

Extract from St John (Membership, Honours and Awards) Regulations 2022

PART SIX – AWARDS FOR BRAVERY

1 Interpretation

In this Part Six:

“**Nomination**” means a nomination for a Bravery Award; “**Nominator**” means the person or organisation making a Nomination and “**Nominee**” means the person in respect of whom a Nomination is made;

“**Specified Act**” means the act or acts done by a Nominated Person and on which the Nomination of that person is based.

2 Awards for bravery

(1) The Order may award for the purpose of recognising bravery:

- (a) the Life Saving Medal; or
- (b) the Certificate of Honour.

(2) Priors may also recognise acts of bravery, in accordance with Regulation 24.

3 The Life Saving Medal

The Life Saving Medal may be bestowed on a person who:

- (a) has performed a conspicuous act of bravery;
- (b) in performing that act has endangered his own life; and
- (c) has performed that act in saving or attempting to save the life of one or more other persons.

4 Conditions for award of Life Saving Medal

(1) **Condition 1: conspicuous bravery**

(a) The first condition is that the Nominee must have performed a conspicuous act of bravery. The test is both objective and subjective. Objectively, the circumstances must be dangerous (so that, if they are not dangerous, the test is not satisfied, even if the Nominee perceives danger). Subjectively, the Nominee must:

- (i) be aware of the risk;
- (ii) have an opportunity, however brief, to assess the risk and to make his or her choice as to whether or not to do the Specified Act; and

(iii) deliberately and voluntarily decide to do the Specified Act.

(b) The Specified Act must go well beyond what might be expected of an ordinary citizen in corresponding circumstances.

(2) **Condition 2: endangering of own life**

The second condition is that the Nominee must have endangered his or her own life. The test is objective. In the light of actual circumstances (whether or not they are fully known to the Nominee), in performing the Specified Act the Nominee must have incurred a real risk that he or she would die in the process.

(3) **Condition 3: attempt to save life or others**

The third condition is that the sole or main objective of the Nominee in performing the Specified Act must have been to save the life or one or more other persons.

5 Factors considered

(1) The Honours and Awards Committee considers all Nominations for the award of the Life Saving Medal.

(2) In deciding whether to recommend an award of the Life Saving Medal and, if so, at what level, the Honours and Awards Committee shall consider all relevant circumstances.

(3) The primary factors to which the Honours and Awards Committee shall have regard are:

(a) the degree of risk, and so the likelihood of death, which the Nominee knowingly undertakes; and

(b) the degree of persistence shown by the Nominee in voluntarily continuing with his or her endeavours.

(4) The Honours and Awards Committee will also consider factors which influence the level of risk and/or the degree of bravery, including (without limitation) the environment in which the Specified Act takes place, climatic conditions and the presence or absence of other persons.

(5) Where the Nominee is injured in the course of performing the Specified Act:

(a) that fact is not in itself a determinant of whether an award should be made or the level of the award; but

(b) it may be evidence of the level of risk assumed by the Nominee.

(6) Where the Nominee is injured or disabled before, and independently of, the Specified Act, but nevertheless carries out the Specified Act, the fact that the Nominee persists notwithstanding the injury or disablement may indicate a greater level of bravery.

(7) The physical strength of the Nominee may have particular significance in the endeavour and may indicate the level of risk undertaken. For example, a strong person attempting to rescue a person in a torrent may assume a lesser risk than a weaker person.

- (8) Save in the circumstances contemplated in Regulation 5(7), the physical strength of the Nominee is not relevant.
- (9) The gender of the Nominee is not relevant, save in the circumstances contemplated in Regulation 5(7).
- (10) There is no age limit for an award of the Life Saving Medal. A Nominee's age may be a factor in deciding whether or not an award should be made and, if so, at what level.

6 Other factors

Factors which may make it less likely that an award will be made or indicate an award at a lower level include:

- (a) if the Nominee is a close relative of the person in peril;
- (b) if the Nominee has available and uses life-saving or protective equipment which reduces the risk of the Nominee's death; and
- (c) if the Nominee is in paid employment and rescue activities are reasonably to be regarded as forming part of the duties of that employment.

7 Ineligible acts

No award may be made:

- (a) for acts, however brave, to protect property;
- (b) for acts, however brave, to save an animal's life;
- (c) for acts of self-protection or self-preservation; or
- (d) for acts in relation to which the person was caught up in the course of events and was not able to exercise free choice.

8 Categories

The Life Saving Medal is awarded in one of three categories according to the degree of bravery displayed:

- (a) gold;
- (b) silver; and
- (c) bronze.

9 Recipients

- (1) The Life Saving Medal or Bar may be awarded to a person irrespective of:
 - (a) whether or not he or she is a Member of the Order or of one of its Establishments;
 - (b) his or her nationality or country of residence; or
 - (c) the place in which the act was performed,

and, in deciding whether to make an award, regard shall be had to the existence in the country in which the person is resident or of which he is a national of any applicable national bravery awards or awards made by other bodies of standing.

- (2) If a person has already been awarded the Life Saving Medal, second or subsequent acts of bravery may be recognised by the award of a Bar in a metal consistent with the level of bravery displayed in the subsequent act. The provisions of Part Six apply, with any necessary modifications, to the award of a Bar for such a subsequent act of bravery.

10 Non-duplication of Awards

The Life Saving Medal is not awarded to a person who for the same act has received a national bravery award or an award from another body of standing.

11 Certificate of award of Life Saving Medal

A person who is awarded the Life Saving Medal shall also receive a certificate of the award. The certificate shall be signed by the Grand Prior and by the Secretary-General and shall be issued under the seal of the Order.

