



PPBSO COMPETITION RULE BOOK

Table of Contents

PART A GENERAL RULES OF THE SOCIETY	4
A-1 Definitions	4
A-2 Membership - Eligibility (updated)	5
PART B GENERAL RULES GOVERNING COMPETITIONS AND JUDGING	5
B-1 Eligibility to Compete.....	5
B-2 Dress	6
B-3 Entries	6
B-4 Repealed Oct 2024 (see PPBSO Code of Conduct).....	6
B-5 Repealed Oct 2024 (see PPBSO Code of Conduct).....	6
B-6 Score Sheets.....	7
B-7 Adjudication.....	8
B-8 Assignment of Judges (updated).....	8
B-9 Judge's Conduct	8
B-10 Judges Qualifications	8
B-11 Certification of PPBSO Pipe Band Adjudicators.....	9
B-12 Certification of PPBSO Piping Adjudicators for Solo Light Music	10
B-13 Certification of PPBSO Piping Adjudicators for Solo Piobaireachd.....	11
B-14 Certification of PPBSO Solo Drumming Adjudicators	12
PART C: RULES GOVERNING SOLO COMPETITIONS	14
C-1 Admission Refunds.....	14
C-2 Contest Registration.....	14
C-3 Order and Time of Play.....	14
C-4 Conduct and Tuning.....	14
C-5 Grade Structure	15
C-6 Grading and Upgrading.....	16
C-7 Professional Piping Contest Requirements.....	16
C-8 Grade 1 Amateur Piping Contest Requirements.....	17
C-9 Grade 2 Amateur Piping Contest Requirements.....	17
C-10 Grade 3 Amateur Piping Contest Requirements.....	17

C-11 Grade 4 Amateur Piping Contest Requirements	17
C-12 Grade 5 Amateur Piping Contest Requirements	17
C-13 Novice Practice Chanter Contest Requirements	17
C-14 Amateur Piobaireachd Contest Requirements	18
C-15 Drumming Contest Requirements.....	18
C-15.4 Grade 2 Amateur Snare Drumming Contest Requirements.....	18
C-15.5 Grade 3 Amateur Snare Drumming Contest Requirements.....	19
C-15.6 Grade 4 Amateur Snare Drumming Contest Requirements.....	19
C-15.7 Grade 5 Amateur Snare Drumming Contest Requirements.....	19
C-15.8 Novice Practice Pad Contest Requirements.....	19
C-15.9 Novice, Amateur, and Professional Solo Bass Contest Requirements	19
C-15.10 Solo Tenor Drum Contest Requirements	20
C-15.11 Professional Tenor Drumming Contest Requirements	20
C-15.12 Grade 1 Tenor Drumming Contest Requirements	20
C-15.13 Grade 2 Tenor Drumming Contest Requirements	21
C-15.14 Grade 3 Tenor Drumming Contest Requirements	21
C-15.15 Grade 4 Tenor Drumming Contest Requirements	21
C-15.16 Grade 5 Tenor Drumming Contest Requirements	21
C-15.17 Drum Majors Contest Requirements	21
C-16 Contest Results and Prize Presentation.....	21
C-17 Champion Supreme Point Structure.....	22
PART D RULES GOVERNING PIPE BAND COMPETITIONS	24
D-1 Membership and Band Rosters.....	24
D-2 Transfers of Players Between Bands	26
D-3 Band Passes and Entries	26
D-4 Competition Draws and Playing Times.....	27
D-5 Massed Bands	27
D-6 Minimum Numbers of Players.....	27
D-7 Substitute Bass Drummer	29
D-8 Runners	29
D-9 Final Tuning.....	29
D-10 Contest Performance.....	29
D-11 Lateness	30

D-12 Tune Requirements30

D-13 Medley Contest Requirements.....31

D-14 Leaving the Field after Competition.....31

D-15 Duty Band.....31

D-16 Method of Determining Winning Positions in Contests.....32

D-17 Best Pipe Section32

D-18 Best Drum Corps32

D-19 Best Bass and Tenor Section32

D-20 March and Department.....32

D-21 Prizes and Travelling Expenses32

D-22 Band Champion Supreme Awards.....33

Appendix 1 - Proper Highland Dress.....34

Appendix 2 - Developmental or Call-Up Players34

Appendix 3 – Inclement Weather Policy36

PART A GENERAL RULES OF THE SOCIETY

These rules are as complete as past experience has deemed appropriate, but as unanticipated circumstances arise, the Board of Directors will perform their duties using their best judgment and experience in providing rulings, interpretations, and conducting the affairs of the Society.

A-1 Definitions

“Affiliated Organization” means the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, the Eastern United States Pipe Band Association, or any other organization which is the subject of an affiliation resolution adopted by the Society;

“Board of Directors” means the body holding powers and authority under the Corporations Act and By-Law No.1 to manage the affairs of the Society

“Champion Supreme” means an overall champion for both bands and solo competitors derived from an established process using a cumulative tally of points subject to rule C-17 or D-22 ;

“Competing Band” means any pipe band competing in a PPBSO sanctioned contest.

“Competition” or **“Contest”** means any piping, drumming, drum major or band competition held under the auspices of the Society;

“Competitor” means any individual piper or drummer competing in a PPBSO sanctioned contest;

“Developmental” means a player so identified on a submitted band roster subject to rule D-1.2 and Appendix 2

“Eligible Juvenile Age” means any competitor whose 19th birthday occurs after the contest being entered

“Executive Committee” means a PPBSO standing committee established under By-Law No.1, Article 10 consisting of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and the immediate Past President of the Society;

“Music Committee” means a PPBSO standing committee established under By-Law No.1 Article 10;

“PPBSO” and **“Society”** mean the Corporation known as The Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario;

“PPBSO Leadership” means members of the PPBSO board of directors;

“Proper Highland Dress” means a minimum of the requirements as set forth in Appendix 1.

“Transfer” means the controlled process of leaving one registered band to join another registered band.

A-2 Membership – Entry to Competitions

A-2.1 Eligibility to Compete

A band or solo competitor must be a current and paid-up member of the PPBSO or an affiliated association to be eligible to compete.

It is the responsibility of the competitor to have evidence of current membership.

A-2.2 Contest Restrictions.

A competitor who meets eligibility under A-2.1 may face additional contest eligibility restrictions as outlined in sections C and D.

A-4 Discipline of Members

Repealed. (see PPBSO Code of Conduct - Board Policy #2 Section 4)

A-5 Ombudsman

Repealed (see PPBSO Code of Conduct - Board Policy #2 Section 3)

PART B GENERAL RULES GOVERNING COMPETITIONS AND JUDGING

Except as adopted by a Branch of the Society for their own indoor Contests, the rules governing piping, drumming, drum major and pipe band Competitions sanctioned by The Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario are as printed in this Part and in the following two Parts.

B-1 Eligibility to Compete

B-1.1 Membership. See Rule C-2.1 for Solo Competitions and Rule D-1.1 for Band Competitions

B-1.2 Compliance with Rules. An individual is eligible to play in a Contest provided he or she meets all entry requirements, tune requirements, dress requirements, conduct requirements, grading requirements, and complies with all Rules of the Society and the Contest.

B-1.3 Penalty for Breach. Breach of any eligibility requirement, Society Rule or Contest rule may cause disqualification of the individual from playing or receiving a prize in that Contest.

B-1.4 Enforcement. The Steward for each event shall have full discretion in enforcing the Rules for the Contest, subject to the disciplinary procedures herein.

B-2 Dress

- B-2.1 **Society Workers.** While encouraged, it is not required that everyone working for the Society at a Competition, including the Board of Directors, Stewards, and Runners wear Proper Highland Dress. (Appendix 1)
- B-2.2 **Competitors.** All competitors excluding practice chanter and practice pad competitors must wear Proper Highland Dress. (Appendix 1). Certain exceptions can be made during extreme weather conditions as decided by the Board or Society Officers in attendance.
- B-2.3 **Judges.** All Judges shall wear head dress appropriate for the weather, no head dress, or the uniform head dress specified by the Society or Music Committee.

