



IRISH PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION CONTEST RULES

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1.0.0 Preliminaries

- 1.1.0 These Contest Rules are a code of practice for the conduct of contests held under the auspices of the I.P.B.A.
- 1.1.1 Contests may be sponsored by member Groups/Bands/Branches or by non-association promoters approved by the N.E.C.
- 1.1.2 Persons wishing to compete in I.P.B.A. approved contests must be registered members of bands of the I.P.B.A. (Full or Affiliate Membership), R.S.P.B.A. or affiliated organisations or Associate Members of the I.P.B.A.
- 1.1.3 Each contest must be approved and licensed by the N.E.C.
- 1.2.0 An individual player, band or its sub-units may be referred to as a 'competitor' in these rules and terms are interchangeable, where appropriate.
- 1.2.1 The terms Pipe Major/Musical Director and also Drum Sergeant/Leading Drummer, will henceforth be interchangeable.
- 1.3.0 The N.E.C. is empowered to make rules to cover any contingencies which may arise within the contest rules.
- 1.3.1 The N.E.C. shall be the ultimate arbiter where disagreements arise due to interpretation of these rules.

2.0.0 Definition of Competitive Units

2.0.1 Bands

Grade 5 - 6 Pipers, 2 Snare drummers & 1 Bass drummer.
Grade 4 - 6 Pipers, 2 Snare drummers & 1 Bass drummer,
Grade 3B - 7 Pipers, 3 Snare drummers & 1 Bass drummer,
Grade 3A - 7 Pipers, 3 Snare drummers & 1 Bass drummer,
Grade 2 - 8 Pipers, 3 Snare drummers & 1 Bass drummer,
Grade 1 - 8 Pipers, 3 Snare drummers & 1 Bass

2.0.2 Mini Bands

Grade 5, 4, 3B and 3A: 4 Pipers, 2 Snare Drummers, 1 Bass Drummer and Tenor Drummer (optional)
Grades 2 and 1: 6 Pipers, 2 Snare Drummers, 1 Bass Drummer and Tenor Drummer (optional)

Note: The Musical Director (Pipe Major), Leading Drummer (Drum Sergeant) and Bass Drummer may play with more than one competitive Mini Band.

2.0.3 Other Groupings

- a) Quintet: 3 Pipers, 1 Snare Drummer and 1 Bass Drummer.
- b) Quartet: 4 Pipers
- c) Trio: 3 Pipers

Note: All subdivided units of a band shall play in the Grade allocated to that band.

2.0.4 Competitors may compete in other combinations or permutations, not previously mentioned, subject to the approval of the N.E.C.

2.1.0 The minimum number of members of a band registered with the I.P.B.A. will be 4 Pipers & 3 Drummers.

3.0.0 Grading

General:

- 3.0.1 The grading of individuals or competitive units will be determined by the National Executive Committee (NEC) on the advice of the National Advisory Committee (NAC).
- 3.0.2 The NAC shall maintain records of contest results for each grade. These records shall be the basis for the grading of bands.
- 3.0.3 Where a change in grading occurs, from one season to another, bands or individuals to whom the changes apply will be notified accordingly, unless, pre-determined and specific rules govern the situation.
- 3.0.4 Any individual or group will have the right to appeal to the N.E.C. with respect to their grading. This must be done in writing, outlining their case, within a month of the notification of change of status.
- 3.0.5 No band or individual will be permitted to compete in a lower grade than the grade allocated to them.
- 3.0.6 Bands may, at specific contests approved by the N.E.C., compete in up to one grade higher than they are allotted, provided they have first played in their own grade at that contest.
- 3.0.7 In a contest, approved by the N.E.C. where an open grade exists, such will be open to all bands irrespective of grading, provided they have first played in their own grade at that contest.

3.1.0 Bands:

Bands shall be allocated grades as determined by the N.E.C. or R.S.P.B.A. and consistent with their performance.

