British Columbia Pipers' Association
Rules for Pipe Band Competitions

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British Columbia Pipers' Association
Rules for Pipe Band Competitions

1. Introduction

1.1 Objectives

1.1.1 The objectives of the British Columbia Pipers' Association (the "Association") with respect to Pipe Bands are as follows:

(a) To devise and administer comprehensive rules governing pipe band competitions;

(b) To preserve, promote and encourage proficiency in Pipe Band Music; and

(c) To promote and encourage participation of pipe bands at Highland Games and Scottish Cultural events for the benefit of Games Sponsors/Highland Games Organizers and Games attendees.

1.2 Geographical Area and Sanctioning

1.2.1 The geographical area where the Association sanctions pipe band competitions is the province of British Columbia, Washington state, and Oregon state. Sanctioning is a cooperative agreement between the Association and the organization sponsoring pipe band competitions (Games Sponsor/Highland Games Organizer) to ensure that the competitions are run according to the Association's rules for pipe band competitions, are fair and respected, and are of benefit to the competitors, the Games Sponsor, and the Association.

1.3 Integrity of the Rules

1.3.1 Pipe Band members of the Association and members of the Association's Approved Adjudicators Panel should not take part in any competition which would cause the Association's rules to be compromised to the significant detriment of the Association, the Games Sponsor or the competitors. It shall be the responsibility of the Association'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 associated affiliated with the Association are:
Alberta Society of Pipers and Drummers, Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association, Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba, Pipers and Pipe Band Society of Ontario, Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association; Western United States Pipe Band Association, Midwest (U.S.) Pipe Band Association, Eastern United States Pipe Band Association, Australian Pipe Band Association, Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Association Inc., Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, Irish Pipe Band Association, Competing Pipers Association (UK residents only).

2. Competition Rules

2.1 The Competition Committee, Chief Steward, and Chief Scorer

2.1.1 The Games Sponsor/Highland Games Organizer 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. The Competition Committee shall include at least one executive of the Games Sponsor's organization. In the event of a formally submitted protest or grievance, the Competition Committee shall be increased to include the Association's representative and one other member of the Association without obvious conflict of interest regarding the respective parties.

2.2 Minimum Number of Players

2.2.1 Pipe Bands entering competitions shall consist of the following minimum numbers of players:

Grades	Pipers	Snare Drummers	Tenor Drummers	Bass Drummers
1 and 2	8	3	1	1
3 and 4	6	2	1	1
5	5	2	1	1

2.2.2 All miniature bands entering competition shall consist of six (6) pipers, two (2) snare drummers, one (1) tenor drummer and a bass drummer.

2.3 Player Overage

2.3.1 Miniature bands entering with more members than specified in Clause 2.2 shall be disqualified by the Chief Steward of the competition.

2.4 Player Shortage

2.4.1 Pipe bands or miniature bands entering a contest with fewer members than indicated in Clause 2.2 shall be dropped, from every adjudicator, one ranking placement for each piper or drummer that they are short. e.g. if a band, playing one piper short, obtains the following rankings from the adjudicators 1, 2, 4, and 3, then their adjusted rankings shall be 2, 3, 5, and 4. The maximum penalty applied shall be capped so that an Inverted Points determination of the band's adjudicators rankings is zero.

2.5 Use of Eligible Instructors as Players in a Grade 5, 4 or 3 band

2.5.1 An Eligible Instructor is (1) a registered member of a higher grade band with a minimum of one grade difference between that band and the band he/she is a registered instructor of or (2) just a registered instructor of the band (i.e. not required to be a registered member of a higher grade band). An Eligible Instructor provides regular instruction to the band.

2.5.2 A band may add one Eligible Piping Instructor and/or one Eligible Drumming Instructor. The Eligible Instructor(s) may play as Pipe Major and/or Lead Drummer.

2.5.3 In addition to competing with the band he/she is a registered member of, an Eligible Instructor may compete with only one instructed band.