B-3 Entries

- B-3.1 **Master Entry Form.** The Society shall post the official solo and band master entry forms on its website, available for download prior to the 1st of May each year.
- B-3.2 Competitors are prohibited from using any technology or assistance devices during a competitive performance that may enhance a competitor's performance. Requests for PPBSO approval in advance of usage of any such technology must be documented and made no later than with the submittal of contest entry form to allow review, evaluation and PPBSO decision of approval or disapproval.
- B-3.3 **Deadline.** A competitor's entry shall be received with full payment of entry fee on or before the closing date for entries set by the Society in order to be eligible to play; this includes the Drum Major contest.
- B-3.4 **Refund of Fees.** No refund of entry fees can be made for events entered but not played in, except where an event has been cancelled
- B-3.5 **Cancellation of Events.** Cancellation of events is at the discretion of the Society Officers in consultation with the pertinent Games Committee

B-4 Competitor's Responsibilities

- B-4.1 **Know Rules.** Each competitor and Society member is responsible for knowing and adhering to the Competition Rules adopted from time to time, and in accordance with the Code of Conduct.
- B-4.2 **Courtesy.** Each competitor and Society member shall treat all Society Officials, Society workers and other competitors with courtesy. Society workers and officials are obligated to treat all society competitors and workers with courtesy.
- B-4.3 **Enforcement.** Subject to the directions of the Society, failure to obey the Steward may result in disqualification and/or disciplinary action

B-5 Competitions - Penalties, Discipline and Protests

- B-5.1 **Disqualification.**

Competitors: Breach of any Rule may render the competitor subject to disqualification for the event in question, at the discretion of the Steward who shall be guided by the directions of the Society and adjudicator for the event.

Competing Bands: Anyone may report a suspected breach of a rule by a competing band to the Steward or Society Officers at the PPBSO tent, who will consult with PPBSO Leadership in determining any penalty, which may include the disqualification of the competing band committing the rule breach.

B-5.2 **Discipline.** Disciplinary proceedings may be taken under the Code of Conduct for any breach of these Rules which is considered to be willful, flagrant or indicative of disrespect for the integrity and authority of the Society or its members.

B-5.3 **Complaints/Protests against Contest Results.**

B-5.3(i) Competitors who wish to lodge a complaint against a contest result may do so by stating their case in writing, or by e-mail, within seven (7) days of the incident in question, and submitting it to the President of the PPBSO and the PPBSO administrator, together with a deposit of \$25, for which a dated receipt will be issued indicating the nature of the deposit.

B-5.3(ii) Within 3 days of receipt by the PPBSO of a protest against a contest result at a band or solo contest, all judges presiding at the event in question, as well as any competitors potentially affected by the decision, will be notified of the protest, and will be given 7 days to make any comment that they wish to the PPBSO board, prior to the board making a final decision on the protest.

B-5.3(iii) If the complaint is found to be justified, the \$25.00 will be returned to the competitor lodging the complaint, and any required adjustments resulting from the decision will be made.

B-6 Score Sheets

B-6.1 **Score Sheets Mandatory.** A score sheet shall be filled out by each Judge for each competitor in each event.

B-6.2 **Competitor's Copy.** Each competitor may receive one copy of his or her score sheet after the results of the Contest have been posted. Each competitor shall claim his or her score sheet within a reasonable time of its availability.

B-6.3 **Society's Record.** The Society receives a record sheet signed by the Judge summarizing the contest results. The Society verifies that each score sheet corresponds to the contest result summary. Random samples of score sheets shall be retained by the Society for review purposes.

B-6.4 **Form.** The form of score sheets shall be as adopted by the Board of Directors from time to time

B-6.5 **Band Score Sheets.** Each judge shall receive a score sheet for each band and a list of the tune names, time signatures and number of parts to be played.

B-7 Adjudication

- B-7.1 **Panel.** PPBSO judges must be PPBSO members. Contest adjudicators shall be drawn from the approved panel of PPBSO Judges as set by the Board of Directors from time to time, or from the approved panels of affiliated organizations.
- B-7.2 **Criteria.** The decision of an Adjudicator shall be based on his or her honest and best judgment of the relative merit of the performances adjudicated, based on the criteria set by the Board of Directors from time to time as indicated on the score sheet for the event.
- B-7.3 **Finality.** The decision of the Adjudicator(s) is final.
- B-7.4 **Improper Influence.** No member shall attempt, directly or indirectly, to improperly influence the selection of or a decision of a Judge. Breach of this rule may subject the member involved to disciplinary proceedings.

B-8 Assignment of Judges

- B-8.1 **Assignment.** Judges shall be assigned for each Contest by a group consisting of one representative from the Board of Directors, and a piping representative and a drumming representative assigned by the Music Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.
- B-8.2 **Eligibility.** Judges must be current members in good standing of the PPBSO or an affiliated association to be eligible to judge in a PPBSO sponsored event.
- B-8.3 **Limitation.** Whenever possible, no Judge shall be assigned to adjudicate a band in the same role (i.e. Piping, Drumming, or Ensemble) at more than two Champion Supreme contests in a single season.
- B-8.4 **Publication of Assignments.** Judging assignments for all band Contests shall be published on the Society website no later than May 15th of each year. In the case where a judging assignment is altered after the aforementioned publication has been made, an update shall be made to the publication as soon as reasonably possible.

B-9 Judge's Conduct

- B-9.1 **Judging Family Members.** Judges shall not adjudicate members of their immediate family or spouses of immediate family members in solo or band events.
- B-9.2 **Judging Bands.** Judges shall not judge a band with which they were associated for one year after leaving that band.
- B-9.3 **Judges Playing in Bands.** Judges shall not play in a PPBSO band and adjudicate Champion Supreme band events in the same grade in the corresponding competition season.

B-10 Judges Qualifications

The Society attempts to provide the highest quality of adjudication for its sanctioned contests. The seminar, examination, and certificate award process established in these rules is the means by which the Society strives to achieve this goal.

- B-10 **Exam Seminar.** Admittance to take the Society Adjudicators' exam requires attendance at a seminar, but for special circumstances an Officer of the Society may grant exception.

B-11 Certification of PPBSO Pipe Band Adjudicators

- B-11.1 **Requirement for Certification.** All PPBSO Piping, Drumming, Bass & tenor and Ensemble Adjudicators of Pipe Bands must hold a valid certificate. Piping and Drumming Adjudicators will receive either an "A" or "B" classification, in accordance with the specifications and prerequisites contained herein, which includes Practical Qualifications that must first be met in order to apply for the two-part examination consisting of a Written Examination (Part I) and an Aural Examination (Part II).
- B-11.2 **Elements of Certification.** Those who meet the Practical Qualifications and then pass both the Written and the Aural Examinations will be awarded a Society classification.
- B-11.3 **Powers of Adjudicators' Certification Committee.** All classifications are subject to the approval of the Adjudicators' Certification Subcommittee of the Music Committee before being recommended for award. The Music Committee reserves the right to request a practical demonstration of a candidate's pipe band knowledge and abilities.
- B-11.4 **Practical Qualifications of Candidates.**
- (a) Piping candidates seeking an Ensemble classification must meet the following criteria:
 - i. A minimum of 10 years playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe;
 - ii. Must have competed in a Grade 1 pipe band for five years within the last 15 years;
 - iii. Must be capable of an ensemble assessment of a pipe band performance;
 - iv. Must hold an "A" classification and have judging experience prior to taking the Ensemble classification exam.
 - (b) Drumming candidates seeking an Ensemble classification must meet the same criteria as in (a), except that the playing experience in (i) is on the snare, bass or tenor drum rather than the Great Highland Bagpipe.
 - (c) Piping candidates seeking an "A" classification must meet the following criteria:
 - i. A minimum of 10 years playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe;
 - ii. 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.
 - (d) Drumming and bass & tenor candidates seeking an "A" classification must meet the following criteria:
 - i. A minimum of 10 years playing experience on the snare, bass or tenor drum;
 - ii. Must have competed in a Grade 1 pipe band or been lead stroke, or in a bass & tenor leadership role of a Grade 2 pipe band for five years within the last 15 years.
 - (e) Piping candidates seeking a "B" classification must meet the following criteria:
 - i. A minimum of 10 years playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe;
 - ii. Must have competed in a Grade 1 or a Grade 2 pipe band for five years within the last 15 years.
 - (f) Drumming and Bass & tenor candidates seeking a "B" classification must meet the following criteria:

- i. A minimum of 10 years playing experience on the snare, bass or tenor drum;
- ii. Must have competed in a Grade 1 pipe band or been lead stroke, or in a Bass & tenor leadership role of a Grade 2 pipe band for five years within the last 15 years.

B-11.5 **Exemption from Practical Qualifications.** The Practical Qualifications do not apply to individuals granted equivalent status by the Music Committee and PPBSO Board of Directors.

B-11.6 **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.
- (f) Drumming Judges with a "B" classification shall be permitted to judge drumming for grades up to and including Grade 2, but shall not be permitted to judge Grade 1 drumming or ensemble for any grade.