The current system places bands in one of the following categories:
Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3A, Grade 3B, Grade 4 (4a), Grade 5 (4b):

3.2.0 Solo Competitors:

Solo Competitors shall be allocated grades as follows:

Practice Chanter- Pad - Pipes	Competitors may take part in a practice chanter/drum pad contest, provided he/she has not participated in a piping/ drumming contest previously. Practice Pipes are designed as an interim step between Practice Chanter and other competitive grades.
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Juvenile U14	<p>Confined to: Competitors who are under 14 years of age on the 1st November of the previous year, as specified by RSPBA and IPBA rules. Evidence of age must be produced on request.</p>
Juvenile U16	<p>Confined to: Competitors who are under 16 years of age on the 1st November of the previous year, as specified by RSPBA and IPBA rules. Evidence of age must be produced on request.</p>
Juvenile U18	<p>Confined to: Competitors who are under 18 years of age on the 1st November of the previous year, as specified by RSPBA and IPBA rules. Evidence of age must be produced on request.</p>
Grade D (Novice)	<p>Confined to: Competitors who are over sixteen years of age who have not received a 1st place in an Under Age solo contest. Competitors who have been graded as D Grade by the NEC.</p>
C2 Grade (Junior B)	<p>Confined to: Competitors over 18 years of age, who have not been otherwise graded by the JAC. Competitors from members of Grades 4B, 4A, 3B, 3A and Grade 2 bands. Competitors who have been graded C or below by the CPA (Competing Pipers Association)</p>
C1 Grade (Junior A)	<p>Confined to: Competitors over 18 years of age, who have been graded as C1 Grade by the JAC. Competitors who have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in C2 Grade (Junior B) at an All Ireland Piping & Drumming Solos. Entrants from members of Grade 1 bands. Competitors who have been graded C or below by the CPA.</p>
B Grade (Intermediate)	<p>Confined to: Competitors who have been graded as B Grade by the JAC. Competitors who have come 1st in C1 Grade at an All Ireland Piping & Drumming Solos. Competitors who have been graded B- by the CPA. Note: 2nd and 3rd placed players in C1 Grade at the All Ireland Piping & Drumming Solos 2018 have</p>

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the option of upgrading to B Grade but must remain therein if this option is exercised.

A Grade
(Senior)

Confined to:
Competitors who have been graded as A Grade by the JAC.
Competitors who have come 1st in B Grade (at an All Ireland Piping & Drumming Solos.
Competitors who have been graded B, B+ or A by the CPA.
Competitors who competed in the Final of the World Drumming Solos.
Note: 2nd placed player in B Grade at an All Ireland Piping & Drumming Solos has the option of upgrading to A Grade but must remain therein if this option is exercised.

Piobaireachd B

Confined to:
Competitors who have not been graded as Piobaireachd A by the JAC.
Competitors who have not won 1st place in a Piobaireachd B at an All Ireland Piping & Drumming Solos.
Competitors who have been graded C or below in Piobaireachd by the CPA.

Piobaireachd A

Confined to:
Competitors who have been graded as Piobaireachd A by the JAC.
Competitors who have come 1st in Piobaireachd B at an All Ireland Piping & Drumming Solos.
Competitors who have been graded B- or above in Piobaireachd by the CPA.

Tenor
Drumming
Juvenile U 14

Confined to:
Competitors who are under 14 years of age on the 1st November of the previous year, as specified by RSPBA and IPBA rules.
Evidence of age must be produced on request.

Tenor
Drumming
Juvenile U 16

Confined to:
Competitors who are under 16 years of age on the 1st November of the previous year, as specified by RSPBA and IPBA rules.
Evidence of age must be produced on request.

Tenor
Drumming
C Grade

Confined to:
Competitors over 16 who have not been graded as B or A Grade by the JAC.

Tenor
Drumming

Confined to:
Competitors over 16 who have been graded as B Grade by the

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B Grade	JAC. A Competitor placed 1 st in Tenor Drumming C Grade at the All Ireland Piping & Drumming Solos.
Tenor Drumming A Grade	Confined to: Competitors over 16 who have been graded as A Grade by the JAC. A Competitor placed 1 st in Tenor Drumming C Grade at the All Ireland Piping & Drumming Solos. (specific exemption for 2019)
Bass Drumming Open Grade	Confined to: Bona fide Bass Drummers registered with an IPBA, RSPBA or Affiliate band.