2.6 Acceptable Highland Dress

2.6.1 In all competitions and massed bands performances, band members and adjudicators shall be attired in officially recognized and properly worn highland dress for pipers and drummers, which at minimum includes kilt (or trewes), shirt, hose and shoes.

2.6.2 Any band or adjudicator not so attired may compete, provided they have contacted the Games Competition Committee prior to the competition, informed them of the circumstances, and secured their permission.

2.6.3 Bands not conforming to the above may be subject to disqualification by the Competition Committee.

2.7 Competition Areas

2.7.1 The Competition Committee shall select and mark off a Competition Area according to the following specifications.

(a) The Pipe Band Competition Circle shall be a diameter of 26 feet. The Adjudicators Circle shall be a diameter of 46 feet. The Pipe Band Competition Circle and the Adjudicators Circle shall share the same centre point. The Starting Line for the Pipe Band shall be 46 feet from the centre of the Pipe Band Competition Circle.

(b) Pipe Bands shall form a circle on or within the Pipe Band Competition Circle. The Adjudicators shall adjudicate the pipe band from outside the Adjudicators Circle. Crowds shall not be permitted any closer than 33 feet from the centre of the Pipe Band Circle.

(c) The Start Line must be clearly defined using grass paint or similar. The competition circles must be clearly visible from the start line.

2.8 Final Tuning Areas

2.8.1 The Competition Committee shall select and mark off a Final Tuning Area (FTA) which shall be in close proximity to the competition area without causing conflict with the ongoing competition. All bands are expected to use the FTA or to be ready to move from the FTA when their competition time has arrived.

2.9 Band Formation

2.9.1 Subject to the local competition rules, as provided for in Clause 2.14, a band shall march to the Start Line, halt and await instructions from the Chief Steward. After being notified by the Ensemble adjudicator that the adjudicators are ready for their performance, the band shall start its performance on the march (with marching beginning with the first beat), march toward the adjudicators and form one complete circle on or within the Pipe Band Competition Circle. The formation of the circle shall be at the discretion of the pipe major.

2.9.2 Once a band has stopped marching at the Starting Line, no players shall be dropped from the performing band.

2.9.3 Bands shall use two three pace rolls for the beginning of all competition performances.

2.9.4 A Games Sponsor may choose to have bands compete in Concert Formation if this requirement is advertised in the entry form for the event. No marching is required as part of the performance.

2.9.5 Concert Formation is defined as any configuration of players of the band's choice, except for a circle.

2.10 Music Requirements

2.10.1 The music requirements for the various grades are given in Appendix A “Music Requirements for Piping, Drumming and Pipe Band Competitions”.

2.10.2 The names of all tunes comprising the sets and medleys for a band shall be submitted as part of the Games entry form. Any change to the list of submitted tunes shall be submitted to the Chief Steward before the start of the band competition.

2.10.3 For events in which more than one set or one medley is required, the choice of the set or medley shall be done by the Chief Steward, or designate, by draw when the band is at the starting line. The Chief Steward, or designate, with the Ensemble adjudicator present shall inform the Pipe Major of which set or medley has been drawn and shall gain his/her understanding by confirming the first three tunes to be played.

2.10.4 If a Games offers a set event and a medley event where more than one set and more than one medley are required to be submitted, the Games shall indicate that the medley event will require the submission of only one medley.

2.10.5 The Chief Steward or their designate shall record the actual band performance times in timed events and report any failures of bands to play within the required time period for an event to the Chief Scorer for disqualification of the band. The beginning of the performance is the start of the first three pace roll and the ending is the last sound produced by the band. The decision of the Chief Steward in this matter is final.

2.11 Order of Play

2.11.1 The order and time of play shall be determined by ballot carried out by the Games Sponsor not more than 48 hours after the close of registrations. At least two people shall be present at the time of the draw.

2.11.2 The posted order of play shall include the starting time for each band.

2.11.3 For band events at a two day Games, the order of play for a grade’s event on the second day shall be the reverse of the order of play for the grade’s event on the first day.

