin in question must be given a pin in kind by the greedy Cootie that wants to acquire the pin. If a Cootie has a "two-sided" hat all bets for trading are off.

If a Cootie is wearing a Cootie Vest, all pins that are on the vest are subject to the trading principles as described in the paragraph above.

Happy Hunting.

Thereafter the Cootie Uniform as described below should be worn at all official Scratches:

- [A] Official Cootie Hat with proper color and Tassels.
(Tassels come in many colors, Section 701 B of the M.O.C. By-Laws. Each indicating present or past positions in the organization as shown below:

- **Green:** Cooties
- **Black:** Pup Tent Officers, to revert to **Green with Black Knob** when retiring from office
- **Black and White:** Past Pup Tent Seam Squirrels
- **Green and White Mixed:** All District or Area Pup Tent Officers, to revert to former tassels when retiring from office
- **Green and White Mixed with Black Knob:** Past District or Area Pup Tent Commanders
- **White:** Grand Pup Tent Officers
- **White with Black Knob:** Past Grand Line Officers; other Grand Officers revert to former tassels when retiring from office
- **Purple:** Past Grand Commanders
- **Red-White-Gold Mixed:** Supreme Commander
- **Gold:** Supreme Council of Administration Members
- **Gold with Black Knob:** Supreme appointed officers (other than Supreme Council Members)
- **Red-White-Gold Mixed with Red Knob:** Past Supreme Commanders
- **Red with Gold Knob:** Past Supreme Council Members
- **Red with Black Knob:** Past Supreme Officers (other than Past Supreme Council Members)

- **Black with Gold Knob:** All-Star Pup Tent Seam Squirrels, CCDB's and Hungry Cooties
- **White with Gold Knob:** All-Star Grand Quartermasters and Adjutants
- **Red-White-Blue Mixed:** All-Star Grand Commanders

[B] Official Cootie Shirt with the proper Patches and Eyes. (Optional)

[C] Official Cootie Pants. White with Red Stripes down each side. (Optional)

[D] Red Sock(s). A Red Sock or Sock's are required to be worn by all Nits, Graybacks and Cooties at all Official Scratches (not necessarily on the feet). (Mandatory)

[E] Wearing a Cootie tie, vest. (Optional)

[F] Shoes. Optional

[G] Pup Tent 6 Insignia (Mandatory) is required to be worn on the front of the hat, if you do not have a hat it will be worn on the left shirt collar lapel at all Official events.

"Cootie Bug": A Cootie wearing the uniform need not wear the official "Bug" on the left collar since the shirt has embroidered Cooties. However, since the Cootie Bug is the official issued Membership Emblem, it must be worn at all Scratches, either on the Hat, the Collar or else wear on the Uniform. Some Pup Tents require it be worn on the left collar, uniform or not. Before visiting another Pup Tent, check their policy beforehand.

SCRATCHES:

[A] Regular Scratches are held Quarterly in conjunction with District V quarterly meetings, at a time and place determined by the Pup Tent. The S.S. may call special Scratches or four members, in good standing, by letter or e-mail, with a minimum 48 hours notice to all members of subject, time and place.

[B] All Scratches are normally opened and conducted in the First Degree.

[C] If there is to be a 2nd or 3rd Degree Initiation during the Scratch, the S.S. will place the Scratch in that Degree at the appropriate time.

[D] 3rd Degree: All 3rd Degree Scratches are conducted as a Special Scratch called by the S.S.

[E] Social Scratches. From time to time the Pup Tent may vote to hold a Social Scratch. These are normally open to Guests of Cooties. Such Scratches will be officially opened by the S.S. The Order of Business will be dispensed with and no business, secret work, signs or passwords will be used except if the Social is to "Install Officers" in which case the "Original Installation Ceremony" will be used. The Uniform for Social Scratches will be prescribed by the S.S. (Note: "except for the Installation of Officers, no portion of this Ritual, including any Initiation or degree work, shall be conducted in public" Ritual Manual.)

[F] Rights of Nits and Graybacks. Nits and Graybacks in good standing are entitled to second and make motions, discuss motions and vote in the same manner as Cooties but shall not be entitled to hold office in the Pup Tent.