3.3.0 Drum Majors:

3.3.1 The grading for Drum Majors shall be as follows:

- a) Under 14 years of age - Junior
- b) Over 14 years of age and under 18 years old - Juvenile
- c) Over 18 years of age – Senior

Note A: A Competitor may compete in an under-age contest provided he/she has not reached the specified age on the 1st November prior to the contest.

Note B: In the future, the JAC may take the decision to upgrade more solo players than stated above or to downgrade players depending on grade sizes and perceived ability. The NEC will abide by the decision of the JAC – players will be notified and have the right to appeal.

3.4.0 Dress, Marching & Department

3.4.1 Contests for Dress, Marching and Department may be held on:

- a) A per grade basis, where separate contests will be held for each grade.
- b) An overall contest basis where all bands at a specific championships compete against each other irrespective of grading.

4.0.0 Musical Requirements

4.0.1 Bands & Mini Bands

Grade 1

March, Strathspey, Reel (minimum 4 parts each) two sets must be submitted, plus Medley Selection 5 - 7 minutes two sets must be submitted.

Note: The choice of MSR to be played will be drawn, from the two sets submitted, on the line.

A choice of Medley Selection rests with the band.

Grade 2

March, Strathspey, Reel (minimum 4 parts each) or Medley Selection of 4 to 6 minutes. In certain contests two sets of March, Strathspey, Reels may have to be submitted, one to be played.

Grade 3 a & 3b

March, Strathspey and Reel of at least four parts each OR Medley Selection of 3 to 5 minutes.

Grade 4

4 Parts March (in 2/4 Time Signature), 4 Parts Strathspey and 4 Parts Reel;
1 x 4 Parted 2/4 March or 2 x 2 Parted 2/4 Marches (Parts 1 and 2 of each) if 4 Parted.
1 x 4 Parted Strathspey or 2 x 2 parted Strathspeys (Parts 1 and 2 of each) if 4 Parted
1 x 4 Parted Reel or x 2 Parted Reels (Parts 1 and 2 of each) if 4 Parted
All tunes played must come from the "RSPBA Prescribed Tune List"

Grade 5

2.5 Minutes in Quick March Tempo or

4 x 2 Parted 2/4 Marches from the RSPBA Prescribed Tune List.

Not2: Bands may also choose Parts 1 and 2 of any of the 4 Parted tunes offered on the RSPBA list of Tunes.

4.0.2 Solo Players

Practice Chanter / Practice Drum Pad / Practice Pipes:

Piping: 2 parts in Quick March Tempo or

Drumming: 2 parts in Quick March Tempo

Under 14:

Piping: 4 parts in Quick March Tempo or 4 part March

Drumming: 4 parts in Quick March Tempo or 4 part March.

Tenor Drumming: 4 parts in Quick March Tempo or 4part March.

Under 16:

Piping: 4 part March

Drumming: 4 part March or 4 part March 2 part Strathspey and 2 part Reel.

Tenor Drumming: 4 part March or March, Strathspey and Reel of at least 4 parts each.

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Under 18:

Piping: March, Strathspey, Reel of at least 4 parts each.

Drumming: March, Strathspey, Reel of at least 4 parts each.

Grade D:

Piping: 4 parts in quick march tempo or 4 part march.

Drumming: 4 parts in quick march tempo or 4 part march.

Grade C1 & C2:

Piping: March, Strathspey, Reel of at least 4 parts each.

Drumming: March, Strathspey, Reel of at least 4 parts each.

Tenor Drumming: Medley selection 3-5 minutes or March, Strathspey, Reel of at least 4 parts each.

Grade B

Piping: March, Strathspey, Reel of at least 4 parts (two sets to be submitted)

Drumming: March, Strathspey, Reel of at least 4 parts each.

Tenor Drumming: Medley selection 3-5 minutes or March, Strathspey, Reel of at least 4 parts each.

Grade A:

Piping: March, Strathspey, Reel of at least 4 parts (2 sets to be submitted)

Drumming: March, Strathspey, Reel at least 4 parts.

Tenor Drumming: Medley selection 3-5 minutes or March, Strathspey, Reel of at least 4 parts each.

