

**THE ROYAL SCOTTISH PIPE BAND ASSOCIATION
NORTH WEST ENGLAND BRANCH**

Local Rules & Guidelines for Indoor Contests

DRESS

All teams must look smart and be uniformly dressed.

Unless permission has been granted by the Branch Committee, all competitors must wear Highland Dress. This can mean anything from full regimental uniform to the simplest form of day dress. The recommended minimum requirements are:

- a) Kilt and Sporran.
- b) Full length kilt socks (any style), or spats and hose tops.
- c) Ghillie brogues, or any brogue shoe.
- d) Collared shirt, worn with a tie with top button fastened or without a tie with top button undone.
- e) Head dress: Glengarry or Balmoral.

The full standard 'Day Dress' uniform worn by most competing bands consists of:

- a) Head-Dress: Glengarry or Balmoral, bearing the band's chosen cap badge.
- b) Any Highland style jacket: Argyll, Braemar, Bonnie Prince Charlie, battle dress etc.
- c) Shirt.
- d) Tie.
- e) Kilt. Kilt-pin optional.
- f) Sporran: day, dress or semi-dress style.
- g) Leg wear: any style of knitted full-length hose with flashes and ghillie brogues laced up the leg. Skean Dhu optional.
- h) Waist belt.
- i) Waistcoats may also be worn, with or without a jacket.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COMPETITORS

1. All competitors must be registered with a band currently registered with the RSPBA.
2. In 'Open' Branch contests, any band registered with the RSPBA may enter.
3. In 'Confined' Branch contests, only bands or members of bands currently registered with the North West England Branch may enter. Which events are open and which are confined is decided each year at the Branch autumn committee meeting. See the current entry forms for details.
4. The rules and the musical requirements governing each contest, are laid out in the Rules section on Page 2 of each entry form.

Stewards

Competitors will have rooms assigned to them for the day for tuning and preparing. There will be a steward on duty whose job it is to keep them informed as to when they are on and how much time they have to go. Shortly before you are due to go on you will be called through to the final tuning area to do any final preparations.

Competitors must follow the instructions of the steward promptly when called. Any excessive delay in complying may result in disqualification.

Entering the Contest Area

(Trio Piping, Quartets and Minibands only)

In Trio Piping, Quartet Piping and Miniband contests no tuning is allowed in the room where the contest is being held

Enter the hall with pipes down, marching in single file to the playing area.

(Solo Piping only)

Tuning is allowed in the contest room but it should be kept to a minimum. Excessive tuning here may result in disqualification.

GUIDELINES

What follows in this section are not rules which have to be adhered to. But they do describe accurately what the usual customs are and what the judges expect and like to see.

Band Set Up

There is no stipulation as to what formation you take up. Many bands form a complete circle. The ideal formation is a half-circle facing the audience. A good suggestion is to have your pipers on one side and the drummers on the other. It is also a good idea to keep at least ten feet away from the judges' table.

Entry to Competition

Make a smart entrance. Form up outside the hall in single file, pipe corps first, led by the Pipe Major. Pipes should be down. March into the hall, in silence or on the tap, ie. the leading drummer or bass drummer giving a single tap on the drum on each left foot to keep everyone in step. Take up your chosen formation, marking time until everyone is in position. The Pipe Major then gives the order "Band Halt". When the judge indicates that he is ready to begin, the P/M then gives the command "Pipes Up".

Performance

The judging starts from the beginning of the first drum roll (in Trio Piping the first sound from the drones) and ends with the last note played. The drumming judge is listening for 2 smooth three-pace rolls which start and finish together. The piping judge is listening for all the chanters coming in together at the end of the second roll, holding a steady sustained 'E' for two beats, and then breaking together into the first tune. At the end of the performance they will be listening for all the pipers

finishing together with no trailing drone sounds or dropping of pressure before the end. On completion of the performance the Pipe Major orders "Pipes Down".

Leaving the Contest Area

The Pipe Major then orders "By the Right, Quick March". Everyone turns to face the Pipe Major and the team leaves the hall in single file with pipes down, in silence or on the tap.