

**Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association Inc.
Rules Governing Solo and Band Contests For Pipe Bands
in the Province of Saskatchewan**

**Adopted February 20, 1993
Annual General Meeting**

**Revised
April 22, 2001**

**2nd Revision
February 23, 2003**

**(Revision – Prov. Champ. Rules)
December 7, 2004**

Revised: April 2007

A. Pipe Band Contest Rules:

Part I: Pipe Band Grading:

1. For competition purposes, bands will be graded as follows:

Grade I: All bands classified by the SPBA as Grade I;
Grade II: All bands classified by the SPBA as Grade II;
Grade III: All bands classified by the SPBA as Grade III;
Grade IV: All bands classified by the SPBA as Grade IV;
Grade V: All bands classified by the SPBA as being Novice Bands.
2. Each band may have only one grading. However, bands may compete in the grade above theirs if they so desire. No band may compete in a grade below their grading.
3. Should a band play up to the grade above theirs and win, they will **NOT** be immediately upgraded to that grade for the rest of the season. However, there will be a mandatory review of that band's grading at the conclusion of the season. At that time, based on player turnover, and results over the entire season, they may be subject to upgrading. The exception to this rule shall be in the case where a band plays up and wins at the Provincial Championships. In this event, the band will be declared the champion of the higher grade, and be immediately upgraded. This upgrading may be appealed at the end of the season.
4. At the conclusion of the season, any band in the Association may be upgraded or downgraded based on their results over the season, and player turnover.
5. The Board of the Association shall appoint a Grading Committee. This committee shall consist of a Chairman, and two other members. At least one member of the committee **MUST** be an active drummer or a drumming adjudicator, or an active piper or piping adjudicator. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to grade the member bands of the Association. The grading of bands must be completed by **November 30** of each year for the following contest season.
6. Appeals of the decisions of the Grading committee must be received in writing by the secretary of the Association by December 31 of the current year in order to provide time for any appeal to be heard. The appeal should include the specific reasons for the appeal. A band representative must be prepared to meet with the Grading Committee if required. The decision of the Grading Committee on the appeal shall be final.

Grading Committee. Results will be consolidated at the end of the competition season in order to facilitate the grading of the bands for next year.

7. It will be the responsibility of the contest organisers to maintain records of competition results, including which bands competed, what grade each band was in, and what was the placing for each band. These results must then be submitted to the Chairman of the Grading Committee. Results will be consolidated at the end of the competition season in order to facilitate the grading of the bands for the next year.

Part II: Band Membership/Transfer of Players:

1. Member bands of the Association must submit to the Association Secretary a nominal roll of all their players by January 1 of each year. The Nominal Roll must include the band's full name, the mailing address of the band, the grade of the band, and the Provincial Non-Profit Corporation Number of the band. Bands who do not wish to become members of the Association will still be eligible for competition providing that they follow the nominal roll requirements as stated above.
2. Out of province bands competing in Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association sanctioned Highland Games or Festivals must provide a nominal roll of players that will be performing with their band for the competition.
3. Individual members of bands may transfer membership from one band to another under the following conditions:
 - a) May transfer **ONCE** during the contest season.
 - b) The transfer must be approved by the Association with official amendments to the nominal rolls of the bands in question.
 - c) Nominal roll changes must be in the hands of the registrar at least 7 days before the games at which those changes will be allowed
4. An individual may be carried on the nominal rolls of two bands **ONLY** under the following conditions:
 - a) The senior piping instructor may appear on the nominal roll of the junior band that he/she instructs, as well as on the nominal roll of his/her senior band. He will be eligible to compete for both bands.
 - b) The senior drumming instructor may appear on the nominal roll of the junior band that he/she instructs, as well as on the nominal roll of his/her senior band. He will be eligible to compete for both bands.

- c) Senior piping and drumming instructors may play for only one junior band. Under the conditions laid down in a) and b) above, only the two senior piping and drumming instructors may appear on the nominal rolls of more than one competing band.

