

**Alberta Society of Pipers and Drummers**  
**Rules for Solo Piping Competition**

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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 solo piping 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 competitions in a fair, respected, and beneficial manner to the Competitors, the Competition Committee, and the Society; and
- To promote and encourage participation of solo pipers at 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 solo piping competitions is the Province of Alberta. Registering is a cooperative agreement between the Society and the various organizations sponsoring solo piping competition committees ("Competition Committee") to ensure that competitions are run according to the Society's rules for solo piping 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 Solo piping 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 - COMPETITION RULES**

### **2.1 - The Competition Committee, Chief Steward and Chief Scorer**

2.1.1 The Highland Games Association member and therefore, Games Sponsor shall designate a Competition Committee, which shall manage and run the competition activities on the Games day. The Competition Committee shall designate a Chief Steward and a Chief Scorer.

2.1.2 Highland Games Association members must register on or before the first of April of the year in order to be included in the Provincial Champion program.

### **2.2 - Steward's Responsibilities**

2.2.1 A Steward shall be assigned to each event. The Steward shall be responsible for ensuring a regular and orderly stream of competitors to the event's competition area.

### **2.3 - Competitor's Responsibilities**

2.3.1 Competitors shall be responsible for reporting to the Steward prior to the event, for obtaining their position in the order of play for the event, and for being ready to compete when their position in the order of play arrives.

2.3.2 Competitors shall signal the Adjudicator when they are ready to commence their performance.

2.3.3 Any Competitor who interferes, disrupts, threatens, or uses abusive language towards the Adjudicators, Officials, Stewards or members of the Competition Committee shall cause themselves to be liable for suspension from further competitions for as long as the Executive deems is necessary in the circumstances.

2.3.4 The same penalty shall apply to situations involving the abuse of private property at the Highland Games site.

2.3.5 The Competitor shall be responsible for the submission of the tune lists, as requested by the Competition Committee, for their event(s).

### **2.4 - Society Representative**

2.4.1 A member of the Executive, or their designate, shall be in attendance as the Society's Representative at all of the registered competitions and shall be available to the Competition Committee for that day.

2.4.2 The Society Representative shall monitor the competitions for compliance and fairness, provide answers to questions on the competition rules, and provide advice (if requested) to the Competition Committee on complaints, disputes and protests relating to the competition.

### **2.5 - Splitting an Event**

2.5.1 If there are more than twenty (20) competitors in a single event, the event may be divided into two or more sections and designated as such. Prizes shall be given to each section of the event and each section shall be treated as a separate event.

2.5.2 The decision to split an event shall rest with the Competition Committee of the Highland Games, with competitors allocated to the various split-events in a random and fair manner.

## **2.6 - Order of Play**

2.6.1 All orders of play and the start time for each event shall be posted at the competition registration area prior to the commencement of the competitions.

2.6.2 Competitors should be ready to play in the posted order.

2.6.3 If given, posted competitor times are always subject to change, at the discretion of the Steward for the event.

## **2.7 - Communication of the Selected Music**

2.7.1 Prior to beginning their performance, Competitors shall address the Adjudicator and submit to him/her the names, and music where requested, of the tune(s) they have prepared for performance.

2.7.2 At that time, for events where submission of more than one tune/set is required, the Adjudicator shall select the tune(s) from the competitors list.

2.7.3 Particular competitions may permit the Competitor to receive their selected tune(s) in the final tuning area, only if stated so on the entry form and the tune(s) are submitted with the Competitor's entry form.

## **2.8 - Performing without the Aid of Music**

2.8.1 All Competitors shall perform their event without the aid of music, in the printed form or other recorded forms.

2.8.2 Competitors should be prepared to supply music to the adjudicator when requested.

## **2.9 - Tuning time**

2.9.1 Tuning on the platform shall be limited to one (1) minute, except for piobaireachd which shall be five (5) minutes. For indoor competitions, three (3) minutes will be allowed for tuning except for piobaireachd which will be allowed five (5) minutes. Any piper tuning longer may be disqualified at the discretion of the events Steward.

## **2.10 - Acceptable Highland Dress**

2.10.1 Competitors may be prevented from competing and accepting trophies onstage when not properly attired in acceptable and properly worn highland dress. Acceptable highland dress includes:

- Head dress: feather bonnet, glengarry or balmoral,
- Collared shirt and tie. More formal dress may include a military doublet (for which a shirt will not apply), Prince Charlie jacket, police/military jacket or vest,
- Kilt with sporran or trews,
- Knee-length hose (not applicable to trews), and
- Oxford-style shoes or ghillie brogues.

For beginners, dress pants, shirt and shoes are acceptable.

2.10.3 Military uniforms may also be worn by Competitors.

## **2.11 - Local Competition Rules**

2.11.1 Local competition rules or requirements may take precedence over the above rules and regulations, but only upon submission to and approval by the Society.

