

Alberta Society of Pipers and Drummers
Rules for Adjudicators

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1 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 - Objectives

1.1.1 The objectives of the Alberta Society of Pipers and Drummers (the "Society") with respect to solo piping competitions are as follows:

- To devise and administer comprehensive rules governing piping, drumming and pipe band competitions;
- To preserve, promote and encourage proficiency in musical performance;
- To ensure that competitions are run according to the Society's rules for solo piping, drumming and pipe band competitions in a fair, respected, and beneficial manner to the Competitors, the Competition Committee, and the Society; and
- To promote and encourage participation Highland Games and Scottish Cultural events for the benefit of the Competition Committee and Highland Games attendees.

1.2 - Geographical Area and Registering

1.2.1 The geographical area where the Society registers Adjudicators is the Province of Alberta. Registering is a cooperative agreement between the Society and the various organizations sponsoring Competition Committees ("Competition Committee") to ensure that competitions are run according to the Society's rules for competitions in a fair, respected, and beneficial manner to the Competitors, the Competition Committee, and the Society.

1.3 - Integrity of the Rules

1.3.1 Members of the Society and members of the Society's approved Adjudicators Panel should not take part in any competition which would cause the Society's rules to be compromised to the significant detriment of the Society, the Competition Committee or the Competitors. It shall be the responsibility of the Society's Board of Directors (the "Executive") to inform members and Adjudicators of any such competitions.

1.4 - Affiliated Associations

1.4.1 Officially recognized Pipe Band Associations affiliated with the Association are:

- Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association,
- Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association;
- British Columbia Pipers' Association,
- Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba,
- Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario,
- Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association,
- Eastern United States Pipe Band Association,
- Midwest (U.S.) Pipe Band Association,
- Southern United States Pipe Band Association;
- Western United States Pipe Band Association,
- Australian Pipe Band Association,
- Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Association Inc.,
- Irish Pipe Band Association.

2 - AUTHORITY

2.1 - Oversight

2.1.1 Within its registering jurisdiction, the Society shall have the responsibility and authority to determine people qualified to adjudicate registered competitions. The Society shall maintain an [approved Adjudicators List](#) of these qualified people

2.1.2 The Society shall provide current copies of the aforementioned approved Adjudicators List to the relevant Competition Committees.

2.2 - Requirements

2.2.1. A minimum of one Adjudicator is required to adjudicate a solo competition, but where a Highland Games deems it prudent, more than one Adjudicator may be assigned to an individual event.

2.2.2. The minimum number of Adjudicators engaged in any pipe band competition shall be as follows: two (2) Piping, one (1) Drumming and one (1) Ensemble.

2.2.3. The Adjudicators for sanctioned competitions shall be drawn from:

- the approved Adjudicators List of the Society, or
- the approved Adjudicators Lists of piping/pipe band associations officially recognized by and affiliated with the Society, or ANAPBA recognized organizations.

2.2.4 The decision of an Adjudicator shall be based on their honest and best judgment of the relative merit of the performances adjudicated, based on the criteria set by the Executive from time to time as indicated on the score sheet for the event.

2.2.5 The decision of the Adjudicator is final. For pipe band contests, an Adjudicator consultative process is followed prior to reaching a final decision.

2.2.6 No member shall attempt, directly or indirectly, to improperly influence the selection of or a decision of an Adjudicator. Breach of this rule may subject the member involved to disciplinary proceedings.

3 - COMPETITIONS

3.1 Adjudicators' Conduct

3.1.1 Where possible Adjudicators shall not adjudicate/judge members of their immediate family or spouses of their immediate family in solo or band events.

3.1.2 Where possible Adjudicators shall not adjudicate/judge a band with which they were associated for one year after terminating their relationship with the band.

3.1.3. Where possible Adjudicators shall not adjudicate/judge current students attending regular private lessons with the Adjudicator.

