

LEGAL NOTICE NO. 19

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND FESTIVALS ACT, CHAP. 19:05

REGULATIONS

MADE BY THE PRESIDENT UNDER SECTION 5 OF THE PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
AND FESTIVALS ACT

THE CARNIVAL REGULATIONS, 2026

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Carnival Regulations, Citation 2026.
2. In these Regulations, “leader” means the person responsible for Interpretation the organisation of a band or an orchestra.
3. (1) A person shall not— Restrictions
 - (a) appear dressed in—
 - (i) the uniform prescribed for the Police Service, Special Reserve Police, Supplemental, City or Borough Police, Fire Service, Prison Service or any unit of the Defence Force unless the person is a serving member of the Police Service, Special Reserve Police, Supplemental, City or Borough Police, Fire Service, Prison Service or any unit of the Defence Force; or
 - (ii) any costume which may be mistaken for the uniform prescribed for the Police Service, Special Reserve Police, Supplemental, City or Borough Police, Fire Service, Prison Service or any unit of the Defence Force;
 - (b) portray or represent or appear wearing any costume which portrays or represents in any manner, any deity of a living religion or portray any event in a manner likely to bring into disrepute, ridicule or contempt, any religion practised in Trinidad and Tobago;
 - (c) throw any substance, matter or thing likely to cause damage, injury or discomfort;
 - (d) smear or daub on any other person any substance, matter or thing, or with intent to intimidate or to obtain from that other person any money or valuable thing, attempt or threaten to smear or daub on that other person any substance, matter or thing;
 - (e) have in any public place any exposed flame or any article of an offensive nature;

- (f) carry any lethal weapon or any article capable of causing damage or injury unless that person is a member of the Police Service, Special Reserve Police, Supplemental, City or Borough Police, or the Defence Force and is on duty;
- (g) play in any orchestra on the road unless the name and address of the person and the name of the orchestra are registered in accordance with regulation 5;
- (h) drive any motor vehicle when masked or facially disguised;
- (i) travel in any motor vehicle when masked or facially disguised, unless the vehicle is licensed in accordance with regulation 6;
- (j) sing or recite any lewd or offensive song;
- (k) indulge in behaviour or gestures which are immoral, lewd or offensive;
- (l) carry or use in a derogatory manner the flag or Coat of Arms of Trinidad and Tobago or of any other country;
- (m) have in his possession or carry in any band anything resembling a firearm or ammunition;
- (n) carry any explosive or smoke producing substance or anything likely to produce smoke; or
- (o) drive or display any vehicle disguised as a tank, armoured military vehicle, rocket-launcher, artillery or warship.

Chap. 16:01 (2) Section 2 of the Firearms Act applies for the interpretation of such expressions as are referred to in subparagraphs (m), (n) and (o) as defined in that Act.

Registration
of bands

4. The leader of every band—

- (a) of more than fifty persons, shall register his band not later than 28th January, 2026, with the Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Police in charge of the Police Division in which the leader resides and on registration, the Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Police shall assign a registration number to the band;
- (b) shall ensure that his band is identified by a banner on which the name and registration number of the band are inscribed in a conspicuous manner; and
- (c) of more than fifty persons, shall produce the certificate of registration of the band at the request of any uniformed member of the Police Service, Special Reserve Police, Supplemental, City or Borough Police.

5. (1) The leader of an orchestra shall not allow his orchestra to play on the road unless he has registered its name and the names and addresses of its members with the Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Police in charge of the Police Division in which the leader resides and on registration, the Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Police shall assign a registration number and a certificate of registration to the orchestra. ^{Registration of orchestras}

(2) The leader of an orchestra shall ensure that his orchestra is identified by a banner on both sides of which the name of the orchestra and the registration number are inscribed in a conspicuous manner.

(3) The leader of an orchestra shall produce the certificate of registration for the orchestra at the request of any uniformed member of the Police Service, Special Reserve Police, Supplemental, City or Borough Police.

6. (1) A motor vehicle shall not be used to convey the members of any orchestra or any person masked or facially disguised, unless a licence has been issued by the Senior Superintendent or Superintendent of Police in charge of the Police Division in which the owner of the motor vehicle resides. ^{Licensing of vehicles}

(2) The owner of the motor vehicle shall make an application for a licence not later than 28th January, 2026 and the application shall contain—

- (a) the names and addresses of the persons to be conveyed;
- (b) the name of the band to which the persons belong; and
- (c) the names and addresses of the persons, not more than three in number, who would be driving the motor vehicle during Carnival.

(3) Any member of the Police Service, Special Reserve Police, Supplemental, City or Borough Police, may stop and search any motor vehicle in which there is any person who is masked or facially disguised or may require any person in the motor vehicle to give his name and address.

7. Any person who, during the period of Carnival 2026, contravenes any of these Regulations commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months. ^{Penalty}

Duration 8. These Regulations apply for the period of Carnival 2026, as declared under section 5 of the Public Holidays and Festivals Act.

Dated this 22nd day of January, 2026.

C. HEMLEE
Secretary to Cabinet