FINES:

[A] Why the fines? Cooties is a fun organization and as such the operating funds for the Pup Tent are raised primarily at the quarterly Scratches by these fines. They are used to maintain some semblance of decorum but also part of the fun of the Scratches. The levying of fines should be kept to a minimum during the official reading of reports and

during ritual parts of initiations. An exception would be "Private Scratches" when a Shavetail is giving an official report. (A few coins in your pocket will always come in handy at a Scratch)

[B] Only the Provost Marshall, S.S. and B.B. may levy fines on Cooties for various infractions of Standard Rules or the Rules established by Pup Tent 6 with the following exceptions: If an infraction occurs and is not fined by the Provost Marshall or if the S.S. or B.B. commits an infraction and doesn't fine himself the following is authorized:

[B.1] The S.S. or B.B. will request to be recognized and then he may levy the fine: or

[B.2] Any Cootie may request recognition and request permission to speak to the S.S. or B.B. When recognized he may advise the S.S. or B.B. of the infraction and they may then levy an appropriate fine.

[C] Without recognition, any Cootie, Nit or Grayback may call the following infractions:

Killing Cooties. (Foot or Feet flat on the Floor)

Lady in the House. (Legs or Feet Crossed)

Tassel at Rest. (Tassel not straight down)

[D] The P.M, S.S. and/or B.B.. will levy appropriate fines for the following:

Common Offences.

- Failure to display the PT Charter during the Scratch.
- Don't know the Degree Password(s).
- Don't know the Supreme Third Degree Password.
- Failure to display the proper sign for the Degree or Scratch.
- Failure to give a proper salute to the S.S.
- Failure to Have a copy of the Cootie Rituals with you.
- Failure to Identify himself by his Cootie Number to the S.S.
- Improper Tassel Colors on Hat.
- Killing Cooties. (Foot or Feet flat on the Floor)
- Lady in the House. (Legs or Feet Crossed)
- Late for a Scratch.
- Telephone Rings during the scratch.
- Failure to have 20 baht notes (for fines) at the scratch.
- Leaving the Inner Seams of a Scratch without removing the Degree Sign.
- No Cootie Drivers License.
- No V.F.W. and or M.O.C. Membership Card.
- No V.F.W. or M.O.C. Application Forms with you.
- No Cootie Challenge Coin. (Special rules apply see Pg. 6)
- Out of Uniform. (PT Officers No Official Hat)
- No PT Insignia, Red Socks or Cootie Bug.
- Private Scratch. (Speaking without being recognized by the S.S.).
- Roll Call Errors.
- Tassel at Rest. (Tassel not straight down)

PROPERTY:

[A] Unattended Shag shall be subject to appropriation by another Cootie. If left unattended during the Scratch or recess it may be taken by any Cootie and offered back to the owner for a fine deemed appropriate or auctioned off by the Provost Marshal.

[B] No Records, Money or Other Property of the Pup Tent in custody of any Cootie shall be subject to appropriation except one: The S.S. is responsible for his Gavel at all times during the Scratch and during recesses in a Scratch. If the S.S. leaves his station and officially hands the gavel to the B.B., the B.B. then assumes the same responsibility for the Gavel until he hands it back to the S.S. or the Scratch is officially closed. The Gavel shall not be subject to appropriation prior to the original convening of a Scratch or after the official closing of the Scratch.

COMMUNICATION:

All Cooties should have:

[A] Telephone. Home and/or Mobile.

[B] Complete Home Mailing Address.

[C] E-mail address.

MEMBERSHIP:

CCDB is the designated Membership Chairman.

[A] All Members, Transfers and Applicants must present all documents, in original condition, requested by letter or email, to the CCDB as soon as possible prior to Scratch (preferred 60 days.) (Copies are normally acceptable, Originals only upon request)

[B] Members transferring into Maeng Das Pup Tent 6 must provide the Name and Address of their Original Pup Tent for Verification of Degree work in addition to the Name and Number of their VFW Post at that time.

[C] Qualifications for a Cootie. "At all times, neat appearance, conduct becoming a Cootie and Gentleman, while in Public and at V.F.W. and M.O.C. activities" (Ritual Manual.)

[C.1] Intoxication, vulgar language and conduct un-becoming a Cootie and Gentleman, while in Public, or at V.F.W. and M.O.C. activities as well as activities supported by these groups, will result in strong disciplinary action, not excluding expulsion.

ATTENDANCE:

[A] Cooties, Graybacks and Nits in good standing from any Pup Tent may attend Regular and Special Scratches conducted in the 1st Degree.