2.11.4 The relative starting times for consecutive competing bands in the same grade shall not be less than the times, and not more than the times shown in the following table:

Grade	Not less than ___minutes apart	Not more than ____minutes apart
5	7	9
4	8	10
3	8	10
2	9	11
1	10	12

2.11.5 When a delay causes the posted time of play to be invalid by more than ten (10) minutes, the Competition Committee should notify all bands remaining to compete as soon as possible and provide them with the new time of play. However, the new time of play shall not be any earlier than the original time of play, unless agreed to by all bands in the grade.

2.11.6 Bands must leave the competition area immediately upon the completion of their performance. Playing off is at the discretion of the Chief Steward and/or Competition Committee, but shall not cause a delay in the performance times of subsequent bands.

2.11.7 Any band failing to play within five (5) minutes of the drawn time or at the completion of the previous band's performance, whichever is later, shall forfeit all Grand Aggregate Points that would normally be awarded to the band based on the final overall results of the competition. This decision shall be made by the attending Steward in consultation with the Chief Steward and the Chief Steward shall notify the Ensemble judge of this sanction prior to the band commencing their performance. This sanction will not affect the band's final overall placing in the competition.

2.12 Band Representative Duties

2.12.1 Competition entry forms should include the name of a band representative, who shall be the person responsible for the duties described in this section. Bands may provide an alternate person on Games day to perform these duties provided that the Competition Committee is notified of this change.

2.12.2 It is the responsibility of a band's representative to:

(a) on arrival at the Games, to report the location of the band to the Chief Steward;

(b) obtain the time of play for their band from the Chief Steward;

(c) be aware of the start time for the band and changes to the start time

(d) ensure that their band arrives at the starting position at the time given for their band; and

(e) inform the Competition Committee, not less than one (1) hour before the competition begins, if the band withdraws from the competition.

2.12.3 Stewards may be provided as an aid to the bands, but carry no responsibility for the attendance of any band in the playing area. Final responsibility rests with each band to be at the starting point as and when required.

2.13 Association Representative

2.13.1 A member of the Executive, or their designate, shall be in attendance as the Association's Representative at all sanctioned competitions and shall be available to the Games Sponsor's Competition Committee for that day.

2.13.2 The Association Representative shall monitor the competitions for compliance and fairness, provide answers to questions on the competition rules, and assist in the resolution of complaints, disputes and protests relating to the competition rules.

2.14 Local Competition Rules

2.14.1 Local Competition Rules may be used by a Games Sponsor after the approval by the Association's Executive. Local Competition Rules shall be published by the Games Sponsor as part of the entry form for the competition.

2.14.2 Games Sponsors shall avoid placing a numerical limit on the number of competitors who can enter for an event.

2.15 Conduct of Players

2.15.1 Any member of a registered band who interferes with, threatens, or uses abusive language towards the adjudicators, officials, stewards, or members of the Competition Committee shall cause themselves and/or their band to be liable for suspension from further competitions for as long as the Executive deems is necessary in the circumstances.

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

3. Membership and Registration

3.1 General Requirement

3.1.1 All bands, or miniature bands, residing in the sanctioning area, and desiring to compete in sanctioned competitions should be members of the Association. All bands, or miniature bands, residing in the sanctioning area shall be registered with the Association in order to be eligible to participate in sanctioned competitions.

3.1.2 All bands or miniature bands which are not members of the Association or an officially recognized pipe band association affiliated with the Association shall pay to the Games Sponsor a fee of $60 CDN or $50 US, in addition to the published entry fee, to compete in the pipe band events at the particular Games. To promote local and regional bands, upon request from a band, a Games Sponsor may waive this additional fee for a particular band. However, that band may exercise this option only once in a competition season.

3.2 Registration of Bands and their Members

3.2.1 By March 1 of a registration season, each band residing in the sanctioning area and intending to compete at an Association sanctioned competition, shall register with the Association and furnish a complete list of the members registered with the band.