Part III: Competition Requirements:

1. Competitions in Saskatchewan which have been sanctioned by the SPBA must be run in accordance to the rules and regulations of the SPBA. Such contests will be eligible for financial assistance from the Association.
2. Preferably, the order of play within a grade will be decided by a draw. Otherwise it will be determined ahead of time by the highland games organizers according to first to enter, last to play. When possible, the band contest will proceed starting with the Grade V Class and ending with the Grade I Class.
3. For all SPBA sanctioned competitions, there will be an official Association Representative(s) present to deal with any protests which may be referred to them by the local competition committee. The Board of the Association will appoint this representative(s), and the local competition committee will be notified as to who they are.
4. Any protests regarding the judging, or any other matters at an Association sanctioned competition must be submitted before the announcement of the awards to the local competition committee. If the local competition committee cannot resolve the matter, the protest will be referred to the Association Representative(s) at the contest for a final ruling.
5. If any band at a sanctioned competition does not comply with the rules of the local competition committee, as well as the Association, that band will be subject to disqualification.
6. Music Requirements: Please refer to *Appendix A – Music Requirements* for a full listing.
7. The Local Competition Committee, of contests sanctioned by the Association, may provide for additional band events (slow march, etc) provided that the Association has been notified in advance, and has approved the type and format of the extra events.

8. **Provincial Championships Requirements:**

To be eligible for the Saskatchewan Provincial Championships, a band must hold an active membership with the SPBA - this includes all bands holding an active membership who are not geographically located within the province of Saskatchewan.

The SPBA Provincial Championship designation for each grade will be an aggregate of all SPBA-sanctioned band events for that grade in the Calendar year. Points will be given for each sanctioned band event as follows: 1st prize - 1; 2nd prize - 2; 3rd prize - 3., At the last full band competition of the season, the Provincial Championship award will be made to the band in each grade that has the lowest aggregate total for all SPBA-sanctioned events in that grade.

9. Minimum player requirements with no penalty, for contests sanctioned by the Association, are laid out as follows:
- a) Grade I: 8 pipers, 3 side drummers, 1 bass drummer;
 - b) Grade II: 6 pipers, 2 side drummers, 1 bass drummer;
 - c) Grade III: 6 pipers, 2 side drummers, 1 bass drummer;
 - d) Grade IV: 6 pipers, 2 side drummers, 1 bass drummer;
 - e) Grade V: 6 pipers, 2 side drummer, 1 bass drummer.
10. If a band is competing without a bass drummer, that band must compete with a bass drummer "borrowed" from another band competing in the same grade or lower. This rule applies to both mini-band and full-band competitions.
11. Bands who do not meet the minimum player requirements for a contest will play for adjudication only.
12. For mini-bands, the following is set out as the **EXACT** number of players that a band must have at any sanctioned SPBA competition:
- a) Grade I: 6 pipers, 2 snare drummers, 1 bass or tenor drummer;
 - b) Grade II: 4 pipers, 2 snare drummers, 1 bass or tenor drummer;
 - c) Grade III: 4 pipers, 2 snare drummers, 1 bass or tenor drummer;
 - d) Grade IV: 4 pipers, 2 snare drummers, 1 bass or tenor drummer;
 - e) Grade V: 4 pipers, 2 snare drummers, 1 bass or tenor drummer.
13. In the case of mini-bands, a bass or tenor drummer may compete with more than one mini-band entry.

14. Quartets shall be graded according to the grades of their bands. Pipe Majors shall be eligible to play in more than one quartet.
15. Bands must leave the competition area with the same number of bandsmen that they had upon entering.
16. Competing bands must appear on parade in proper uniform dress. It is not necessary that the kilts be of matching tartan.

Part IV: Association Representation at Sanctioned Contests:

1. In addition to participating in the protest process as required (**see Part III, #3**), the Association representative(s) will also serve in the following capacities:
 - a) To accept applications for any new membership;
 - b) To scrutinise the nominal rolls of the competing bands as required;
 - c) To report to the local games committee any irregularities that they may have observed, or which have been reported to them, and thereafter to report to the Association;
 - d) To ensure all judges present are accredited by the Association.