Open:

To be determined by promoter

or

Piping: Slow Air, Hornpipe & Jig (minimum 10 parts in total)

Drumming: Hornpipe & Jig (minimum 8 parts in total)

Piobaireachd B:

One Piobaireachd (1 tune to be submitted)

Piobaireachd A:

Open Piobaireachd (2 tunes to be submitted)

For JAC Sponsored Juvenile Contests the following grades may be used:

U12 Practice Chanter
U12 Practice Pad

Confined to:

Competitors who are under 12 years of age on the 1st Nov 2018, as specified by RSPBA and IPBA rules.

Evidence of age must be produced on request.

U13 Practice Pipes *
U13 Unaccompanied
Drumming

Confined to:

Competitors who are under 13 years of age on the 1st Nov 2018, as specified by RSPBA and IPBA rules.

Evidence of age must be produced on request.

U16 Piobaireachd

Confined to:

Competitors who are under 16 years of age on the 1st November, 2018, as specified by RSPBA and IPBA rules.

Evidence of age must be produced on request.

Practice Pipes – chanter without drones sounding *

- 4.0.3 Promoters may organise contests in which individuals or groups, previously or not previously defined, compete with musical requirements varying from the norm, only if approval has been granted by the N.E.C.
- 4.0.4 When All-Ireland Championships are run the musical requirements shall be determined by the Joint Association Council.
- 4.1.0 Piping Instructor: A Piper from any grade band may register as Instructor and play in contest with a Grade 4 or 5 band, but in doing so has to fulfil the role of Pipe Major.
- 4.1.1 Drumming Instructor: A Drummer from a higher grade band may register as Instructor with a Grade 4 or 5 band, and in doing so, may play in contest with, but only in addition to, a Grade 4 or 5 Drum Corps, but may not act as Lead Drummer. This rule does not apply to All Ireland Pipe Band Championships or contests outwit the jurisdiction of the IPBA.

5.0.0 Contests Committee

- 5.0.1 A Contest Committee will be constituted each year by the NEC / Branch for the efficient promotion and running of contests within its geographical jurisdiction. Note: All Ireland contests are under the control of the Joint Association Council.
- 5.0.2 The Contest Committee will, at all times, ensure that the Constitution and Rules of the Irish Pipe Band Association are upheld.
- 5.0.3 Competitors must be registered with a band for at least 14 days prior to competing in a contest.
- 5.0.4 A €30 fine will be introduced for bands who fail to inform contest secretaries about a band's non-ability to attend a contest, having previously entered that contest.
- 5.1.0 Powers of the Contest Committee
- 5.1.1 A Contest Committee properly constituted will have the power to deal with all complaints, protests and disputes relating to that contest. If unable to reach a decision they will refer the matter to the Branch.
- 5.1.2 The Contest Committee has the power to disqualify or de-bar a competitor, being satisfied that the Constitution or Contest Rules are being violated. Being thus satisfied, the Contest Committee may exclude the guilty party from the prize list, suspend the decision of the Judges and award the prizes to the Competitor next in order of merit. A disqualified Competitor will not receive Adjudicator's Sheets
- 5.2.0 The minimum composition of the Contest Committee shall be the Contest Officer, Chief Steward & Chief Compiler
- 5.2.1 Contest Officer
- a) A Contest Officer will be appointed each year by the NEC / Branch Committee.
 - b) The Contest Officer will be responsible for conducting a draw for each Contest in a bona-fide manner for the order of play.
 - c) The Contest Officer will post the following in a prominent position, accessible to all, on the day of a contest.
 - Name of Contest Officer.
 - Order of Play of Participating Bands.
 - d) In the event of a protest being lodged the Contest Officer will convene the Contest Committee to deliberate on the issue, the findings of which will be conveyed to the protesting party prior to the issue of prizes.

5.2.2 Chief Compiler & Compilers

- a) A Chief Compiler will be appointed each year by the NEC / Branch Committee.
- b) He / She will maintain a list of people who will act as compilers and ensure that they are proficient.
- c) The Chief Compiler will be responsible for the accurate collation of Contest Results.
- d) Compilers shall receive all Result Sheets at the end of a grade and enter the results immediately on the Compiling Sheet.
- e) At the end of the Contest, compilers should submit their completed sheets to the Contest Officer.
- f) Compilers must ensure that their work is conducted in the strictest confidence at all times and must divulge nothing during or after the Contest relating to individual bands or competitors performances.
- g) The Chief Compiler must ensure that a copy of the Grade Result together with the Adjudicator's Assessment Sheet(s) is provided to the relevant competitor.