B-12 Certification of PPBSO Piping Adjudicators for Solo Light Music

B-12.1 **Requirement for Certification.** All PPBSO Piping Adjudicators of Solo Light Music must be certificated and awarded a "A" or "B" classification, in accordance with the specifications and prerequisites contained herein, which includes Practical Qualifications that must first be met in order to apply to sit the Examination.

B-12.2 **Elements of Certification.** Those who meet the Practical Qualifications and then pass the Examination will be awarded a Society classification.

B-12.3 **Powers of Adjudicators' Examination Board.** All classifications are subject to the approval of the Society's Adjudicators' Examination Subcommittee before being awarded. The Music Committee reserves the right to request a practical demonstration of a candidate's solo light music knowledge and abilities.

B-12.4 **Practical Qualifications of Candidates.**

- (a) Candidates seeking a "A" classification must meet the following criteria:
 - i. A minimum of 15 years solo light music playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe at the Highland Games;

- ii. Must have demonstrated a reasonable degree of success, as interpreted by the Music Committee, in Professional Light Music competition;
- iii. Previous solo light music adjudication experience, subject to B-12.7(c) below.

(b) Candidates seeking a "B" classification must meet the following criteria:

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

B-12.5 Exemption from Practical Qualifications. In exceptional circumstances, the Music Committee may recommend the waiving of some of the Practical Qualifications.

B-12.6 Re-sitting Examinations. An unsuccessful candidate may re-sit the Examination twice. The first re-sit may take place no sooner than one year after the original sitting. The second re-sit may take place no sooner than two years after the first re-sit.

B-12.7 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 (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 and then pass the Examination 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.

B-13 Certification of PPBSO Piping Adjudicators for Solo Piobaireachd

B-13.1 Requirement for Certification. All PPBSO Piping Adjudicators of Solo Piobaireachd must be certificated and awarded a "A" or "B" classification, in accordance with the specifications and prerequisites contained herein, which includes Practical Qualifications that must first be met in order to apply to sit the Examination.

B-13.2 Elements of Certification. Those who meet the Practical Qualifications and then pass the Examination will be awarded a Society classification.

B-13.3 Powers of Adjudicators' Certification Committee. All classifications are subject to the approval of the Adjudicators' Certification Committee before being recommended. The Board reserves the right to request a practical demonstration of a candidate's solo piobair-eachd knowledge and abilities.

B-13.4 Practical Qualifications of Candidates.

- (a) Candidates seeking a "A" classification must meet the following criteria:

- i. A minimum of 15 years solo piobaireachd playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe at the Highland Games;
 - ii. Must have demonstrated a reasonable degree of success, as interpreted by the Music Committee, in Professional Piobaireachd competition;
 - iii. Previous solo piobaireachd adjudication experience, subject to B-13.7(c) below.
- (b) Candidates seeking a "B" classification must meet the following criteria:
- i. A minimum of 10 years solo piobaireachd playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe at the Highland Games;
 - ii. Must have demonstrated a reasonable degree of success, as interpreted by the Music Committee, in at least Senior Amateur Piobaireachd competition.

B-13.5 Exemption from Practical Qualifications. In exceptional circumstances, the Music Board may recommend the waiving of some of the Practical Qualifications.

B-13.6 Re-sitting Examinations. An unsuccessful candidate may re-sit the Examination twice. The first re-sit may take place no sooner than one year after the original sitting. The second re-sit may take place no sooner than two years after the first re-sit.

B-13.7 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 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 Intermediate Amateur, but shall not be permitted to judge Senior Amateur or Professional solo piobaireachd.
- (c) Candidates for "A" certification who have not previously adjudicated solo piobaireachd but who meet all other Practical Qualifications and then pass the Examination 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.

B-14 Certification of PPBSO Solo Drumming Adjudicators

B-14.1 Requirement for Certification. All PPBSO Solo Drumming Adjudicators must be certificated and awarded a "A" or "B" classification, in accordance with the specifications and prerequisites contained herein, which includes Practical Qualifications that must first be met in order to apply to sit the Examination.

B-14.2 Elements of Certification. Those who meet the Practical Qualifications and then pass the Examination will be awarded a Society classification.

B-14.3 Powers of Adjudicators' Examination Board. All classifications are subject to the approval of the Society's Adjudicators' Examination Subcommittee before being awarded. The Music Committee reserves the right to request a practical demonstration of a candidate's solo drumming knowledge and abilities.

B-14.4 Practical Qualifications of Candidates

- (a) Candidates seeking a "A" classification must meet the following criteria:
 - i. A minimum of 10 years playing experience on the snare, bass or tenor drum;
 - ii. Must have competed in a Grade 1 pipe band or been lead stroke, or in a bass & tenor leadership role of a Grade 2 pipe band for five years within the last 15 years.
- (b) Candidates seeking a "B" classification must meet the following criteria:
 - i. A minimum of 10 years playing experience on the snare, bass or tenor drum;
 - ii. Must have competed in a Grade 1 or Grade 2 pipe band for five years within the last 15 years.

B-14.5 **Exemption from Practical Qualifications.** In exceptional circumstances, the Music Committee may recommend the waiving of some of the Practical Qualifications.

B-14.6 **Re-sitting Examinations.** An unsuccessful candidate may re-sit the Examination twice. The first re-sit may take place no sooner than one year after the original sitting. The second re-sit may take place no sooner than two years after the first re-sit.

B-14.7 **Effect of Classification.**

- (a) Judges with a "A" classification shall be permitted to judge professional and all amateur grades of solo drumming 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 all amateur grades of solo drumming but shall not be permitted to judge professional.
- (c) Candidates for "A" certification who have not previously adjudicated solo drumming but who meet all other Practical Qualifications and then pass the Examination must judge amateur solo drumming events at a minimum of two Highland Games in each of at least two seasons before being permitted to judge Professional solo drumming events.

PART C: RULES GOVERNING SOLO COMPETITIONS

Except as adopted by a Branch of the Society for their own Contests, the rules governing solo (individual) Competitions sanctioned by The Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario are as printed in this Part and the preceding Part.

C-1 Admission Refunds

- C-1.1 **Entitlement.** Unless prohibited by the Highland Games Committee, an individual competitor who plays in a solo Competition and does not participate as a member of a band on that day shall be entitled to a refund of any admission fee paid to gain admission to the grounds, upon presenting a voucher issued by the Society to the appropriate official of the Highland Games Committee.

C-2 Contest Registration

- C-2.1 **Eligibility.** A competitor must meet the membership requirements of A-2.1
Members of an Affiliated Organization must be eligible to compete in solo competitions within that Organization.
Exception: the first competitive season of a competitor entering Grade 5 Drumming, Grade 5 Piping, Practice Chanter and practice pad.
- C-2.2 **Deadline.** The registration deadline for all Champion Supreme contests is 21 days in advance of the event.

C-3 Order and Time of Play

- C-3.1 **Order of Play Available.** The PPBSO shall make available the order of play for each solo competitor not less than 8 days in advance of the event and provide this information by the PPBSO website (pipebandsontario.org). The PPBSO reserves the right to cancel an event or change the number of prizes awarded if fewer than four competitors have enrolled in the event at the closing date.
- C-3.2 **Playing Time.** A competitor shall play at his or her assigned or adjusted time or position, or when required to play by the Steward for the event.
- C-3.3 **Order Enforced.** The order of play shall be enforced excepting incidents of overlapping events in that grade.

C-4 Conduct and Tuning

- C-4.1 **Report to Steward.** Competitors shall report to the Steward for each event no later than the commencement of the event. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.
- C-4.2 **Tuning Time.** Piping competitors shall adhere to the following tuning times: for piobair-eachd, a limit of 5 minutes; for all other events, a limit of 3 minutes. Individuals exceeding the allowable tuning times may be disqualified.

C-4.3 **Tuning.** All competitors performing final tuning must do so without assistance, except for Grade 4 and Grade 5, and Novice Amateur Competitions.

C-5 Grade Structure

C-5.1 **Piping.** Piping Competitions shall be divided into the following classes:

(a) Professional

*Note: At certain contests, an “A” and “B” professional category may be used. The PPBSO Music Committee (MC) shall categorize and assign each competitor according to criteria which it shall establish from time to time.

(b) Amateur Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and practice chanter

(c) Grade 5 solo piping will be split into Youth and Adult categories.

Youth competitors must be under 18 years of age on November 1st of the preceding calendar year. Competitors that are 18 years of age or older on November 1st of the preceding year will be considered adults.

(d) Amateur Piobaireachd - Senior, Intermediate, Junior, and Novice

C-5.2 **Drumming.**

C-5.2.1 **Snare Drumming.** Snare Drumming Competitions shall be divided into the following classes:

(a) Professional

(b) Amateur Grades 1, 2, 3 4 and 5, and practice pad

(c) Grade 5 solo snare drumming will be split into Youth and Adult categories.

