



All Ireland + JAC

SOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Syllabus

All Ireland Solo Piping and Drumming Championships 2026 Syllabus

The Championships are under the joint auspices of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (Northern Ireland Branch) & Cumann Buidhean Píobairí na hÉireann (Irish Pipe Band Association)

Venue:	Cookstown High School, Cookstown
Date:	Saturday 26 th September 2026
Closing date for entries:	Tuesday 8 th September 2026
Competitions will commence at:	10.00 am

ENTRIES

- Entries to be completed via the RSPBANI website at <https://rspbani.org/allirelandjac-26>

ENTRY FEES

Juvenile	£6/€8
C2/C1/B/A Grades	£12/€15
Piobaireachd (A/B)	£15/€18
All Bass/Tenor Grades	£10/€12

COMPETITION GRADES

Juvenile U14: Confined to competitors who are aged under 14 as of 1 November 2025. Competitors aged 14 or over on or before 1 November 2025 will not be eligible to enter. Evidence of age must be produced on request.

Juvenile U16: Confined to competitors who are aged under 16 as of 1 November 2025. Competitors aged 16 or over on or before 1 November 2025 will not be eligible to enter. Evidence of age must be produced on request.

Juvenile U18: Confined to competitors who are aged under 18 as of 1 November 2025. Competitors aged 18 or over on or before 1 November 2025 will not be eligible to enter. Evidence of age must be produced on request.

C2 Grade (Junior B) Confined to:
Competitors aged 18 or over who are members of Grades 5/4B, 4A, 3B, 3A, and Grade 2 bands and who have not been otherwise graded by the JAC.
Competitors who have been graded C or below by the Competing Pipers Association (CPA)

C1 Grade (Junior A) Confined to:
Competitors aged 18 or over who have been graded as 'C1' by the JAC.
Competitors who have been placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in C2 Grade at an All Ireland Piping & Drumming Solos.
Entrants from members of Grade 1 bands.
Competitors who have been graded C or below by the Competing Pipers Association (CPA)

B Grade (Intermediate) 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 an All Ireland Solos have the option of upgrading to B Grade but must remain therein if this option is exercised.



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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 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 Solos.
- Competitors who have been graded C or below in Piobaireachd by the CPA.

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 Solos.
- Competitors who have been graded B- or above in Piobaireachd by the CPA.

Tenor Drumming

U14

Confined to:

- Competitors who are aged under 14 as of 1 November 2025.
- Evidence of age must be produced on request.

U16

Confined to:

- Competitors who are aged under 16 as of 1 November 2025.
- Evidence of age must be produced on request.

C Grade

Confined to:

- Competitors aged 16 or over as of 1 November 2025 who have not been graded as B or A Grade by the JAC.

B Grade

Confined to:

- Competitors over 16 who have been graded as B Grade by the JAC.
- Competitors who have placed 1st in C Grade at a previous All Ireland Solos

A Grade

Confined to:

- Competitors over 16 who have been graded as B Grade by the JAC.
- Competitors who have placed 1st in B Grade at a previous All Ireland Solos

Open Bass

Confined to:

- Bona Fide* Bass Drummers registered with an RSPBA or IPBA band

Note: In the future, the JAC may take the decision to upgrade more players than stated above or to downgrade players depending on grade sizes – players will be notified of such decisions



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PLAYING REQUIREMENTS

	DRUMMING	PIPING
Juvenile U14	Four part 2/4 March	Four part 2/4 March
Juvenile U16	March, Strathspey and Reel	Four part 2/4 March
Juvenile U18	March, Strathspey and Reel	March, Strathspey and Reel
C2 Grade (Junior B)	March, Strathspey and Reel	March, Strathspey and Reel
C1 Grade (Junior A)	March, Strathspey and Reel	March, Strathspey and Reel
B Grade (Intermediate)	March, Strathspey and Reel	March, Strathspey and Reel (2 of each to be submitted)
A Grade (Senior)	March, Strathspey and Reel	March, Strathspey and Reel (3 of each to be submitted)

PIOBAIREACHD	
Piobaireachd B	Piobaireachd (1 tune to be submitted)
Piobaireachd A	Piobaireachd (2 tunes to be submitted)

BASS/TENOR DRUMMING	
Juvenile U14 Tenor	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature
Juvenile U16 Tenor	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)
C Grade Tenor	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)
B Grade Tenor	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)
A Grade Tenor	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)
Open Bass Drumming	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)



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PRIZES

- Medals will be presented to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each grade.
- A perpetual trophy will accompany the medals for 1st prize in each grade

RULES

General

- Only registered members of bands in membership of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, Irish Pipe Band Association, and affiliated organisations are eligible to take part.
- Solo players outside RSPBANI or IPBA wishing to enter the All Ireland Solos should submit a short resume of their contest achievements and their current grading position (if any) in their native association. The organising committee will endeavour to place the contestant in an equivalent grade/level in the All Ireland Solo Championships
- Competitors are confined to a single grade in their respective discipline
- Competitors must register on arrival
- It is each competitor's responsibility to present themselves to the adjudicator in the room provided at the allocated performance slot.
- Times will not be allocated for players' performances; the start times of grades, if shown, are indicative only and subject to change. Any timings taken by inference may be subject to alteration, and contestants are required to be flexible to accommodate changed circumstances.
- In all competitions where a March, Strathspey, and Reel are to be played, each tune should be a minimum of 4 parts and should be played without stopping between tunes
- In all competitions where a Hornpipe and Jig are to be played, each tune should be a minimum of 4 parts and should be played without stopping between tunes
- A player may appeal such a placing if they feel it is not the correct level. Final arbitration will be made after consultation with the Solo Advisory Committee of the RSPBANI
- Any grade may be split depending on entry numbers.
- Uniforms must be worn by all competitors
- Competitors will be required to guarantee that their practice room will be left as found. Competitors will be held financially responsible for any damage caused in the classrooms.
- Smoking inside a public building as an enclosed public space.
The [Smoking \(Northern Ireland\) Order 2006](#) prohibits smoking in substantially enclosed public places and workplaces. This covers all school buildings, grounds, and vehicles, making it a criminal offense for staff, visitors, or students to smoke on the premises. Individuals caught smoking in these areas can face fines of up to £1,000, while those managing premises who allow smoking may be fined up to £2,500.
- A competitor having cause to protest must lodge the same with a deposit of £10.00 with the contest secretary before the presentation of prizes. The deposit will be returned if the protest is upheld.
- No late entries will be accepted.
- Results available [here](#) after the event has completed



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Rules continued

Drumming

- In all drumming contests, at least one piper must accompany (limited to two).
- Bass/Tenor drummers must also be accompanied by at least one snare drummer (limited to two).
- All drummers and accompanying pipers must wear a uniform.
- All drumming performances must start with two 3-paced introduction rolls.
- Bass Drumming competition is confined to players who are registered Bass Drummers **only**
- In the event of a tie, RSPBA rule [4.71](#) will be used

Piping

- Competitors in the A Grade/Senior Piping March, Strathspey and Reel competition must submit three Marches, three Strathspeys and three Reels.*
- Competitors in the B Grade/Intermediate Piping March, Strathspey, and Reel competition must submit two Marches, two Strathspeys, and two Reels.*
- Competitors in the Piobaireachd A competition must submit two Piobaireachd. The Piobaireachd to play will be chosen by the Adjudicator prior to the performance.
- The maximum amount of time available for tuning bagpipes in the competition room is 3 minutes.

** The Adjudicator will choose one March, one Strathspey, and one Reel prior to the performance to be played as an MSR without stopping between tunes*