5.2.3 Chief Steward & Stewards

- a) A Chief Steward will be appointed each year by the NEC / Branch Committee.
- b) He / She will maintain a list of people willing to act as steward at contests, and will be responsible for stewarding at all events in his / her remit.
- c) Stewards will not be held responsible for the failure of competitors to perform when requested. Failure of a competitor to perform when requested by a Steward may result in disqualification or a sanction lesser than disqualification, as determined by the Contest Committee.
- d) A Chief Steward may disqualify any competitor who does not perform the stipulated requirements.
- e) Any band failing to comply with the minimum numbers requirement for their grade will be disqualified by the Chief Steward.

6.0.0 Complaints or Protests

- 6.0.1 Any individual or band wishing to lodge a complaint/protest must do so before the distribution of prizes.
- 6.0.2 Such complaint/protest must in writing to the Contest Officer and accompanied by a deposit of €50.
- 6.0.3 The deposit will be refunded if the complaint/protest is justified but will be retained by the N.E.C. if unjustified, trivial, groundless or malicious.
- 6.0.4 The Contest Committee will, within its empowerment, deal with such protests/complaints but if unable to reach a decision, shall refer it to the Branch.
- 6.0.5 If an aggrieved party disagrees with the findings of a Contest Committee they may appeal to the N.E.C. whose decision shall be binding on all parties.
- 6.0.6 Notwithstanding the above the N.E.C. will have the power to investigate and adjudicate any errors or any breach of the rules.

7.0.0 Physical Layout of the Contest Area

- 7.0.1 Indoor Contests:
Adjudicators shall determine the relative position of Competitors, but must not encroach on the location so as to disturb the Competitors.
- 7.0.2 Band Contests:
- a) A start line of minimum length 7m shall be marked on the ground, a perpendicular distance of 14m from the centre of two concentric circles. These circles shall be drawn with a radius of 4m and 7m respectively. A band about to compete will 'draw-up' with the front line of Pipers on the start line.
 - b) Promoters may, with the approval of the NEC, organise contests in which the band will compete in 'non-standard' formation.

8.0.0 Adjudication

- 8.0.1 The I.P.B.A. will maintain a panel of adjudicators for Piping, Drumming, Tenor Drumming, Drum Majors and Marching and Department. This panel shall be reviewed by the N.A.C. who will recommend the list annually to the N.E.C.
- 8.0.2 In the event that the original Adjudicators do not turn up on the day, the Contest Committee has the right to appoint Substitute Adjudicators provided they are properly licensed.
- 8.0.3 Should an Adjudicator bring the organisation into disrepute, be considered incompetent, or fail to carry out his/her duties in accordance with the Constitution and Rules of the I.P.B.A., the N.E.C., on the recommendation of the N.A.C. has the authority to suspend and/or remove his/her name from the panel of Adjudicators.
- 8.0.4 Adjudicators may not converse with members or officials of competing bands during a contest. Any required information should be sought from the Contest Officer.
- 8.0.5 Adjudicators are instructed to have no ties within the range of prizes to be awarded.
- 8.0.6 Adjudication for bands, unless otherwise stipulated, will commence on the first beat of the first three pace rolls and shall cease on the playing of the last note in the last piece being played.
- 8.0.7 After halting at the starting line, no member of the band will be allowed to withdraw.
- 8.0.8 Adjudicators will be issued with a supply of official I.P.B.A. Adjudication Assessment Sheets. The sheets, suitably completed, should be passed to the Steward at the end of the Grade.
On the Adjudication Assessment Sheet the Adjudicator will provide constructive criticism, commensurate with the placing of the competitor.
- 8.0.9 Adjudicators are allowed, after reflection, on completion of the grade, to alter positions allocated.
Alterations to an Adjudication Assessment Sheet or Result Sheet must be signed by the Adjudicator.
- 8.0.10 Where a Full Adjudication Team has been engaged, a short period will be allowed on completion of the contest for Adjudicators to consult, if so desired, under the supervision of the Ensemble Adjudicator.

