

BLAKE STREET HEBREW CONGREGATION

Aliyot policy 7 March 2000

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to determine the number of Aliyot and other honours which may be given on a Shabbat morning service. Whilst limiting the number of Aliyot may mean that families are not able to give honours to all the people they may wish to, it does streamline the service, and ensure that the simcha progresses smoothly, and is not unduly prolonged.

The policy has been drafted in consideration of the need to maintain a reasonable length of service and decorum in the service, balanced with the need to allow the Ba'alei simcha to give honours to family and friends.

Numbers of Aliyot:

1. If there is no simcha

7 Aliyot plus maftir. No additional Aliyot to be given. Priority for Aliyot would be given to someone observing Yahrzeit, returning from travel, recovering from illness etc.

2. Bar or Bat Mitzvah (no other simcha)

There will only be one Bar or Bat Mitzvah on any given Shabbat morning, save for exceptional circumstances, and with the approval of the first-booked bar/ bat mitzvah family.

There will be 8 Aliyot plus maftir, hagba, gelila and 2 x peticha. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah family will be offered the nomination of 8 people (including Maftir) who may all receive honours. The nomination is to include a Cohen or Levi. If they do not wish to nominate a Cohen or Levi, their allocation will be reduced accordingly. In the case of a Bar Mitzvah a minimum of 5 honours will be allocated (if desired). In the case of a Bat Mitzvah, a minimum of 4 aliyot is guaranteed. This allows for Cohen, Levi and other members of the Kehilla who require a callup to be accommodated.

3. Bar/ Bat Mitzvah plus another simcha.

Whilst there may not be more than one Bar/ Bat Mitzvah, it is possible that there will be a Bar/ Bat Mitzvah together with an Aufruf, baby naming, announcement of engagement etc.

The Bar / Bat Mitzvah takes precedence over other smachot on the day, in terms of allocation of Aliyot. Advice to the family of the Bar/ Bat Mitzvah child remains as in section 2 above, with a guarantee of 5 (Bar Mitzvah) or 4 (Bat Mitzvah) honours to be allocated.

Where there is more than one simcha, there may be a maximum of 10 Aliyot plus Maftir. **This number is not to be exceeded.** If necessary, Aliyot for baby naming, Aufruf engagement, etc will be limited to one (ie the father of the child, or the groom).

Discretion must at all times be exercised by the Gabbayim/President in the allocation of a limited number of honours amongst a greater number of people desiring honours. In the event of a conflict between a member and a non-member in the allocation of an honour, priority should be given to the member, if possible, having regard to the guidelines of this policy.

4. General

People wishing to be called up in honour of a Yahrzeit, where there are many demands on callups on the Shabbat morning, will be encouraged to be called up on Shabbat Mincha, or, if appropriate, on a Monday or Thursday morning.

People giving “mishebairachs” after Aliyot will be encouraged to honour “wife/ children/ parents and all the family” as appropriate, rather than listing each individual.