12 Design of the Life Saving Medal and Bar

- (1) The Life Saving Medal is circular and is of a diameter of 37mm.
- (2) The obverse of the Life Saving Medal depicts the Badge of the Order. It bears around the circumference the legend FOR SERVICE IN THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY.
- (3) The reverse of the Life Saving Medal depicts a sprig of St John's Wort bound with a ribbon bearing the words JERUSALEM and ENGLAND. It bears around the circumference the legend AWARDED BY THE GRAND PRIORY OF THE ORDER OF THE HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN OF JERUSALEM.
- (4) The Bar to the Life Saving Medal depicts laurel leaves.

13 Ribbon

The ribbon is 38mm wide and has a black centre stripe of 26mm bordered by 2mm white stripes and edged with 4mm red stripes.

14 Naming

The Life Saving Medal is engraved on the rim (and the bar is engraved on the reverse) with the name of the recipient and the year of the act of bravery for which it was awarded.

15 Miniatures

- (1) Miniatures of the Life Saving Medal are worn by holders of the Life Saving Medal on all occasions on which miniatures are worn.
- (2) The miniature of the Life Saving Medal is a reproduction of the full size medal with a maximum of 25mm diameter.

16 Posthumous awards

The Life Saving Medal and Bar may be awarded posthumously.

17 Wearing

The Life Saving Medal, or the ribbon when medals are not worn, is worn in accordance with national “Order of Wear” (which, in the United Kingdom, is on the right breast).

18 Manner of wearing of the Life Saving Medal

The manner in which and the occasions on which the Life Saving Medal may be worn, with or without Robes, and whether on the uniform of an Establishment or otherwise shall be:

- (a) in the United Kingdom, in accordance with the terms of the instructions or guidance issued by the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood or, in the case of wearing the Medal on the uniform of an Establishment, in accordance with the terms of any applicable Establishment regulations and failing which in accordance with the Queen’s Dress Regulations for the Army; and
- (b) in a territory outside the United Kingdom, in accordance with any regulations or instructions issued by a governmental or other official body having jurisdiction to prescribe such matters in the territory or by such body as the Honours and Awards Committee may specify.

19 The Certificate of Honour

A Certificate of Honour may be awarded to a person who:

- (a) has performed a conspicuous act of bravery;
- (b) has performed that act in saving or attempting to save the life of one or more other persons; and
- (c) has performed that act in circumstances which do not merit the award of the Life Saving Medal.

(1) The Honour and Awards Committee considers all recommendations for the award of the Certificate of Honour.

(2) Regulations 5 to 7 apply in relation to the decision of the Honours and Awards committee as to whether to award the Certificate of Honour, with any necessary modifications.

20 Further provisions

The provisions of Regulations 9 and 16 apply to Certificates of Honour as they do to the Medal.

21 Signatures and sealing of Certificate of Honour

The Certificate of Honour shall be signed by the Grand Prior and by the Secretary-General and shall be issued under the seal of the Order.

22 Nominations for Life Saving Medal or Certificate of Honour

(1) A Nomination may be made by any person in respect of any Nominee, whether or not that Nominee has any connection with the Order or any Establishment and whether or not the Specified Act was done in an Establishment Territory.

- (2) Where the Specified Act was done in an Establishment Territory, the Nomination should be submitted by the relevant Establishment to the Honours and Awards Committee through the Secretary-General.
- (3) If a Nomination is received directly by the Secretary-General in respect of a Specified Act done in an Establishment Territory, the Secretary-General shall refer it to the relevant Establishment for comment before it is considered by the Honours and Awards Committee. The Honours and Awards Committee shall only consider that Nomination if it is supported by the relevant Establishment.

23 Supporting information and documents

- (1) Nominations should contain the following information:
 - (a) the full name, country of residence and date of birth of the Nominee;
 - (b) the date, place and time of the Specified Act;
 - (c) a commentary on such factors as are set out in Regulation 4 as are relevant to the Nomination and on any other factors which the Nominator or (if the Nominator is not an Establishment) the relevant Establishment considers material, including the number of casualties, the presence or absence of the emergency services and any other relevant matters;
 - (d) the Nominator's and (if the Nominator is not an Establishment) the relevant Establishment's assessment of the achievements of the Nominee in doing the Specified Act;
 - (e) details of any connection which the Nominee has with the Order or any of its Establishments; and
 - (f) documentary or other independent evidence of the Specified Act, including (where the police have attended the incident) as copy of the relevant police statement or report.

(2) Time Limits

Nominations must normally be submitted to the Honours and Awards Committee within two years of the relevant specified Act. The Honours and Awards Committee may extend this period in exceptional cases. In the case of a Nomination made by a person other than an Establishment, the time limit will be deemed to have been satisfied if the Nomination is received by the relevant Establishment within the two year period.

24 Priory recognition of acts of bravery

Priorities may recognise acts of bravery in such manner not being inconsistent with the Statutes and these Regulations as they think fit, provided that the manner of any such recognition must be approved in advance by the Honours and Awards Committee.

25 Register of recipients

The Secretary-General shall maintain a register of recipients of the Life Saving Medal and the Certificate of Honour.

Cancellation of the Life Saving Medal or Bar

If, following the award of a Life Saving Medal or Bar, facts become known which, if known at the time when the award was being considered, would have been likely to have resulted in the award not being made, the Honours and Awards Committee may cancel the relevant award (and, in any such case, the relevant holder shall cease to be entitled to wear that Life Saving Medal or Bar).

Illustration of the Life Saving Medal and its Ribbon