Youth competitors must be under 18 years of age on November 1st of the preceding calendar year. Competitors that are 18 years of age or older on November 1st of the preceding year will be considered adults.

C-5.2.2 **Tenor Drumming:** Tenor Drumming Competitions shall be divided into the following classes:

(a) Professional

(b) Amateur Grades 1, 2, 3 4 and 5

C-5.2.3 **Bass Drumming.** Bass Drumming Competitions shall be divided into the following classes:

(a) Professional

(b) Amateur

(c) Novice

C-5.3 **Drum Majors.** Drum Major competitions shall be divided into the following classes:

(a) Professional

(b) Novice

C-6 Grading and Upgrading

- C-6.1 **Specified Grades.** The Board of Directors, on the advice of the Music Committee, will specify the grade of competition for an individual competitor, at its sole discretion.
- C-6.2 **Competitors from Other Jurisdictions.** Competitors from other jurisdictions shall play in the same grades in which they play in their own jurisdiction, subject to any grade specified for an individual competitor by the PPBSO.
- C-6.3 **Notice.** Any individual affected by a specified grade change shall be notified in writing by January 1st.
- C-6.4 **Playing in Lower Grade.** No individual may compete in a grade lower than the grade specified for him or her by the Board of Directors. For purposes of these grading rules, Grade 5 is the lowest piping grade, grade 5 is the lowest drumming grade, and Professional is the highest grade.
- C-6.5 **Playing in Higher Grade.** A competitor who chooses to compete outside the jurisdiction of the PPBSO in a grade other their PPBSO specified grade, must return to their PPBSO assigned grade for all PPBSO contests.
- C-6.6 **Playing in Different Grades.** A piping competitor shall compete at the same grade level in all events, except piobaireachd, which may be played at a different level subject to the grade specified by the Board of Directors for that competitor.
- C-6.7 **Re-grading.** A competitor dissatisfied with his or her assigned grade may petition the Board of Directors through the Society Secretary for a reconsideration of the grading a maximum of one time per year or once per change in grade, whichever is more frequent. All appeals must be filed by April 1st using the upgrading form available from the PPBSO website. Any variation of a competitor's specified grade is within the sole discretion of the Board of Directors.
- C-6.8 **Professional Piobaireachd Classification.** In order to facilitate the splitting of contest entries as deemed necessary by the Board from time to time, Professional Piobaireachd competitors will be assigned an additional classification of either A or B.

Within any given season, competitors having a Competing Pipers Association (CPA) grading of at least B for that year will be given an A classification. All other competitors will have a classification assigned to them by the Music Committee. The Music Committee will take items such as prior success at certain contests (such as the Piobaireachd Society Gold Medal (Canada) and the Maxville Professional Piobaireachd) and the competitor's general competitive record into consideration when making its decision.

C-7 Professional Piping Contest Requirements

- C-7.1 **Light Music.** – For professional march, strathspey, reel, hornpipe and jig contests, competitors shall submit four tunes of each type and shall play one tune of each type as chosen by the judge in any combination from the tunes submitted. For professional jig contests, competitors shall play the 2 tunes chosen by the judge back to back.
- C-7.2 **Time Signatures.** All marches shall be in 2/4 time signature.

- C-7.3 **Length.** All tunes submitted for march, strathspey and Reel and Jig shall be a minimum of 4 parts.
- C-7.4 **Piobaireachd.** Professional competitors shall submit four piobaireachds and shall play one, as chosen by the judge from the tunes submitted. Playing of unfamiliar settings may require a written copy of the music to be submitted to the judge prior to beginning the tune.
- C-8 Grade 1 Amateur Piping Contest Requirements**
- C-8 **Tunes.** Grade 1 Amateur competitors shall submit two (2) four-parted 2/4 marches, two (2) four-parted strathspey, and two(2) four parted reels, two (2) four-parted jigs and two (2) four-parted 6/8 marches and shall play one tune of each type, as chosen by the judge in any combination from the tunes submitted.
- C-9 Grade 2 Amateur Piping Contest Requirements**
- C-9 **General.** Grade 2 Amateur competitors shall submit two (2) four parted 2/4 marches, one (1) four parted strathspey, one (1) four parted reel, one (1) four parted jig and one (1) four parted 6/8 march.
- C-10 Grade 3 Amateur Piping Contest Requirements**
- C-10 **March.** Grade 3 Amateur competitors shall submit and play one (1) four-parted 2/4 march, one (1) four-parted strathspey and one (1) four-parted reel.
- C-11 Grade 4 Amateur Piping Contest Requirements**
- C-11 **General.** Grade 4 Amateur competitors shall submit and play one (1) 2/4 march of a minimum of four parts. Upon receipt of advance approval from the PPBSO, a competitor may use an assisted blowing device, such as an E-Bellaire System, while competing.
- C-12 Grade 5 Amateur Piping Contest Requirements**
- C-12 **General.** Grade 5 Amateur competitors shall submit and play one (1) two-parted march of any time signature, once over. Upon receipt of advance approval from the PPBSO, a competitor may use an assisted blowing device, such as an E-Bellaire System, while competing.
- C-13 Novice Practice Chanter Contest Requirements**
- C-13.1 **General.** Novice Practice Chanter competitors shall submit and play one two-parted march of any time signature, once over.
- C-13.2 **Eligibility.** Novice Practice Chanter competitors must never have competed in a piping contest

C-14 Amateur Piobaireachd Contest Requirements

- C-14.1 **Senior Amateur Piobaireachd (Grade 1 Light Music equivalent).** Competitors shall submit three (3) piobaireachd and shall play one (1), as chosen by the Judge from the tunes submitted.
- C-14.2 **Intermediate Amateur Piobaireachd (Grade 2 Light Music equivalent).** Competitors shall submit two (2) piobaireachd and shall play one (1), as chosen by the Judge from the tunes submitted.
- C-14.3 **Junior Amateur Piobaireachd (Grade 3 Light Music equivalent).** Competitors shall submit and play one (1) piobaireachd.
- C-14.4 **Novice Amateur Piobaireachd (Grade 4/5 Light Music equivalent).** Competitors shall submit one (1) piobaireachd and play only the ground and the next two passages.

C-15 Drumming Contest Requirements

- C-15.1 **Accompaniment.** Each Snare Drumming competitor must be accompanied by one or two pipers. For Amateur contests only, the competitor may instead use a recording that has been accepted by the PPBSO for accompaniment. In the case of a failure of the accompaniment during the performance, the competitor is required to continue the performance. Failure to do so will be considered a Breakdown.

C-15.2 Professional Snare Drumming Contest Requirements

- C-15.2.1 **M/S/R.** A professional competitor shall submit two (2) sets, each comprised of a 2/4 March, a Strathspey and a Reel, with a minimum of four parts each. The judge of the event will draw the competitors MSR selection prior to the competitors' play.
- C-15.2.2 **H/J.** A professional competitor to submit and play (1) selection of tunes, each comprised of (2) Hornpipes (the first being a dot cut/pointed Hornpipe followed by a dot cut/pointed or straight/round Hornpipe) and (2) Jigs, with a minimum of four parts each.

C-15.3 Grade 1 Amateur Snare Drumming Contest Requirements

- C-15.3.1 **M/S/R.** A Grade 1 Amateur competitor shall submit two (2) sets, each comprised of a 2/4 March, a Strathspey and a Reel, with a minimum of four parts each. The judge of the event will draw the competitors MSR selection prior to the competitors' play.
- C-15.3.2 **HP/J.** A Grade 1 Amateur competitor shall submit one (1) set comprised of a Hornpipe and a Jig, with a minimum of four parts each.

C-15.4 Grade 2 Amateur Snare Drumming Contest Requirements

- C-15.4.1 **M/S/R.** A Grade 2 amateur competitor shall submit one (1) set comprised of a 2/4 March, a Strathspey and a Reel, with a minimum of four parts each.
- C-15.4.2 **HP/J.** A Grade 2 amateur competitor shall submit one (1) set comprised of a Hornpipe and a Jig, with a minimum of four parts each.

C-15.5 Grade 3 Amateur Snare Drumming Contest Requirements

C-15.5 **M/S/R.** A Grade 3 amateur competitor shall submit one (1) set comprised of a 2/4 March, a Strathspey and a Reel, with a minimum of four parts each.

C-15.6 Grade 4 Amateur Snare Drumming Contest Requirements

C-15.6 **March.** A Grade 4 amateur competitor shall submit one (1) four-parted 2/4 March.