[B] Nits and Graybacks may attend all Scratches except a Scratch, which is conducted in a higher Degree than they have attained, except for their initiation into that degree.

[C] All Cooties are reminded that when they received their 2nd Degree Initiation they took an obligation to faithfully attend all Scratches held within their district.

[D] While attending a regular VFW meeting, Cooties should wear the cootie bug on the back of your shirt collar.

INITIATION

"It is believed that greater emphasis should be placed on the Humanitarian Principles of the Organization rather than upon the humiliating aspects of the 3rd Degree work and Initiations carried on by some Pup Tents" (Ritual Manual). Pup Tent 6 will not humiliate anyone during Initiations.

[A] The 1st, 2nd and 3rd Degrees are normally given on the same day.

[B] After the 3rd Degree Initiation, the Graybacks upon whom that degree was confirmed are responsible for providing refreshments for all Cooties present.

Cootie Challenge Coin Rules

1. Rules of the coin game must be given or explained to all new coin holders.
2. The coin **MUST** be carried at all times. You can be challenged for it anywhere, at any time. You must produce the coin without taking more than 4 steps to produce it.
3. When challenging, the challenger must state whether it is for (single drink or a round of drinks) or a fine not to exceed 100 Baht.
4. Failure to produce a coin, for whatever reason, results in a bought round or single drinks (whatever the challenger stated). This type of transaction could be expensive, so hold onto your coin. Once the offender (coinless SHAVETAIL) has settled his challenge obligation he can't be challenged again.
5. During the scratch a group challenge can be initiated only once. Anyone can initiate the challenge by tapping his/her coin repeatedly on the table until recognized by the Seamy.
6. If all that are challenged produce their coins, the challenger loses and must buy a drink for the most senior cootie present (Lowest Coin Number) or make a contribution of 100 baht to the duffle. This too can be expensive, so challenge wisely.
7. Under no circumstances can a coin be handed to another in response to a challenge. If a person gives their coin to another, that person can now keep the coin -- it's theirs!!! However, if a person places the coin down and the coin is left unattended, another person can pick it up to examine it, that is not considered giving and the examiner is honor-bound to place the coin back where they got it. The examiner can't challenge while they hold another's coin
8. If a coin is lost, replacement is up to the individual. A new coin should be acquired at the earliest opportunity -- losing a coin and not replacing it doesn't relieve a member of his or her responsibilities. This is especially true if your fellow SHAVETAIL's know that you traditionally carry a coin.

9. The **Cootie Challenge Coins** should be controlled at all times. Giving a coin to just anyone is like opening a fraternity to just anyone. It is an honor to be given a coin, let's keep it that way. A given or awarded coin is of more personal value than a purchased coin.
10. The Pup Tent 6 challenge coins will be controlled by the CCDB. New members of the Pup Tent will not be eligible to receive a coin until they have completed the 3rd degree work and have obtained Cootie status. Price to obtain a Pup Tent Coin will be no less than \$10.00
11. No holes may be drilled in a coin.

The above rules apply to anyone who is worthy to be given/awarded a coin, or has a purchased coin. Visitors and distinguished guest present at the scratch who do not have a cootie challenge coin are not bound by these rules.

Titles - Pup Tent 6

Atom - Applicant
Blanket Bum [B.B.] - Senior Vice Commander
Cootie - 3rd Degree
Custodian of Crummy Duffle Bag (CCDB)=Quartermaster/Membership
Delousing Crew [D.C.] - Degree Team
Grayback - 2nd Degree
Great Blue Louse [G.B.L.]
Hide Gimlet [H.G.] - Junior Vice Commander
Hungry Cootie [H.C.] - Adjutant
Jimmy Legs [J.L.] - Officer of the Guard
Keeper of the Crummy Records [K.C.R.] - Historian
Newshound [N.H.] - Publicity
Nit - 1st Degree
Pill Pusher [P.P.] - Surgeon
Provost Marshall [P.M.] - Officer of the Day
Seam Squirrel [S.S.] - Commander
Shirt Reader [S.R.] - Master of Ceremonies
Shyster [S.] - Judge Advocate
Sky Pilot [S.P.] - Chaplain
Tightwad 1 year [T.W. 1] - Trustee First Year
Tightwad 2 year [T.W. 2] - Trustee Second Year
Tightwad 3 year [T.W. 3] - Trustee Third Year
V.F.W. Booster Chairman [B.C.]
Windjammer [W.J.] - Bugler