3.1.4 In all cases, Adjudicators should make the Competition Committee aware of possible contraventions to Sections 3.1.1, 3.1.2. or 3.1.3. The Competition Committee will be responsible for determining if a reasonable alternative is available, or if the Adjudicator should proceed with

adjudicating the event.

3.1.5 Adjudicators shall not converse with one another or compare notes about their results, until their results have been given to the Chief Steward.

3.2 - Guidance for Adjudicators

3.2.1. Piping events shall be adjudicated under the categories of Execution, Expression, Quality and Variety, Tone and Tuning, and Tempo. Suggested weightings for the various categories may vary from grade to grade as determined by the event Adjudicator.

3.2.2. On the adjudication sheets, Adjudicators shall provide an assessment of the Competitor's performance and, where possible constructive criticism. Adjudicators may make a comment regarding settings of tunes that in their opinion are not musical.

3.2.3. The Adjudicators may comment on the appropriateness of the competitor playing in that grade.

3.2.4 Following commencement, any piper breaking down during his/her performance shall be disqualified. Other serious flaws, such as drone stopping or mistakes in the tune, shall be left to the discretion of the Adjudicator.

4 - QUALIFICATION/CERTIFICATION

The Society will endeavor to ensure the highest quality of adjudication for its sanctioned contests.

4.1 Pipe Band Adjudicators

4.1.1 All Adjudicators of pipe bands must hold a valid certification. Piping and Drumming Adjudicators will receive either an "A" or "B" classification, and may in turn apply for an Ensemble classification in accordance with the specifications and prerequisites contained herein.

4.1.2 Minimum practical qualifications of candidates:

A. Piping candidates seeking an "A" classification must meet the following criteria:

- A minimum of 10 years playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe;
- Must have competed in a Grade 1 pipe band or been Pipe Major of a Grade 2 pipe band for five years within the last 15 years.

B. Drumming candidates seeking an "A" classification must meet the following criteria:

- A minimum of 10 years playing experience on the snare drum;
- Must have competed in a Grade 1 pipe band or been lead stroke of a Grade 2 pipe band for five years within the last 15 years.

C. Piping candidates seeking a "B" classification must meet the following criteria:

- A minimum of 10 years playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe;
- Must have competed in a Grade 1 or a Grade 2 pipe band for five years within the last 15 years.

D. Drumming candidates seeking a “B” classification must meet the following criteria:

- A minimum of 10 years playing experience on the snare drum;
- Must have competed in a Grade 1 pipe band or been Lead Drummer of a Grade 2 pipe band for five years within the last 15 years.

E. Piping candidates seeking an *Ensemble* classification must meet the following criteria:

- A minimum of 10 years playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe;
- Must have competed in a Grade 1 pipe band for five years within the last 15 years;
- Must be capable of an Ensemble assessment of a pipe band performance; and
- Must hold an “A” classification and have judging experience prior to taking the Ensemble classification exam.

F. Drumming candidates seeking an *Ensemble* classification must meet the same criteria as a piping candidate, except that the playing experience is on the snare drum rather than the Great Highland Bagpipe.

The practical qualifications *do not* apply to individuals recognized as qualified within the jurisdiction in advance of December 31, 2010, or those granted equivalent status by the Music & Grading Committee and ASPD Executive.

4.1.3 Effect of Classification

- A. Piping Judges with an Ensemble classification shall be permitted to judge piping and ensemble for all grades.
- B. Piping Judges with an “A” classification shall be permitted to judge piping for all grades, but shall not be permitted to judge ensemble.
- C. Piping Judges with a “B” classification shall be permitted to judge piping for grades up to and including Grade 2, but shall not be permitted to judge Grade 1 piping or ensemble for any grade.
- D. Drumming Judges with an Ensemble classification shall be permitted to judge drumming and ensemble for all grades.
- E. Drumming Judges with an “A” classification shall be permitted to judge drumming for all grades, but shall not be permitted to judge ensemble.

4.2 - Solo Light Music

4.2.1 All Adjudicators of solo Light Music must be certified and awarded a “Level A” or “Level B” classification, in accordance with the specifications and prerequisites contained herein.

