

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (London & South of England Branch)

Rules for Solo Piping Competitions

Purpose:

This document sets out the rules governing solo-piping contests administered by The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (London & South of England Branch) (hereinafter called the 'Branch') which are effective from 1 March 2011 and will apply to all such contests held after that date.

Compliance with these rules is a condition of entry to all future contests administered by the Branch and all competitors entering such contests agree to be bound by these rules when submitting their entry forms.

The Rules:

1. The Branch shall administer solo-piping contests for players of the Great Highland Bagpipe in which competitors shall have the opportunity to compete in contests segregated into Juvenile, Amateur, Open and Veteran Grades, dependent on age and/or ability.

Not all events at which the Branch administers contests shall necessarily have contests for all Grades mentioned herein.

2. **Eligibility to compete:**

The Branch solo piping contests shall be open to all competitors who pay the appropriate entry fee(s), and meet qualification, performance and dress requirements for the Grade of contest entered.

3. **Definition of Grades:**

Juvenile:

A competitor wishing to enter a Juvenile Grade contest must be under 18 years of age on the date of that contest. Where the Juvenile Grade is sub-divided into age groups, the competitor shall have attained the minimum stipulated age and shall not have exceeded the maximum stipulated age for the age group on the day of the contest and may only compete within his / her relevant age group in the Juvenile Grade contest.

Amateur:

A competitor wishing to enter an Amateur Grade contest **must not have competed in** a contest for which money prizes were on offer, for at least 5 years from the date of the current contest. **NOTE:** This stipulation applies irrespective of whether or not a piper featured in any prize list.

Open:

A competitor wishing to enter an Open Grade contest must not have competed as an Amateur or a Juvenile on the same day and must accept that, by competing in an Open Grade contest, he/she may debar himself /herself from entering an Amateur or Juvenile contest administered by the Branch for a period of five years from the date of the contest.

Veteran:

Where Veteran Grade competitions are promoted, competitors wishing to enter in that grade shall have reached 50 years of age on the day of the contest.

4. **Playing in multiple grades:**

Depending on time available, size of entry and at the discretion of the promoters and judges, it may be possible for Juveniles and Veterans to 'play up' a grade **but only subject to the following:**

A juvenile competitor may enter an Amateur contest.

A Veteran competitor may enter an Amateur or Open Grade contest (but not both) as well as the Veteran contest.

An Open Grade or Amateur competitor may enter the Veteran contest provided the age requirement is satisfied.

5. **Performance Requirements:**

The performance requirements will be set out clearly on the entry form for each contest as follows:

March: the time signature and minimum number of parts.

2/4 March Strathspey and Reel: whether (a) the March and the Strathspey and Reel are to be played separately, with or without retuning between, or (b) that the contest requires a single performance of all three tunes. Unless otherwise stated, the minimum number of parts of each tune to be played shall be four.

Hornpipe & Jig: the number of sets to be submitted and to be played and the minimum number of parts of each tune to be played.

6. **Multiple Tune Submission:**

2/4 March, Strathspey and Reel: whether the competitor shall submit (a) multiple individual tunes for the judge to select one of each time-signature for the performance set, or (b) multiple three-tune sets for the judge to select the performance set.

Piobaireachd: the number of tunes to be submitted and to be played.

In the absence of such clarity, the format of the competition shall be at the Judge's discretion provided that his decision is applied consistently to all competing pipers.

7. Dress and Deportment:

All competitors shall appear smartly attired in appropriate highland dress, including a jacket and either Glengarry or Balmoral headwear.

At the Judge's discretion, a decision may be made to dispense with the wearing of jackets on, say, an extremely hot day. Such decision shall be made and communicated to all competitors before the start of the contest. It will be for each competitor to decide whether to take advantage of any such relaxation in dress requirements.

While playing a March either in a March-only contest or as part of a March, Strathspey and Reel contest, all competitors are expected to march for the duration of the tune. Where injury or disability prevents this, competitors should seek a dispensation from the Judge, before competing, to avoid being penalised.

8. Results and Critique Sheets:

The Judge will provide each competitor with a critique-sheet for each performance. It is the responsibility of all competitors to collect all of their critique-sheets after the results are announced.

Results will be announced at the end of all competition activity.

In all solo-piping competitions, the Judge's decision is final.