8.1.0 **Adjudicator's Panel**

8.1.1 Qualifications

- a) Holders of the RSPBA Advanced Certificate, or equivalent qualifications, as verified by the NEC.
or
- b) A proven track record over a minimum of 5 years as a Pipe Major, Pipe Sgt. or Drum Sgt. or acting in a senior role in a Grade 1 band, may be accepted as a Musical Qualification in its own right, equal in status to qualifications as outlined in 8.1.1. a).

Solo Pipers and Drummers who have placed in the top three in Grade A of the All Ireland Solos (solo adjudicators only)

8.1.2 Responsibility for the induction of new adjudicators will rest with the NEC.

8.1.3 In the case of new adjudicators, the nominated persons will be appointed a mentor to assist them in their first 12 months of adjudication.

The backing sheets from three trial run contests adjudicated will be reviewed by a panel of at least two piping adjudicators and two drumming adjudicators set up from the present adjudicators' panel.

A written report on these proceedings will be presented to each new prospective adjudicator and the NEC, in the form of constructive feedback.

Having scrutinised the person's track record and being satisfied to the adjudication abilities of such persons, the NEC may nominate the said persons to the Adjudicator Panel.

8.1.4 If, after these trial runs have taken place, it is considered that serious errors are being made or that there are deficiencies in adjudication technique, a new adjudicator may be referred for further training, including further trial runs Ireland or not accepted as an Adjudicator by the NEC.

8.2.0 Adjudication Teams

8.2.1 Band & Mini Band Contests

- a) Allocation of Adjudicators
 - Full Adjudication Team*
Two Piping, One Drumming and One Ensemble Adjudicator
 - Reduced Adjudication Team*
Two Piping, One Drumming Adjudicator
 - One Piping, One Drumming and One Ensemble Adjudicator
 - Local Contest Adjudication Team*
One Piping and One Drumming Adjudicator

8.2.2 Solo Contests

- b) Determined by promoter, generally one or two adjudicators per grade.

9.0.0 Placing System

9.0.1 General

9.0.2 The Placing System requires an Adjudicator to allocate a numerical position to a competitor in a grade ranked in order of merit from first to last.

9.0.3 The system further requires each Adjudicator to write an Adjudicator's Assessment Sheet (Crit. Sheet), giving a critique of the Competitor's performance. The comments there-on should reflect the relative placing of the competitor and should be, in the main, positive and constructive.

Note: An Adjudicator's Assessment Sheet may not be required for A Grade at Solo Contests.

9.0.4 At the end of a grade the Adjudicator will fill out a Result Sheet ranking the performers in order of merit and this sheet is then given to the Compiler.

9.0.5 The total rankings for each competitor are added and the prizes are allocated in direct proportion to the sum of each competitor's total.

lowest total - 1st Place

second lowest total - 2nd Place etc.

9.1.0 Band & Mini Band Contests

- a) Full Adjudication Team & Reduced Adjudication Team
Single placing per Adjudicator.

Local Contest Adjudication Team

Piping - Double Placing & Drumming - Single Placing

(Double Placing is calculated by multiplying Single Placing by two, i.e., 1st Place gets Two Placing Points, 2nd Place gets Four Placing Points and so on.)

9.1.1 Solo Contests and Marching & Department

- b) Single placing per Adjudicator.

10.0.0 Ties

- 10.0.1 a) Band & Mini Band Contests (where competitor performs one set)
1st Preference Higher Ensemble Placing
2nd Preference Higher Piping Placing
3rd Preference Higher Drumming Placing
- b) All Ireland Band Championships Grade 1 (two performances)
1st Preference Higher Combined Ensemble Placing
2nd Preference Higher Combined Piping Placing
3rd Preference Higher Combined Drumming Placing
4th Preference Higher Ensemble March, Strathspey, Reel
5th Preference Higher Piping March, Strathspey, Reel
6th Preference Higher Drumming March, Strathspey, Reel
- c) In the event of a tie in the All-Ireland Drumming Championships the Corps with the Higher Placing in March, Strathspey, Reel takes preference.

10.0.2 Solo Contests

- a) Where one Adjudicator is allocated no ties are allowed within the range of prizes to be awarded.
- b) Where two or more Adjudicators are allocated, ties must be sorted out by the Adjudicators and no ties will be accepted within the range of prizes to be awarded.