C-15.7 Grade 5 Amateur Snare Drumming Contest Requirements

C-15.7.1 **March.** A Grade 5 amateur competitor shall submit one (1) two-parted 2/4 March.

C-15.7.2 Grade 5 solo snare drumming contest is split into **Youth** and **Adult** categories. Youth competitors must not have attained 18 years of age as of November 1 of the previous calendar year. Individuals that have attained 18 years of age as of November 1 of the previous calendar year compete as adults in the adult category of the grade 5 contest.

C-15.8 Novice Practice Pad Contest Requirements

General. A Novice Practice Pad participant is required to play 1 of the following:

New Massed Band Cadence in the time signature 2/4 - two parts

New Massed Band Cadence in the time signature 3/4 - two parts

New Massed Band Cadence in the time signature 4/4 - two parts

It should be noted that participants in this event are not required to wear highland dress as per B - 2.2

C-15.9 Solo Bass Contest Requirements - Novice, Amateur, and Professional

(a) **Accompaniment.** Each solo Bass Drum competition will incorporate and evaluate both rhythm and flourishing components. Each competitor must be accompanied by either one or two pipers. When possible, the competitor may also be accompanied by one snare drummer. For Novice and Amateur solo Bass contests only, the competitor may instead use a recording that has been accepted by the PPBSO for accompaniment.

(b) **Performance Requirement - Novice.** Novice Solo Bass competitors are required to perform a 2/4 March with a minimum of 4 parts.

(c) **Performance Requirement - Amateur.** Amateur Solo Bass competitors are required to perform a March, Strathspey and Reel set comprising: 2/4 march with a minimum 4 parts, a Strathspey with a minimum 4 parts, Reel with a minimum of 4 parts.

(d) **Performance Requirement - Professional.**

a. M/S/R. Professional Solo Bass Drum competitors are required to perform a March, Strathspey and Reel set comprising: 2/4 march with a minimum of 4

parts, Strathspey with a minimum of 4 parts, and reel with a minimum of 4 parts.

- b. HP/J. Professional Solo Bass Drum competitors are required to perform a Hornpipe/Jig set comprising: hornpipe with a minimum of 4 parts and jig with a minimum 4 parts.
- c. Overall Winner. Although the M/S/R and HP/J contests are separate events, all prizes are based on the combined result from the two contests. The rank from each event will be added together, and first place will be awarded to the competitor with the lowest score. All other ranks will be assigned in increasing order of the score. All ties will be awarded to the competitor with the better rank in the M/S/R.

C-15.10 Solo Tenor Drum Contest Requirements

- (a) **Accompaniment.** Each solo Tenor Drum competition will incorporate and evaluate both rhythm and flourishing components. Each competitor must be accompanied by either one or two pipers. When possible, the competitor may also be accompanied by one snare drummer.
- (b) For Grade 3, 4 and 5 tenor drum contests only, the competitor may instead use a recording that has been accepted by the PPBSO for accompaniment.

C-15.11 Professional Tenor Drumming Contest Requirements

- C-15.11.1 **M/S/R.** A Professional competitor shall submit one (1) set comprised of a 2/4 March, a Strathspey, and a Reel, with a minimum of four parts each.
- C-15.11.2 **HP/J.** A Professional competitor shall submit one (1) set comprised of a Hornpipe and a Jig, with a minimum of four parts each.
- C-15.11.3 **Overall Winner.** Although the M/S/R and HP/J contests are separate events, all prizes are based on the combined result from the two contests. The rank from each event will be added together, and first place will be awarded to the competitor with the lowest score. All other ranks will be assigned in increasing order of the score. All ties will be awarded to the competitor with the better rank in the M/S/R.

C-15.12 Grade 1 Tenor Drumming Contest Requirements

- C-15.11.1 **M/S/R.** A Grade 1 Amateur competitor shall submit one (1) set comprised of a 2/4 March, a Strathspey, and a Reel, with a minimum of four parts each.
- C-15.11.2 **HP/J.** A Grade 1 Amateur competitor shall submit one (1) set comprised of a Hornpipe and a Jig, with a minimum of four parts each.
- C-15.11.3 **Overall Winner.** Although the M/S/R and HP/J contests are separate events, all prizes are based on the combined result from the two contests. The rank from each event will be added together, and first place will be awarded to the competitor with the lowest score. All other

ranks will be assigned in increasing order of the score. All ties will be awarded to the competitor with the better rank in the M/S/R.

C-15.13 Grade 2 Tenor Drumming Contest Requirements

Grade 2 Amateur Solo Tenor competitors are required to perform a March/Strathspey/Reel set comprising: 2/4 march with a minimum 4 parts, a Strathspey with a minimum 4 parts, Reel with a minimum of 4 parts.

C-15.14 Grade 3 Tenor Drumming Contest Requirements

Grade 3 Amateur Solo Tenor competitors are required to perform a March/Strathspey/Reel set comprising: 2/4 march with a minimum 4 parts, a Strathspey with a minimum 4 parts, Reel with a minimum of 4 parts.

C-15.15 Grade 4 Tenor Drumming Contest Requirements

Grade 4 Amateur Solo Tenor competitors are required to perform a 2/4 March with a minimum of 4 parts.

C-15.16 Grade 5 Tenor Drumming Contest Requirements

Grade 5 Amateur Solo Tenor competitors are required to perform a 2/4 March with a minimum of 2 parts.

C-15.17 Drum Majors Contest Requirements

- (a) Professional and Novice Drum Major competitors are required to perform simultaneously with all other competitors in the Contest unless the Contest is so large as to require division into heats.
- (b) Drum Major competitors are judged on dress and deportment while at the halt, and on marching and deportment during the performance of a slow March and a 6/8 March by the duty band.

C-16 Contest Results and Prize Presentation

C-16.1 **Posting.** Results of Competitions shall be conspicuously posted as soon as possible after computation.

C-16.2 **Prize Presentation.** Prizes may be formally presented at the closing ceremonies of the Highland Games, or informally presented.

C-16.3 **Proper Dress.** A prizewinner receiving a prize in a formal presentation shall wear Proper Highland Dress, as defined. Breach of this rule may lead to disciplinary proceedings against the member involved.

- C-16.4 **Amateur Piper of the Day.** The Amateur Piper of the Day shall be the piper competing in Grade 1 March, Grade 1 Strathspey and Reel, Grade 1 Jig or 6/8 March and Senior Amateur Piobaireachd who is awarded the highest total number of Champion Supreme Points. A tie in points shall be broken first by the Senior Amateur Piobaireachd result. If none of the players tied have placed in the Piobaireachd contest, the tie shall be broken by the 2/4 March result.
- C-16.5 **Professional Piper of the Day.** The Professional Piper of the Day shall be the piper competing in Professional March, Professional Strathspey and Reel, Professional Freestyle or Jig and Professional Piobaireachd who is awarded the highest total number of Champion Supreme Points. A tie in points shall be broken first by the Professional Piobaireachd result. If none of the players tied have placed in the Piobaireachd contest, the tie shall be broken by the March result.
- C-16.6 **Amateur Drummer of the Day.** The Amateur Drummer of the Day shall be the drummer competing in the Grade 1 March, Strathspey and Reel, and Hornpipe / Jig who is awarded the highest total number of Champion Supreme Points. A tie in points shall be broken by the March, Strathspey and Reel result.
- C-16.6.1 **Drummer of the day**
 "Drummer of the Day" awards are determined in the following categories:
 Amateur Snare Drummer of the Day
 Amateur Tenor Drummer of the Day
 Amateur Bass Drummer of the Day
- C-16.7 **Professional Drummer of the Day.** The Professional Drummer of the Day shall be the drummer competing in the Professional March, Strathspey and Reel, and Hornpipe / Jig who is awarded the highest total number of Champion Supreme Points. A tie in points will be broken by the March, Strathspey and Reel result.
- C-16.7.1 **Drummer of the day**
 "Drummer of the Day" awards are determined in the following categories:
 Professional Snare Drummer of the Day
 Professional Tenor Drummer of the Day
 Professional Bass Drummer of the Day
- C-17 Champion Supreme Point Structure**
- C-17.1 **Eligibility - Membership.** Only PPBSO members who are members 3 weeks prior to the Competition will be awarded points for placing in events.
- C-17.2 **Points.** Although medals will be presented for the first three places only, Champion Supreme points will be awarded as follows;

# of Competitors Registered	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd place	4 th place	5 th place	6 th place
10 or more	7	5	4	3	2	1
5 to 9	6	4	3	2	1	-
4 or less	4	2	1	-	-	-

C-17.3 **Award.** At the conclusion of the season, total points from all contests at each Highland Games or Branch Event shall be calculated for each competitor. The competitor with the highest total from their best five Highland Games and/or Branch Event shall be awarded Champion Supreme. In the event of a tie, the Award shall be given to the competitor with the greater number of first places at their five best contests. In the event that a tie remains, multiple awards will be presented.