3.2.2 The period of registration shall run from October 1 to September 30.

3.2.3 No person shall be allowed to compete with a band in a competition unless he/she is a registered member of that band.

3.2.4 No person shall be allowed to compete in more than one band in a competition, except as provided for in Clause 2.5 or Clause 3.2.6

3.2.5 No person shall be allowed to register in more than one band, except as provided for in Clause 2.5 or Clause 3.2.6.

3.2.6 A band member registered as playing multiple instruments (i.e. piper, snare drummer, tenor drummer, bass drummer) shall be permitted to play these instruments in the band in competition. A band member shall be permitted to play one instrument in one band in a competition and another instrument in another band in another grade in a competition if the band member is registered with each band for the respective instrument.

3.3 Addition of Players

3.3.1 If a band wishes to add a player(s) to their roster, either by transfer or new addition, they must submit their name(s) to the Membership and Registration Chairperson of the Association at least fourteen (14) days in advance of the competition in which the new player(s) is intending to compete. During this 14 day period, the identified player shall not compete with any band in any sanctioned competitions within the Association's sanctioning jurisdiction.

3.4 Transfer of Players

3.4.1 A player registered with one band may, within the period of registration, transfer only once to another band of any grade.

3.4.2 A release/transfer form shall be submitted to the Association signed by the player and the Pipe Major of the band releasing the player stating that the player has returned all property of the band and settled all financial obligations to the band.

3.4.3 Any registered band member, who plays in a competition with a band who he/she is not registered in, shall be deemed to have transferred to that band and shall not be allowed to play in his/her previous band for the duration of the period of registration, except as provided for in Clause 2.5.

3.4.4 In certain unique circumstances, a player who has previously transferred once to another band, may request the Association to grant an exception and allow a second transfer of bands. The request shall be in writing and disclose the nature of his/her special circumstances. No transfer shall be allowed unless it is approved by the Executive.

3.5 Substitute Bass Drummer

3.5.1 A bass drummer may compete with more than one mini-band without disqualification or loss of points of the bands.

3.6 Visiting Bands

3.6.1 Any bands from outside the Association's sanctioning jurisdiction as defined in Clause 1.2 which desire to compete at a sanctioned competition within the Association's sanctioning jurisdiction shall be a member of or registered with a pipe band association officially recognized by and affiliated with the Association.

3.6.2 Any band not a member of or not registered in a pipe band association officially recognized by and affiliated with the Association shall register with the Association.

4. Grades and Grading

4.1 Grades

4.1.1 The Association has set the following categories for pipe band competitions in ascending order of ability:

(a) Grade 5

(b) Grade 4

(c) Grade 3

(d) Grade 2

(e) Grade 1

All grades shall be only amateur grades of competition.

4.1.2 A band with Juvenile status is a band in which all members (excluding playing instructors) are under 18 years of age as of the beginning of the registration period.

4.1.3 For separate Piping Trios and Quartette competitions: Trios and Quartettes from a band shall compete in the same grade as their band.

4.1.4 For separate Drum Corps competitions: Drum Corps from a band shall compete in the same grade as their band.

4.1.5 An open, ungraded "Adjudication Only" event may be offered by Games Sponsors. No rankings, prizes or prize monies shall be awarded for this event. The membership rules of Section 3 shall not be applicable to this event.

4.2 Grading

4.2.1 The Association shall have the responsibility and authority to determine the grading of a band.

4.2.2 Bands shall compete in the grade appropriate for their ability, as determined by the Association. A list of bands that have been regraded shall be published by the Association in the last quarter of each calendar year.

4.2.3 The Association shall have the authority to regrade, either up or down, any band at any time during the registration year.

4.2.4 All new bands which apply for membership or registration with the Association shall be assigned a grade determined by the Association based on the band's demonstrated playing ability.