11.0.0 Conduct of Bands at Contest

11.0.1 Up-to-date Registration Forms should be carried by the Pipe Major on the day of a contest as she/he may be requested for proof of membership, by the relevant Contest Committee.

The onus is always on a band to prove its membership and if it fails to do so, it may suffer the consequence of disqualification at a competition.

11.0.2 Any band not ready to start in order of draw may risk disqualification.

11.0.3 Pipe Majors must be on the right flank of their bands. The lead drummer may take up any position within the snare drum section. The Pipe Major will draw up the band with the front rank on the 'start line' and await instructions from the Steward / Adjudicator. If an Piping Instructor is playing with a band, she/he must assume the role of Pipe Major.

11.0.4 The Pipe Major shall be responsible to see that all his/her band and members comply with the directions of the officials and stewards and adhere to the I.P.B.A. rules.

11.0.5 The Pipe Major shall use the authorised words of command only. They shall observe due care that the "cautionary" word of command is distinct from the Executive Command.

Example of Authorised words of command:-

Band Attention - Buidhean Aire

Band Get Ready - Buidhean Bíodaidh Reidh

Band Ready - Buidhean Reidh"

By the Right Quick March - Do Reir Dheis Go Mear Miarseál

Band Reform Quick March - Buidhean Líne Atharraigh

11.0.6 Bands competing in Grade 4a,3b & 3a must comply with officials when asked to play for a heat of the Drum Majors' Contest, provided they have completed their own grade performance.

12.0.0 Champion of Champions

12.0.1 For the purpose of keeping a true and accurate record of the Champion of Champions Contest, Contest Officers must forward a copy of the summary sheet for each grade to the National Secretary at the earliest possible date after the completion of a contest and not later than two weeks after the contest.

12.0.2 Each branch will designate an outdoor contest, within their area, by which bands may score points for Champion of Champion status. The All Ireland Pipe Band Championships, irrespective of whether the contest is held North or South, will also be a contributing contest.

12.0.3 Where a tie exists, after the collation of points from all prescribed contests, the title will go to the band with the highest score in the All Ireland Pipe Band Championships.

12.0.4 Points will be awarded, from the regional contests, on the following basis:

- 1st prize - 4 points
- 2nd prize - 3 points
- 3rd prize - 2 points
- 4th prize - 1 point

12.0.5 Points will be awarded for wins in the All-Ireland Championships irrespective of whether the Championships are held North or South.

Points will be awarded on the following basis:

- 1st prize - 6 points
- 2nd prize - 5 points
- 3rd prize - 4 points
- 4th prize - 3 points
- 5th prize - 2 points

12.0.6 Champion of Champions for each grade will be announced at the last contest of the season.

13.0.0 All Ireland Championships

- 13.0.1 A forum called the Joint Association Council (JAC) shall be held annually between the I.P.B.A. and the Northern Ireland Branch of the R.S.P.B.A. for the All-Ireland Championships for Pipe Bands and Solo Players.
- 13.0.2 All-Ireland Championships will be under the control of the J.A.C. Normally, the venues will alternate annually between North and South and when held in the jurisdiction of the I.P.B.A. will be the responsibility of the N.E.C.
- 13.0.3 Winners in the various grades shall hold the title All Ireland Champion from the date of the contest until the following year's Championships.
- 13.0.4 I.P.B.A. representations on the J.A.C. shall consist of:
- a) Chairperson of the N.E.C.
 - b) Secretary of the N.E.C.
 - c) A competent Piper and Drummer appointed by the N.E.C.
- 13.0.5 A Trophy Officer shall be appointed by the NEC who has responsibility for All Ireland Solo and Pipe Band Championship trophies and the IPBA Champion of Champions awards.
- 13.0.6 Trophies for the All Ireland Pipe Band Championships must be returned to the National Trophy Officer before 31st. May preceding the All Ireland each year. Failure to do so will result in an automatic fine of € 60.
- 13.0.7 A band will not be allowed complete on the day of an All Ireland Pipe Band Championship unless any trophy won by that band in the preceding All Ireland has been returned.
- 13.0.8 A player will not be allowed compete on the day of an All Ireland Solo Piping and Drumming Championship unless any trophy won by him/her in the preceding All Ireland has been returned.