



Military Brotherhood MMC

SOP 10 –Rev24 Jan 20

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

10

Wearing of Honours and Awards and Other Commercial Items on Club Vests

References

A: RSL Protocols at www.rsl.org.au/

B: SOP 3 – Club Standards of Dress (CSOD)

General.

1. The Military brotherhood MMC mandates the wearing of Australian, Commonwealth and allied Force decorations on Club Vests.
2. However, the Club cannot and does not encourage the wearing of unofficial commemorative medals or other non-issue items in combination with official ones on the left side of the vest. Wearing unofficial commemoratives with issued medals destroys the integrity of Australia's honours and awards system, and demeans the genuine service of the wearer.
3. The following rules are to be observed by all members when wearing Australian, Commonwealth or Allied honours and awards, other military-orientated items and bike run or event patches on Club Vests;
 - a. If you were awarded an honour or award by the government of the country you served, at the time you were living in that country, then those honours and awards must be worn on the left breast. (if in doubt please refer to Australian honours and awards, issues have arisen with medals being incorrectly presented at some official ceremonies example UN volunteers medal, these were presented to some people at official functions and placed on the left breast but



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should not be worn there);

- b. If you had to buy the item from a commercial outlet then you were NOT issued that item by the government of the country you served, at the time you were living in that country. Therefore those items should be worn on the right breast preferably below any deceased Next of Kin (NOK) medals you may be wearing;
- c. Commercially purchased items, eg, those not issued, are Not to be worn on the left breast;
- d. To confirm the Club's position with respect to the protocols as indicated in reference A, mixing of issued awards and honours with commercially purchased items on the left breast is strictly forbidden;
- e. If you served in the Australian Defence Force or a Commonwealth or Allied Defence Force, and their present Standard of Dress (SOD) indicate the wearing of a particular embellishment, whether on the left or right breast, then you are entitled to wear that embellishment;
- f. Club run patches and events patches are to be worn on the lower left side and supported patches are to be worn on the lower right side of the vest;
- g. If an honour or award, or any embellishment is in dispute as to where it should be worn on the club vest, then the Clb Executive- in committee- shall consider the situation and make a ruling.
- h. In accordance with RSL protocol the Club vest should always be buttoned up / fastened when wearing medal outdoors.



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4. Serving members are governed by the Defence Act on the wearing of medals. Commemoratives and Association medals are not authorized to be worn on service uniforms by serving members.

5. Members who are no longer serving (ex-serving members) are not governed by the Defence Act, but currently accepted protocols still apply. These protocols are based on the Defence Act governing serving members. Ex-serving members can better understand the protocols as defined by the Returned services League (RSL) at; www.rsl.org.au/ Click on the “information” button and then click on the “Medal Sequence” button. Otherwise the following excerpt from RSL protocols are attached as Annex A.



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Annex A: SOP 10



RSL Medal Protocols

Miniature Medals

The only time these should be worn are on occasions when evening dress or a dinner jacket is worn at a dinner or evening function.

Wearing of non-official medals

The RSL actively discourages the wearing of non-official medals at RSL and other ceremonial or commemorative functions. If Commemorative Medals are worn, they should be positioned on the right breast and not mixed with Service Medals or Decorations.

The Awards and National Symbols Branch of the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet further states:

"Over a number of years some ex-service organisations have created and distributed 'commemorative' medals to mark Particular periods of military service. These medals have no official status.

You should be aware that the government has created a number of official medals that commemorate certain events, for example, the 80th Anniversary Armistice Remembrance Medal, the Australian Sports Medal and the "Anniversary of National Service 1951-1972 Medal".

Only those medals, decorations and honours, which have been created under the prerogative of the Crown, have official status. Such medals should be worn in accordance with The Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards on the left breast either on an official uniform or civilian dress.

Official medals worn by relatives of a deceased veteran should be worn on the right breast.

Ideally, unofficial medals should not be worn. However if they are worn as the occasion demands, they may be worn on the right breast.

This advice is based on official protocol and practice'.

Fraudulent Wearing of Medals

No person, with the exception of a direct descendant of a deceased service man or woman, may wear medals which have not been awarded to him or her personally. This also applies to the wearing of miniature medals and medal ribbons.

Fraudulent wearing of medals attracts penalties under Federal regulations and also attracts subsequent penalties under the RSL Constitution.