4.2.5 A band which chooses to appeal their grading shall make the appeal in writing to the Association.

4.2.6 Any band from the jurisdiction of a pipe band association officially recognized by and affiliated with the Association shall compete in the grade assigned by that pipe band association.

4.2.7 Any band may enter an open event regardless of grading.

4.2.8 Effective October 1, 2017: The Association shall align its band grades calibres with the band grades calibres of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association as follows:

BCPA Band Grade	Juvenile Age Band	Equivalent RSPBA Band Grade
5	Yes	Novice Juvenile "B"
5	No	4B
4	Yes	Novice Juvenile "A"
4	No	4A
3	Yes	Juvenile
3	No	3B or 3A (depending on the band's calibre)
2		2
1		1

4.3 Challenging Up a Grade

4.3.1 Except as indicated in Clause 4.3.2, a band may play up one grade in one event for a selected competition without affecting their grading status provided all the following criteria are met:

(a) On the entry form, the Games Sponsor has indicated that challenging up a grade is permitted.

(b) On submitting their entry form, the band enters all the events in its regular grade for the competition and the event the band is challenging up.

(c) Games Sponsor determines that there is time available for the band to compete in the challenged up grade's event.

(d) The band meets the music requirements for the challenged up grade's event.

4.3.2 A Grade 5 band is permitted to compete in a Grade 4 Medley event provided it meets only Clauses 4.3.1 (b) and (d).

5. Adjudicators

5.1 Authority

5.1.1 Within its sanctioning jurisdiction, the Association shall have the responsibility and authority to determine people qualified to adjudicate piping, drumming, and ensemble in sanctioned pipe band competitions and to maintain an Approved Adjudicators List of these qualified people.

5.1.2 For each adjudicator on the Approved Adjudicators List, the Association shall determine the grades of band piping, band drumming and ensemble the adjudicator is qualified to adjudicate.

5.1.3 The Association shall provide current copies of the Approved Adjudicators List to Games Sponsors at minimum once per year or when the Approved Adjudicators List is revised.

5.2 Selection of Adjudicators

5.2.1 The adjudicators for sanctioned competitions shall be drawn from:

(a) the Approved Adjudicators List of the Association; or

(b) the Approved Adjudicators Lists of piping/pipe band associations officially recognized by and affiliated with the Association.

5.2.2 Adjudicators shall adjudicate only grades of band piping, band drumming and ensemble for which they have been qualified by their home Association.

5.2.3 Games proposing to use an adjudicator who is from a jurisdiction without an adjudicator approval process for the discipline(s) he/she may be retained to adjudicate and who is not on an Approved Adjudicators List identified in Clause 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 shall obtain approval by the Association prior to engagement.

5.3 Number of Adjudicators

5.3.1 Except as indicated in Clause 5.3.2, the number of adjudicators engaged in any competition shall be as follows: two (2) Piping, one (1) Drumming, and one (1) Ensemble.

5.3.2 A Games may choose to use a "double size panel" which shall be as follows: four (4) Piping, two (2) Drumming, and two (2) Ensemble.

5.4 Conduct of Adjudicators

5.4.1 In general, no adjudicator shall be allowed to adjudicate a competition in which the band in which he/she is a registered player or instructor is competing. However, in unforeseen circumstances when there is only a limited number of adjudicators available, he/she may adjudicate the competition providing that all the bands in the affected event consent.

5.4.2 Adjudicators shall not converse with one another or compare notes about their results, until their results have been given to the Chief Scorer.

5.5 Guidance for Adjudicators

5.5.1 Each adjudicator shall be provided with adjudication sheets approved by the Association. The adjudication sheets shall be passed to the Chief Scorer or designate at the end of each event.

5.5.2 The adjudication of the bands shall commence with the first beat of the first drum roll in the introduction and shall cease on the last note of the last tune of the set being played.

5.5.3 On the adjudication sheets, adjudicators shall provide an accurate assessment of the band's performance, with instructional elements, and constructive criticism where appropriate. Adjudicators shall not criticize the setting of a tune.