PART D

RULES GOVERNING PIPE BAND COMPETITIONS

Except as adopted by a Branch of the Society for their own Contests, the rules governing pipe band Competitions sanctioned by The Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario are as printed in this Part and in Part B.

D-1 Membership and Band Rosters

D-1.1 Membership. All bands must list all player names on a band roster and submit the roster to the PPBSO administrator.

- Only players on the submitted roster 7 days prior to a contest may compete with the band (additionally, please note section D-2.1 for time restrictions on transfers).

- All band members must be current members in good standing of The PPBSO or an officially recognized Affiliated Organization as noted in A-2.1.

- An exemption of up to two Competitions (one time only) may be allowed for a band that has never been registered with the Society for competition, and in this case a band roster must accompany the entry form.

D-1.2 Receipt of Memberships and Rosters.

(a) Band rosters must be submitted with the master entry form.

(b) A member must have paid all membership dues a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to any competition in order to be eligible to compete with the band.

(c) Juvenile band rosters must provide date of birth for juvenile age players. Proof of age may be requested.

(d) A player on a lower-grade band roster that is also designated “developmental” on a higher-grade band roster may be allowed to compete up to three designated contests with the higher-grade band, only as set out in Appendix 2.

D-1.3 Grade Structure. Pipe Bands shall be divided into the following grades:

- (a) Grade 1
- (b) Grade 2
- (c) Grade 3
- (d) Grade 4
- (e) Grade 5
- (f) Juvenile

D-1.4 **Pipe Band Grading.**

Based on the pipe band rosters received in accordance with D-1.2, the Board of Directors, as advised by the Music Committee, shall notify any improperly graded pipe band of its proper grade by January 1st of that year

The notified pipe band shall be allowed four weeks to submit opposing arguments in writing to the Board of Directors

A final decision shall be made by the Board of Directors and provided in writing to the affected pipe band by March 1st of that year

D-1.5 **Grading Pipe Bands from Other Jurisdictions.**

- (a) Pipe bands from other jurisdictions shall play in the same grades in which they play in their own jurisdictions.

D-1.6 **Challenging up:** Bands registered in the PPBSO (i.e. “home” association bands) may challenge up one grade at designated PPBSO-sanctioned contests, provided **all** of the following conditions are met:

- (a) The band finished first, second or third in the previous year’s PPBSO Champions Supreme in its current PPBSO grade.
- (b) The band informs the PPBSO Administrator of its intention to challenge up by April 30
- (c) The band submits a repertoire conforming to the complete musical requirements of the grade into which it intends to challenge up during the season
- (d) Bands wishing to challenge up must submit entries as per PPBSO rules and registration deadlines
- (e) Bands challenging up must register and compete in their assigned (lower) grade for any contest where they wish to challenge up. Failure or refusal to compete in, or disqualification from, the assigned (lower) grade event at that contest may result in disqualification from the higher grade event at that contest.
- (f) Bands are subject to all requirements for each event in which they compete.
- (g) Bands challenging up may only receive Championship Supreme (CS) points on results achieved in their assigned (lower) grade.

D-2 Transfers of Players Between Bands

- D-2.1 **Transfer Release/Form.** Players transferring from one band to another must use the Society transfer form and obtain the signatures of both Pipe Majors unless specifically exempted by the Board of Directors. All transfers must be declared to the Society administrator in writing at least 14 days prior to the first contest in which that player will compete with the gaining-band. Developmental players listed on two band rosters, subject to D-1.2 and Appendix 2, are not considered to be transferring bands.
- D-2.2 **Transfers Prohibited.** A player who is already registered with the PPBSO, and is on the roster of a competitive band that is registered with the PPBSO, is permitted **one transfer only per season, from one band to another**, where he or she has already competed in a band event at a PPBSO-sanctioned contest during that competition season. All such transfers will be subject to review by the Music Committee (MC) of the PPBSO to ensure that the competitive grade of the band which the player is transferring into is not materially affected as a result of the transfer. Based on a recommendation from the MC, the PPBSO may either permit or deny the transfer request.
- Any new member having no previous association with a band during that season is free to join in mid-season.
- D-2.3 **Juvenile Bands.** Registered players may also join a juvenile band without having to transfer from the non-juvenile band, but then D-2.1 and D-2.2 apply to both bands.
- D-2.4 **Amending Band Rosters.** Amended band rosters must be signed and dated by the Pipe Major or Band Manager and submitted to the PPBSO administrator. When a player has transferred from another band, D-2.1 applies and the transfer form must accompany the amended band roster. Players of eligible juvenile age on the roster of a Juvenile band may be on the roster of one non Juvenile band.
- D-2.5 **Refusal to Release.** If a band refuses to release a member, the member may take his or her complaint to the Board of Directors which may allow the member to transfer when satisfied that equipment disputes (specifically uniform components, musical instruments, and components of musical instruments that belong to the band) have been resolved. Any other disputes or considerations will not be considered by the Board.

D-3 Band Passes and Entries

- D-3.1 **Delivered in Advance.** In agreement with the Games Committee, band passes for each games entered shall be sent or delivered to the bands at least two weeks in advance of the event.
- D-3.2 **Penalty for Withdrawal without Notice.** Bands that have entered to play at a contest and wish to withdraw must notify the Society at least 48 hours prior to the contest. Failure to do so, subject to discretion by the Board of Directors, will result in a fine levied by the Society of \$200.00 and the band will not be permitted to compete again until the fine is paid in full.

D-4 Competition Draws and Playing Times

D-4.1 Registration Before Draw.

- (a) Each band must register with the PPBSO Office on the day of the competition prior to or at the time of the 11:00 a.m. meeting. Failure to do so prohibits the band from playing. In special circumstances, the Society may allow such a band to play first in the competition, provided that the order of play or the playing times of the other bands are not changed from those drawn.
- (b) Bands requesting to play first in any contest must request to do so prior to the 11:00 a.m. meeting and will be considered subject to the discretion of the Board of Directors, otherwise rule D-4.1 (a) applies.

D-4.2 Draw for Position and Playing Time. Draw for playing position will normally take place at the PPBSO Office approximately one week before the games and posted to the website. Confirmation of playing times will be announced at 11:00 a.m. on the day of the games. For contests where bands play twice, the draw for each contest shall be the same.

D-4.3 Competition Order. At all games, unless otherwise requested by the games committee, the order of competitions in each competition circle will be from the lowest grade band to the highest grade band in that circle.

D-5 Massed Bands

D-5.1 Requirement to Play in Massed Bands. All bands must take part in both massed band performances at approximately 1:00 p.m. and at the conclusion of the Competitions, unless exempted as specified below. Failure of any non-exempt competing band to participate in a massed band performance may result in a penalty or disciplinary measures as defined in section B-5 of this rule book.

D-5.2 Exemption. The first two bands to play in each competition circle will normally be excused by the Society from the first massed bands.

D-5.3 Minimum Number of Players. For first massed bands only, each band is required to field at least the minimum numbers of players required to compete within their particular grade.

D-5.4 Massed Band Drum Majors. Drum majors responsible for massed bands at PPBSO sanctioned games must be pre-qualified by the PPBSO.

D-6 Minimum Numbers of Players

D-6.1 Minimums. At pipe band competitions, each band must meet the minimum player requirements as listed below.

D-6.2 Grade 1. Minimums for grade 1 are 8 pipers, 3 snare drummers, 1 bass and two tenors.

D-6.3 Grade 2.

- (a) Minimums for Grade 2 are 6 pipers, 2 snare drummers, and 1 bass.

- (b) Grade 2 pipe bands may add a higher grade piper as their Pipe Major only, in addition to the minimum 6 other pipers, provided that he or she is registered as their piping instructor.
- (c) Grade 2 pipe bands may add one higher grade drummer in addition to the minimum 2 other snare drummers, providing that he or she is registered as their drumming instructor.
- (d) Grade 2 pipe bands may add one higher-grade tenor drummer providing that he or she is registered as their tenor-drumming instructor. The band must also field at least one other tenor drummer.

D-6.4 Grade 3.

- (a) Minimums for Grade 3 are 5 pipers, 2 snare drummers, 1 bass
- (b) Grade 3 pipe bands may add a higher grade piper as their Pipe Major only, in addition to the minimum 5 other pipers, provided that he or she is registered as their piping instructor.
- (c) Grade 3 pipe bands may add a higher grade snare drummer in addition to the minimum 2 other snare drummers, providing that he or she is registered as their drumming instructor.
- (d) Grade 3 pipe bands may add a higher-grade tenor drummer providing that the player is registered as their tenor drumming instructor. The band must also field at least one other tenor drummer.