Part V: Judging:

1. A panel of two piping, one drumming and one ensemble adjudicators, will evaluate each band's performance.
2. All judges will assign a mark out of 100 points for each band. The Games Committee will convert each judge's score to rankings. The band receiving the highest score will be given a ranking of ONE, the band receiving the second highest score will be given a ranking of TWO. Each band will receive a ranking based on the score they receive.
3. The ranking from each judge will be added together to get an aggregate ranking. Contest placing will be decided according to the aggregate ranking. The band with the LOWEST aggregate ranking score places first. Etc.
4. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the following criteria:
 - 1) Ensemble score
 - 2) Highest total piping score
 - 3) Highest total drumming score

5. Judges will not be hidden from view when adjudicating contests, but shall be in full view of the competitors.
6. Judges will not be permitted to approach any closer than three metres while a band is competing.
7. A judge will not adjudicate any competition in which his/her band is competing, or in which the band he/she teaches is competing.
8. Adjudication forms will be presented to the competitors upon completion of the competition.
9. Adjudication sheets shall be only those supplied, or approved, by the Association.

Part VI: Panel of Judges:

1. A judging committee, elected by the Board of Directors, will set up a panel of judges. The Committee shall consist of three members, at least one of which must be an active drummer or drumming adjudicator, or an active piper or piping adjudicator. The Committee shall be responsible for selecting individuals who are deemed to be qualified to adjudicate piping and drumming in Saskatchewan.
2. Selection to the Judging Panel will be decided upon review of the Adjudicator's Application Form. These forms are provided by the Association and are available through the SPBA website or from a board member. The Committee may add, or delete any judge from the panel at any time.
3. The Board of Directors will ensure that all sanctioned contests have a current list of judges who have been accredited by the Association. **ONLY** judges from the accredited list are eligible to adjudicate contests at SPBA sanctioned events. Should a contest wish to hire an individual who is not on the list, the Contest Committee must ensure that their choice is approved by the Board of Directors, and added to the judging panel list **PRIOR** to the contest. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action by the Board of Directors. Association Representative(s) in attendance at sanctioned contests will ensure that all judges have been accredited by the Association (**see Part IV, #1, d**).

B. Grading of Solo Pipers and Drummers (Amateur):

1. All solo competitors entering any competition sanctioned by the SPBA **MUST** have an Official Grading Card, stating their name and grade. This card may be requested at any time by the contest committee, or the adjudicator. Pipers and drummers who do not have a card may obtain one by applying to the Grading Committee.

2. Players are eligible to compete up to the grade above theirs as stated on their card. Should a player play up and win, he/she will be immediately upgraded to that level **IF** the grade above his/her actual grade had at least three competitors in that grade competing on that day.

3. Solo Piping and Drumming:

- a) Please refer to *Appendix A – Music Requirements* for a complete listing of events recommended for solo competitions.
- b) It is up to the discretion of the competition committee to select what solo events they will offer. The solo events will be selected from *Appendix A – Music Requirements*.
- c) Sanctioned contests may offer other piping and drumming events as they wish. However, the format of these events must be approved by the Association **FIRST** in order to ensure fairness.

- d) The number of prizes awarded shall be based on the number of competitors who begin their performance. Prizes shall be awarded as follows:

Fewer than 3 competitors	- one (1) prize
3 competitors	- two (2) prizes
4 to 10 competitors	- three (3) prizes
11 to 15 competitors	- four (4) prizes
16 to 20 competitors	- five (5) prizes
21 and over competitors	- six (6) prizes

- (e) In determining the aggregate awards for solo events at a specific competition, points shall be awarded as follows:

Number of competitors Who Played in an Event	Number of Placings That Earned Points	Placings	Points Assigned
1	1	1st	88
2	1	2nd	56
3	2	3rd	38
4	3	4th	25
5	4	5th	16
6	5	6th	10
Greater than 6	6		

(f) Ties for aggregate solo awards shall be broken according to the following order:

- Highest Grand Aggregate points in Piobaireachd events.
- Highest Grand Aggregate points in March, Strathspey & Reel events.
- Highest Grand Aggregate points in 2/4 March events.
- Highest Grand Aggregate points in Quick March events.

4. **Up-grading:** At the conclusion of the contest season, overall results for the year will be tabulated and overall aggregate winners for all grades will be determined based upon the points system listed above. The Grading Committee shall review these overall results and make a decision on whether a solo competitor is to move up for the following competition season.
5. **Down-grading:**
 - a. There will be no down-grading, except by application.
 - b. When a piper or drummer has been upgraded, and no points are earned in the following **TWO** years at sanctioned competitions, that piper may **APPLY** to be downgraded.
6. Amateur pipers and drummers 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.

Last Revision: April, 2007