## **3 - MEMBERSHIP**

### **3.1 - General Requirements**

3.1.1 All Competitors residing in the registering area, and desiring to compete in registered competitions must be firstly, members of the Society, or secondly members of an officially recognized Pipe Band Association affiliated with the Society, as per the list provided in Section 1.4.

3.1.2 Unless otherwise agreed by all parties involved, in the event that an individual chooses to join an Association other than where the individual resides, the individual shall pay to the Association of choice the membership fee of either the Association of residence or the Association of choice, whichever is greater.

3.1.3 The fee for memberships for each class of the Society's membership will be determined annually by the Registrar, with approval from the Executive.

3.1.4 All members, including individuals, pipe bands, and Highland Games Associations are encouraged to register on or before April 1. Renewal registrations after April 1 may be subject to a late registration fee at double the usual registration fee for all categories.

3.1.5 All out of province competitors, who are not members of the Society or an officially recognized piping/pipe band Association affiliated with the Society, shall pay to the Competition Committee the equivalent annual fee for an ASPD individual membership.

3.1.6 Alberta Society of Pipers & Drummers memberships registrations run from January 1 to December 31 of the following year. Affiliated Societies' membership expiration dates will be adhered to, if applicable.

## **4 - GRADES AND GRADING**

### **4.1 - Grades**

4.1.1 Piping grades shall be classified as and offered in Beginner (on practice chanter), Grade V, Grade IV, Grade III, Grade II, Grade I, Professional and Adult Club. Pipers shall compete in only one grade.

4.1.2 Piobaireachd events will be offered in Grade IV, Grade III, Grade II, Grade I, and Professional classes.

4.1.3 Grades shall be determined by ability and not by age, sex or affiliation, with the exception of confined or special events as defined by a Competition Committee.

4.1.4 The Beginner (on practice chanter) grade is limited to competitors who have not won a prize in the Beginner grade in a previous competition year, or who have not competed on the pipes.

4.1.5 The Adult Club grade is limited to competitors 18 years of age or older and limited to a maximum ability of the Grade 4 piping grade. Effective October 2023, players will be required to

pay the specified entry fee as placings will be awarded, as per Sections 6.5 and 6.6. A Provincial aggregate will also be awarded at the conclusion of the season as per Section 6.8.

4.1.6 A Professional competitor is one who has competed in a professional competition at any time, or where cash prizes are offered and accepted by a competitor notwithstanding Clause 4.2.3 and 4.2.7.

## **4.2 - Grading**

4.2.1 Competitors shall compete in the grade appropriate to their ability. A list of Competitors assigned to each grade shall be published by the Society each year. At the conclusion of the contest season, the Music & Grading Committee shall review overall results and make a decision on whether a solo competitor is to move up for the following competition season, however there will be no down-grading, except by application, see 4.2.6.

4.2.2 In a competition outside the Society's registering jurisdiction, a Competitor may play in a higher class if there is no appropriate grade for them.

4.2.3 The Music & Grading Committee shall have the authority to re-grade a Competitor at any time.

4.2.4 A Competitor, who chooses to appeal their grading, shall make the appeal in writing to the Music & Grading Committee using the [Solo Competitor Appeal form](#) found on the Resources & Forms page on the ASPD website.

4.2.5 A Competitor will compete in the same grade level in Piobaireachd and light music events.

4.2.6 When no points are earned in the following **TWO** years at sanctioned competitions, a Competitor may **APPLY** to be downgraded.

4.2.7 Amateur Competitors who voluntarily elect to compete in any open contest where cash prizes are awarded will be graded as Professional if they accept a cash prize. If they compete, but decline the cash prize, they will retain their amateur standing.

## **5 - MUSIC REQUIREMENTS**

### **5.1 - Music**

5.1.1 Any piper in a particular grade shall be required to play any of the music listed for the grade as set out in the [Music Requirements for Piping, Drumming and Pipe Band Competitions](#) as posted on the Society's website.

## **6 - RULES FOR ADJUDICATORS**

### **6.1 - Authority**

6.1.1 Within its sanctioning jurisdiction, the Society shall have the responsibility and authority to determine people qualified to adjudicate piping, drumming and ensemble in registered pipe band competitions and to maintain an [approved Adjudicators List](#) of these qualified people.

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

## 6.2 - Selection of Adjudicators

6.2.1 The Adjudicators for registered competitions shall be drawn from:

- the approved Adjudicators List of the Society, or
- the approved Adjudicators List of piping/Pipe Band Associations officially recognized by and affiliated with ANAPBA.

6.2.2 Highland Games proposing to use an Adjudicator who is not on an approved Adjudicators List identified in Clause 6.2.1 shall obtain approval by the Society prior to the engagement.

## 6.3 - Number of Adjudicators

6.3.1 The minimum number of adjudicators shall comply with the [ASPD Rules for Adjudicators](#).

## 6.4 - Conduct of Adjudicators

6.4.1 Adjudicators shall comply with the conduct requirements as laid out in the aforementioned ASPD Rules for Adjudicators.