D-6.5 Grade 4.

- (a) Minimums for Grade 4 are 5 pipers, 2 snare drummers, 1 bass
- (b) Grade 4 pipe bands may add a higher grade piper as their Pipe Major, or Pipe Sergeant only, in addition to the minimum 5 other pipers, provided that he or she is registered as their piping instructor.
- (c) Grade 4 pipe bands may add one higher grade snare drummer in addition to the minimum 2 other snare drummers, providing that he or she is registered as their drumming instructor.
- (d) Grade 4 pipe bands may add one higher grade tenor drummer providing that the player is registered as their tenor drumming instructor. The band must also field at least one other tenor drummer.

D-6.6 Grade 5.

- (a) Minimums for Grade 5 are 5 pipes, 2 snare drummers, 1 bass
- (b) Grade 5 pipe bands may add a higher grade piper as their Pipe Major, or Pipe Sergeant only, in addition to the minimum 5 other pipers, provided that he or she is registered as their piping instructor.
- (c) Grade 5 pipe bands may add one higher grade snare drummer in addition to the minimum 2 other snare drummers, providing that he or she is registered as their drumming instructor.
- (d) Grade 5 pipe bands may add one higher grade tenor drummer providing that the player is registered as their tenor drumming instructor. The band must also field at least one other

tenor drummer.

D-6.7 Juvenile.

- (a) Minimums for Juvenile grade are 5 pipers, 2 snare drummers, 1 bass, all of eligible juvenile age.
- (b) Juvenile bands may add a non-juvenile piper as Pipe Major in addition to the minimum 5 juvenile age pipers.
- (c) Juvenile bands may add a non-juvenile drummer as their lead drummer in addition to the minimum 2 juvenile age snare drummers.

D-7 Substitute Bass Drummer

D-7.1 Procedure for Selection In the event of a bass drummer being unable to compete with their band a temporary replacement can be found using the following guidelines in order:

- (a) A player from within that band, and on the roster, can play the bass drum, provided the minimum numbers in rule D-6 are satisfied.
- (b) A bass drummer from the same organization, but in a lower grade, may replace the registered bass drummer.

D-8 Runners

D-8.1 Runners Required. Each band must provide someone to co-ordinate their prompt arrival on the contest field.

D-9 Final Tuning

D-9.1 Final Tuning Area. The PPBSO shall establish a final tuning area which is clearly marked and supervised by a steward.

D-9.2 Mandatory Use. All bands are required to move through the final tuning area before moving to the competition area.

D-9.3 Penalty for Breach. Any band which competes without first moving all competitive players through the final tuning area shall be subject to the penalty of playing first at the next contest in which it competes.

D-10 Contest Performance

D-10.1 The first band to compete will be advised as to the time it must be at the starting line in the contest arena; thereafter, it is the duty of each succeeding band to move forward as directed by the stewards, in accordance with the playing time provided.

D-10.2 Stewards may be provided as an aid to bands, but they carry no responsibility for the non-attendance of any band in the contest arena.

D-10.3 The final responsibility rests with each band to be at the starting line as and when required and any band failing to do so and not complying with official instruction, is subject to a penalty (see D-11)

- D-10.4 Bands will arrive at the starting line properly dressed (B-2.2), including headdress and come to a halt.
- D-10.5 After halting at the start line, any withdrawal of a band player may result in a penalty.
- D-10.6 On a signal from the ensemble adjudicator, the band will commence its performance on the command of the pipe major.
- D-10.7 It will be the duty of the adjudicator giving the signal to the band, to ensure that the other adjudicators are ready.

- D-10.8 The playing field is marked with 3 concentric circles. The inner circle sets out the band position. The second circle defines the distance the judges stay back from the bands. The third circle defines the closest approach by spectators. Where physically possible, the band competition inner circle radius is to be no less than 4 metres, the next circle is to have a radius no less than 7 metres, and the outside circle is to have a radius no less than 9.5 metres.

D-11 Lateness

- D-11.1 **Requirement to Arrive On Time.** Bands must arrive at the starting line for their Competition ready to play by their scheduled time, or their adjusted time as advised by the Steward or his/her delegate.
- D-11.2 **Up to Three Minutes.** A band that is up to three minutes late shall be penalized by having to play first at the next contest in which it competes.
- D-11.3 **More Than Three Minutes.** A band more than three minutes late may be disqualified.
- D-11.4 **Time of Disqualification.** Any disqualification for lateness must be imposed before a band begins their performance.

D-12 Tune Requirements

- D-12.1 **Grade 1.** Grade 1 bands shall submit 2 sets, and 2 medleys of 5 to 8 minutes duration
- D-12.2 **Grade 2.** Grade 2 bands shall submit 2 sets, and 1 medley of 4 to 7 minutes duration
- D-12.3 **Grade 3.** Grade 3 bands shall submit 1 set, and 1 medley of 3 to 6 minutes duration
- D-12.4 **Grade 4.** Grade 4 bands shall submit 1 medley of tunes of 3 to 5 minutes duration, and 1 march medley of tunes, played in quick time, of 2 minutes 45 seconds to 4 minutes 30 seconds duration.
- D-12.5 **Grade 5.** Grade 5 bands shall submit 1 march medley of tunes, played in quick time, of 2 minutes 45 seconds to 4 minutes 30 seconds duration.
- D-12.6 **Open Slow March and 6/8.** At designated games, an open slow march and 6/8 march contest may be offered. The minimum requirements are 2 parts slow march and 4 parts 6/8 march.
- D-12.7 **Juvenile.** At designated games, a Juvenile contest may be offered. Juvenile bands shall submit 1 march medley of tunes, played in quick time, 2 minutes 45 seconds to 4 minutes 30 seconds duration.

- D-12.8 **Definition of Sets.** Each set shall consist of a 2/4 march, a strathspey and a reel. Each tune submitted in a set must be a minimum of four parts.
- D-12.10 **Definition of Medleys.**
- (a) A medley for Grade 4, 3, 2 and 1 bands shall be defined as a minimum of four tune categories in the tunes comprising the selection of tunes.
 - (b) A march medley of tunes for Grade 5 and Juvenile bands shall be defined as any number of tunes that by tradition are considered marches, (such as written in time signatures 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8, 9/8 and 12/8) played in quick time, and subject to the time duration defined in D-12.4.
- D-12.11 **Tune List.** A list of all tunes comprising all sets and medleys must be submitted to the PPBSO Office prior to the draw. This list should include the name of each tune, its time signature and type. Any change in the submitted tunes must be re-submitted to the PPBSO office prior to the draw for playing position and time (11:00 a.m.) on the day of the contest.
- D-12.12 **Medley Time Limits.** Bands playing medleys of time duration other than listed may be disqualified.
- D-12.13 **Choice of Set or Medley Played.** Where a band is required to submit more than one set or medley, the choice of the set or medley to be played will be determined by draw at the starting line on the contest field. If a band is unable to perform the selected medley, they will be disqualified from the contest.
- D-12.14 **No Duplication of Tunes.** Where a band is required to submit more than one set or medley, there shall be no duplication of tunes between or within the sets or medleys.
- D-12.15 **Exception.** In spite of section D-12.14, grade 4 bands may duplicate strathspeys between their mini-set and their medley.

D-13 Medley Contest Requirements

- D-13.1 **Starting Position.** Except as pre-approved by the PPBSO bands are required to begin their performance at the starting line.
- D-13.2 **Music Director.** Each band may designate one member to act as music director during medley contests. The designated music director shall perform no other function during the contest.

D-14 Leaving the Field after Competition

- D-14.1 **Required to Leave Field.** Bands must leave the contest field immediately upon completing their contest selection and are prohibited from further playing on the contest field until all contests are completed, unless requested otherwise by the Steward.

D-15 Duty Band

- D-15.1 **Draw.** The duty band for bass, tenor and drum major contests will be drawn from all participating grade 1 and 2 bands in rotation.