4.2.2 Practical Qualifications of Candidates.

- A. Candidates seeking a “A” classification must meet the following criteria:
 - A minimum of 15 years solo light music playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe at the Highland Games;
 - A minimum of 5 years solo light music playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe in Professional Light Music competition at the Highland Games;
 - Must have demonstrated a reasonable degree of success, as interpreted by the Music Board, in Professional Light Music competition; and

- Previous solo light music adjudication experience.

B. Candidates seeking a “B” classification must meet the following criteria:

- A minimum of 10 years solo light music playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe at the Highland Games; and
- Must have demonstrated a reasonable degree of success, as interpreted by the Music Board, in at least Grade 1 Amateur Light Music competition.

The practical qualifications *do not* apply to individuals recognized as qualified within the jurisdiction in advance of December 31, 2010, or those granted equivalent status by the Music Board and ASPD Executive.

4.2.3 Effect of Classification.

A. Judges with a “A” classification shall be permitted to judge Professional and all Amateur grades of solo Light Music, subject to the restrictions for new “A” Adjudicators as set out in sub-Section 4.2.3 C below.

B. Judges with a “B” classification shall be permitted to judge all solo Light Music for all amateur grades up to and including Grade 1, but shall not be permitted to judge Professional solo light music.

C. Candidates for “A” certification who have not previously adjudicated solo Light Music but who meet all other practical qualifications must judge Amateur solo light music events at a minimum of two Highland Games in each of at least two seasons before being permitted to judge Professional solo light music events.

4.3 Solo Piobaireachd

4.3.1. All Adjudicators of Solo Piobaireachd must be certified and awarded a “A” or “B” classification, in accordance with the specifications and prerequisites contained herein.

4.3.2. Practical Qualifications of Candidates.

A. Candidates seeking a “A” classification must meet the following criteria:

- A minimum of 15 years solo piobaireachd playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe at the Highland Games;
- A minimum of 5 years solo piobaireachd playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe in Professional piobaireachd competition at the Highland Games;
- Must have demonstrated a reasonable degree of success, as interpreted by the Music Board, in Professional Piobaireachd competition; and
- Previous solo piobaireachd adjudication experience.

B. Candidates seeking a “B” classification must meet the following criteria:

- A minimum of 10 years solo piobaireachd playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe at the Highland Games; and
- Must have demonstrated a reasonable degree of success, as interpreted by the Music Board, in at least Grade 1 Amateur Piobaireachd competition.

The practical qualifications *do not* apply to individuals recognized as qualified within the jurisdiction in advance of December 31, 2010, or those granted equivalent status by the Music Board and ASPD Executive.

4.3.2. Effect of Classification

A. Judges with a “A” classification shall be permitted to judge Professional and all Amateur grades of solo Piobaireachd, subject to the restrictions for new “A” Adjudicators as set out in (c) below.

B. Judges with a “B” classification shall be permitted to judge solo Piobaireachd for all Amateur grades up to and including Grade 2, but shall not be permitted to judge Grade 1 or Professional solo Piobaireachd.

C. Candidates for “A” certification who have not previously adjudicated solo Piobaireachd but who meet all other practical qualifications must judge Amateur solo piobaireachd events at a minimum of two Highland Games in each of at least two seasons before being permitted to judge Professional solo piobaireachd events.

4.4 - Continuing Education

4.4.1 All Adjudicators will engage in on-going educational pursuits to ensure the maintenance of their qualifications. The pursuits will be at the discretion of the individual Adjudicator; however said pursuits are to exclude participation as Adjudicators in ASPD sanctioned competitions.

4.4.2 On request of the Society, the Adjudicator shall demonstrate their undertakings to maintain qualified by way of a brief written correspondence, either electronic or hard copy.

4.4.3 In the event that an Adjudicator does not engage in active pursuits to maintain his or her qualifications, the Society shall the authority to remove his or her name from the approved Adjudicators List.