5.5.4 Adjudicators shall rank the band performances from first to last on the adjudication sheets. No ties are permitted.

5.5.5 No penalties for lateness, lack of numbers, or for not playing within the required times in a timed event competition, shall be enacted by the adjudicators. This responsibility lies with the attending Steward.

5.6 Disbursement of Adjudication Sheets and Tally Sheets

5.6.1 The original adjudicator's sheets shall be given to the bands after the distribution of the prizes.

5.6.2 The Chief Scorer shall compile a summary of event results, and distribute a copy to each competing band at the same time as they distribute the original adjudicator's sheets. A copy of each Pipe Band Tally Sheets shall be provided to the Association.

6. Method of Determining Winning Positions

6.1 Method

6.1.1 Winning positions are based on the adjudicator's placing method (adjudicators' score ranking method) as follows: Each adjudicator's score shall be ranked in order from highest placing to lowest placing with one (1) ranking point awarded for first, two (2) ranking points awarded for second, three (3) ranking points awarded for third, etc. Adjudicators shall not tie bands. The lowest total of all the ranking points wins lst place, the second lowest wins 2nd place, third lowest wins 3rd place, etc.

6.1.2 If more than one event is offered in a grade, the overall result for the grade shall be determined and announced.

6.1.3 For the overall result in a grade, the total for each band of all the ranking points for all the adjudicators in the events shall be calculated. The lowest total wins lst place, the second lowest wins 2nd place, third lowest wins 3rd place, etc. e.g. a band that receives the following rankings in a set event (1,2,2,1) and in a medley event (2,2,2,2) would receive an overall ranking points total of (1+2+2+1)+(2+2+2+2) = 14.

6.1.4 At a Games where there are two events in band grade but the same bands do not compete in the two events, the overall result for the grade shall be determined using "Inverted Points".

6.1.5 Inverted Points are calculated as follows: 1st from a band judge is worth N points, 2nd worth N-1 points, etc where N is number of bands in the event. The total for each band of all the inverted points for all the adjudicators in the events shall be calculated. The highest total wins lst place, the second highest wins 2nd place, third highest wins 3rd place, etc. e.g. a band that receives the following rankings in a 9 band set event (1,2,2,1) and in a 10 band medley event (2,2,2,2) would receive an overall inverted points total of (9+8+8+9)+(9+9+9+9) = 70.

6.2 Breaking Ties

6.2.1 Ties shall be broken according to the following methods:

Ranking	Inverted Points
1. Lowest total of the ranking points in ensemble	1. Highest total of the inverted points in ensemble
2. Lowest total of the ranking points in piping	2. Highest total of the inverted points in piping
3. Winner of the March, Strathspey & Reel event	3. Winner of the March, Strathspey & Reel event
4. Winner of the Medley event	4. Winner of the Medley event
5. Conference of adjudicators for the event(s)	5. Conference of adjudicators for the event(s)

6.3 Best Drum Corps

6.3.1 For each event, the best drum corps shall be announced. The awarding of a prize for the Best Drum Corps in an event is at the discretion of the Games Sponsor.

6.4 Prize Monies

6.4.1 Up to 6 prizes in a band competition may be awarded. Games Sponsors shall make available the number of prizes to award and the value of each prize.

6.4.2 The number and value of prizes that are awarded for an event or overall result shall be as made available, regardless of the number of bands which compete in the event.

6.4.3 If there is only one band in an event, the adjudicators shall confer and make a documented decision as to whether the performance is worthy of being awarded first prize.

6.4.4 Prize money may be awarded for last place in a band competition only if the adjudicators confer and make a documented decision as to whether the performance is worthy of being awarded the prize.

6.5 Determination of Grand Aggregate Winner

6.5.1 At the end of the competition season, the Association shall award a Grand Aggregate Award in each grade determined by clauses 9.1 and 9.2 to the Association member with the highest accumulated points at the Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions determined by clauses 9.1 and 9.2.