D-16 Method of Determining Winning Positions in Contests

- D-16.1 **Ranking Method.** Winning positions at all competitions shall be determined by a ranking method as follows:
- (a) Each Judge's preference will be ranked in order (1, 2, 3, 4 etc.)
 - (b) The lowest total of all the ranking positions from piping, drumming and ensemble wins first place, second lowest wins second place, third lowest wins third place, and so on.
- D-16.2 **More than One Performance.** When a competition is based on more than one performance, the point system will be used as in D-16.1 above, and winning positions will be based on the lowest total of ranking points from all performances. Ties are broken by lowest aggregate ensemble total. If a tie remains, it is broken by set ensemble.
- D-16.3 **Ties.** All band ties are broken by ensemble. If a tie remains, it is broken by piping
- D-16.4 **Publication of Results.** The ranking of bands for each contest (and performance where the contest is composed of multiple performances) shall be posted on the Society website and shall include the ordinal ranking assigned by each Judge to each band.
- D-16.5 **Errors.** Where an error is made in the calculation of prizes, the Society shall ensure that all legitimately won prize monies are paid within 14 days of the event and seek to recover prizes and monies awarded in error.

D-17 Best Pipe Section

- D-17.1 **Award.** The best Pipe Section in each grade or category shall be determined by the combined scoring of the Piping Judges and be announced.

D-18 Best Drum Corps

- D-18.1 **Award.** The best Drum Corps in each grade or category shall be determined by the Drumming Judge and be announced.

D-19 Best Bass and Tenor Section

- D-19.1 **Award.** The best Bass and Tenor Section in each grade shall be determined by collaboration between the Ensemble and Drumming Judges and be announced at each games.

D-20 March and Deportment

- D-20.1 **Judged.** Each competing band may be judged on dress, marching and general behavior during the time that they are on the Contest field. When prizes have been provided by the Highland Games Committee, an announcement and an award shall be made.

D-21 Prizes and Travelling Expenses

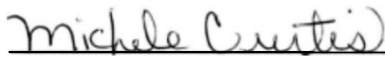
- D-21.1 **Information.** The amount of prize money and travel money negotiated by the PPBSO may vary from games to games. Information and travel directions are available upon request from the PPBSO Games Secretary.

D-22 Band Champion Supreme Awards

- D-22.1 **Contest Titles.** The PPBSO may assign Championship titles including the North American, All Ontario, and Canadian
- D-22.2 **Award.** The Band Champion Supreme Award is given to the band in each grade or category with the highest total of Champion Supreme points as calculated in accordance with the Rules below.
- D-22.3 **Points.**
- (a) In a PPBSO-sanctioned Contest other than the North American Championships that has from one to five bands compete, points shall be awarded as follows: 1st = 5 points; 2nd = 4 points; 3rd = 3 points; 4th = 2 points; 5th = 1 point.
 - (b) In a PPBSO-sanctioned Contest other than the North American Championships, that has six or more bands compete, a multiplier of 1.5 will apply to the structure defined in (a) above, and points shall be awarded as follows: 1st = 7.5 points; 2nd = 6 points; 3rd = 4.5 points; 4th = 3 points; 5th = 1.5 points.
 - (c) For the North American Championships, a multiplier of 2 will apply to the structure defined in (a) above, and points shall be awarded as follows: 1st = 10 points; 2nd = 8 points; 3rd = 6 points, 4th=4 points; 5th = 2 points.
 - (d) In contests that involve heats and a play-off, only the play-off event will be awarded points
 - (e) Each band's points for the season will be added at end of the season. The band with the highest total will be awarded the Champion Supreme designation for the grade.
- D-22.4 **Ties** - In the event of a tie for the highest total of Champion Supreme points, the band which has placed ahead of the other bands involved in the tie more often at Contests shall win the Award. If a tie remains, the band placing higher at the North American Championships shall win the Award.
- D-22.5 **Standings.** Band Champion Supreme standings shall be posted on the PPBSO website (pipebandsontario.org).
- D-22.6 **Eligibility** – Only PPBSO registered bands, whose rosters are comprised of PPBSO members, and who are competing in their normally assigned grade, will be awarded points for placing in events. If a non-PPBSO band, or a PPBSO band that is challenging up in a contest, places in what would be a points-awarding position, the associated Champion Supreme points will not be awarded to any band in the contest.

Amended and approved by the PPBSO Board of Directors on: 2nd day of December, 2024

President: 

Secretary: 

Appendix 1 - Proper Highland Dress

The following prescribes the dress code for competitors in events sanctioned by the PPBSO. Although all possible apparel cannot be covered in the description below, it is expected that the spirit of the definition will be followed at all times.

Deviations will be considered, but must be approved a minimum of three weeks in advance of the applicable Highland Games by the PPBSO executive. Any such requests for deviation may be submitted with the band master entry form or directly to the PPBSO executive in writing.

Minor deviations for individual pipers/drummers, due to obvious or documented medical conditions, do not require prior approval.

Certain deviations can and will be made in adverse weather conditions by the Society. Inverness capes are considered acceptable dress based on the prevailing wet weather conditions at the time of the event. During massed bands, alternate headwear that allows extra sun protection (such as bucket hats) may be worn provided that:

- Hats are uniform within the entire band (i.e. each band should have one uniform style of hat)
- These hats are only worn when standing “at ease” and not while playing in massed bands.
- At all other times headgear such as Glengarry, Balmoral or feather bonnet should be worn.

As a minimum, all competitors except practice chanter and practice pad competitors shall be attired in head dress, shirt, kilt, hose and shoes.

Acceptable items of apparel include the following:

1. **Head Wear:** Feather bonnet, Glengarry, or Balmoral
2. **Shirt:** Collared shirt. More formal dress may include a military-style doublet (for which a shirt will not apply), Prince Charlie-style jacket, police/military-style jacket or vest. Tie is optional, but encouraged.
3. **Kilt:** Kilt (with sporran) or highland trews
4. **Hose:** Knee-length hose (not applicable to trews)
5. **Shoes:** Oxford-style dress shoes or ghillie brogues

Appendix 2 - Developmental or Call-Up Players

As permitted by rule D-1.2, a player on a lower-grade band roster that is also designated “developmental” on a higher-grade band roster may be allowed to compete up to three designated contests with the higher-grade band, only as set out below:

1. Notification that a developmental player is to compete at a particular contest or contests (also referred to as “call-up”) must be in writing in the form of a letter, fax or e-mail.
2. The Notification must be signed by the Pipe Major, or the Drum Sergeant, or the Band Manager.
3. The Notification must be filed with the PPBSO administrator no less than 72 hours prior to the contest.
4. Once the Notification (“call-up”) is filed, the player is deemed to have played, regardless of whether the player actually plays or not.
5. The lower-grade and higher-grade bands must be in the same organization, or must jointly acknowledge that a formal player development arrangement exists between the two bands.
6. A developmental player for which a notification is received (“call-up” player) cannot compete in the lower-grade band and the higher-grade band on the same day.
7. From lowest to highest, band grading is grade 5, grade 4, grade 3, grade 2 and grade 1.
8. The higher-grade band must satisfy minimum numbers without counting the developmental (“call-up”) player.
9. Rule D-1.2 only applies to developmental players that are PPBSO members playing in PPBSO registered bands.

Appendix 3 – Inclement Weather Policy

PPBSO Inclement Weather Policy

Policy: The PPBSO sanctions contests and promotes piping, drumming and band events with due regard for the safety and health of competitors and members.

Context: When PPBSO officials anticipate severe weather or lightning, a decision will be taken that considers the safety hazards associated with changing circumstances. Such a decision may result in the suspension, or cancellation of some or all of the events, and in extreme conditions, may result in declaring that areas deemed high hazard be evacuated.

Criteria:

- PPBSO officials shall use their best judgement in considering all available weather information and this policy in making and communicating decisions
- When the time interval between lightning being seen and thunder being heard is 30 seconds or less, PPBSO shall halt contests and activities, and instruct competitors to seek shelter
- The PPBSO shall sound an Evacuation signal - three blasts of the air horn – to signal competitors to vacate the playing field and seek shelter. If possible, loud speaker announcements should be made: “Attention everyone, Please leave the area immediately.”
- When possible to do so, competitors already competing may finish any performance that is in progress. No further performances will begin until PPBSO officials have determined that there is no longer a threat to safety.
- When PPBSO are satisfied that it is safe to resume events, a signal to Resume – 2 blasts of an air horn – will signal that solo contest will resume in 20 minutes and band contests will resume in 40 minutes. If possible, loud speaker announcements should be made: “Attention everyone, Contests will resume.”
- In extreme situations, cancellation of the games may be necessary. The PPBSO president (or delegate) and Highland Games Committee senior representative will usually consult one another and make such a decision jointly. If this occurs, a Cancellation of Games signal - four blasts of the air horn - will signal cancellation of the games. If possible, loud speaker announcements should be made: “Attention everyone, the Games are cancelled.”

Responsibility:

- It is the responsibility of the senior PPBSO representative present in consultation with other PPBSO officers or executive members to ensure that this policy is fairly implemented
- Once notified, members are responsible for their own actions in reacting to safety hazards

END