## 6.5 - Determination of the Final Result

6.5.1 Adjudicators shall be allotted a reasonable time at the end of each event to arrive at a decision. The number of awards shall be based on the number of competitors who begin their performance, as shown in the following table:

<b>Less than 3 competitors</b>	One (1) placing
<b>3 competitors</b>	Two (2) placings
<b>4 to 10 competitors</b>	Three (3) placings
<b>11-to 15 competitors</b>	Four (4) placings
<b>16 to 20 competitors</b>	Five (5) placings
<b>21 or more competitors</b>	Six (6) placings

6.5.2 The Adjudicator's decision shall prevail in determining the merits of each performance, and his/her decision shall be final.

6.5.3 No ties are permitted.

## 6.6 - Determination of the Aggregate Winner

6.6.1 At all competitions, the Aggregate winner should be determined over all events (minimum of two events) per grade in all grades. Piobaireachd events will be included in the calculation of Aggregate winners.

6.6.2 The points to be awarded for the calculation of Aggregates shall be as follows:

### Placing Aggregate Points:

First	88 Points
Second	56 Points
Third	38 Points
Fourth	25 Points
Fifth	16 Points
Sixth	10 Points

6.6.3 Ties in Aggregate awards shall be broken in the following order:

1. Winner of the Piobaireachd event;
2. Winner of the March, Strathspey & Reel event;
3. Winner of the 2/4 March event, or
4. Winner of the 6/8 March event.

### **6.7 - Prize Monies**

6.7.1 The Competition Committee shall include in their entry forms the number of prizes to award in the Professional class and the value of each prize.

6.7.2 The number and value of prizes that are awarded for an event in the Professional class shall be as published in the entry form, regardless of the number of competitors who compete in the event.

### **6.8 - Determination of Provincial Aggregate Winner**

6.8.1 At the end of the competition season, the Society shall award a Provincial Aggregate Award in each grade to the Society member with the highest accumulated points at Society-sanctioned competitions in music events as listed in the Music Requirements for Piping, Drumming, and Pipe Band Competitions and adjudicated by Adjudicators selected according to Section 6.2.

6.8.2 Aggregate points shall be awarded for each event at Society-sanctioned competitions. Points will be awarded to *all* competitors who complete their performance up to and including 6 placings.

6.8.3 The points to be awarded for the calculation of Aggregate awards shall be as follows:

#### **Placing Aggregate Points:**

First	88 Points
Second	56 Points
Third	38 Points
Fourth	25 Points



Fifth	16 Points
Sixth	10 Points

6.8.4 Ties in the Provincial Aggregate points total shall not be broken.

6.8.5 At the end of the competition season, the Society shall award a Provincial combined Piping Aggregate award in each of grades 4, 3, 2, 1, and Professional Solo Piping to the Society member with the highest total of combined Aggregate points from all light music and Pìobaireachd events from Society-sanctioned Highland Games.

## **7 - INTERPRETATION OF RULES AND PROTESTS**

### **7.1 - Interpretation of Rules**

7.1.1 In the event of any misunderstanding or ambiguity in these rules, the Executive reserves the right to supply its own interpretation which shall be final and binding.

7.1.2 The Executive shall ensure that written records are maintained on every decision resulting from a protest or interpretation of the rules to create a list of precedents that can be available to assist in the future interpretation of the rules.

7.1.3 No member of the Executive or their designate shall be allowed to rule on a protest in which their student or family member is involved.

### **7.2 - Protests and Grievances**

7.2.1 Any protest shall be made in writing accompanied by a \$20 deposit and lodged with the Competition Committee within one hour of the posting of the results, and a copy of the written protest provided to the Society Representative by the end of the day. The deposit will be refunded should the grievance be upheld.

7.2.2 Where relevant, the complainant shall submit the original adjudication and adjudicator's result sheet, which will be verified by the Adjudicators involved and the Chief Scorer as authentic.

7.2.3 Should the aggrieved competitor disagree with the findings of the Competition Committee, they shall have the right to appeal to the Society. Pending the result of the appeal, the findings of the Competition Committee shall be accepted by all the parties concerned.

7.2.4 The Competition Committee on the day of the competition and before the distribution of prizes, being satisfied that a Competitor has willfully violated, or is willfully violating any of the rules, shall have the power to de-bar such Competitor from the prize list, suspend the decision of the Adjudicators for that Competitor, and award the prizes to the respective competitors next in the order of merit.

7.2.5 The Executive shall have the right to act similarly after the competition, if satisfied that a willful violation of the rules took place.

7.2.6 In the event of a prize being awarded to the wrong Competitor because of an error, it shall be the responsibility of the Competition Committee to re-award such prizes to the deserving Competitor as soon as possible after such discovery is made.

\*Updated May 2023