6.5.2 Grand Aggregate points shall be awarded only for the overall results at the Association sanctioned competitions. The points to be awarded for the calculation of Grand Aggregate Awards shall be as follows:

Placing	Grand Aggregate Points
1st	88
2nd	56
3rd	38
4th	25
5th	16
6th	10

plus 1 point for each band placed ahead of in each event in the grade.

6.5.3 Ties in the Grand Aggregate points total shall not be broken.

7. Massed Band

7.1 Required Participation

7.1.1 All bands by entering competitions shall participate in the massed band performance(s), the timing of which shall be defined by the Games Competition Committee when the draws for the band competitions are done. Games Sponsors shall make reasonable efforts to have Final Massed Bands started no later than 5:45 pm.

7.2 Senior Drum Major

7.2.1 The senior Drum Major of the massed band shall be appointed by the Competition Committee.

7.2.2 The formation of the massed band shall be at the discretion of the senior Drum Major.

7.3 Music

7.3.1 The tunes for massed bands shall be selected from the following list.

Tune	Music Source
Scotland The Brave	BCPA Massed Bands Setting
The Rowan Tree	BCPA Massed Bands Setting
Highland Laddie	BCPA Massed Bands Setting
The Barren Rocks of Aden	BCPA Massed Bands Setting
The Green Hills of Tyrol	BCPA Massed Bands Setting
When The Battle Is Over	BCPA Massed Bands Setting
Bonnie Dundee	BCPA Massed Bands Setting
Amazing Grace	BCPA Massed Bands Setting

7.3.2 The drum sections of the highest grade in attendance shall be used for the piano parts of the massed band tunes.

7.4 Acceptable Highland Dress

7.4.1 Band members participating in a massed band's performance shall be attired in acceptable highland dress for as defined in Clause 2.6.

7.5 Penalties

7.5.1 Band members not in the acceptable highland dress shall be barred from the massed band by the Competition Committee.

7.5.2 In the event minimum representation in a massed band is a requirement for payment to bands of any fee or award, band representation shall be determined after exclusion of band members not in acceptable highland dress. Minimum representation is defined as four less than the minimum number of players the band competed with.

7.5.3 If a band does not meet the minimum representation for massed bands or if a band acts in any manner that disrupts a massed bands, the Competition Committee may, at their discretion, withhold any prize monies and travel monies due to the band until the matter is resolved between the band and the Association.

7.5.4 Bands violating clause 2.9.2 shall be subject to the same penalty as in clause 2.4.1 for each player dropped at the starting line.

7.5.5 Any band member registering concurrently with more than one band, except as provided in Clause 2.5 or Clause 3.2.6, shall be liable for suspension from further pipe band competitions until the conflict is resolved.

7.5.6 A similar penalty shall apply to any band that submits a false registration with the Association.

7.5.7 Any band member who plays in more than one band or in more than one grade except as provided for in Clause 2.5 or Clause 3.2.6 shall cause each band to be disqualified from that competition.

7.5.8 Any band competing with a player who has not been officially released by a previous band according to Clause 3.4.2 shall cause the gaining band to be disqualified from the competition.

8. Interpretation of Rules and Protests

8.1 Interpretation of Rules

8.1.1 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.

8.1.2 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.

8.1.3 No member of the Executive or their designate shall be allowed to rule on a protest in which his/her band or immediate family member is involved.

8.2 Protests and Grievances

8.2.1 Any protests shall be made in writing accompanied by a $50 deposit and lodged with the Competition Committee, with a copy to the Secretary of the Association.

8.2.2 A complaint lodged on the grounds of substituted personnel, or other registration irregularity shall be dealt with by the Competition Committee, whose decision shall be binding on all parties concerned. Where relevant, the complainant shall submit the original adjudication and tally sheets, which will be verified by the adjudicators involved and the Chief Scorer as authentic.

8.2.3 Should the protesting party or any parties affected by the findings of the Competition Committee disagree with the findings of the Competition Committee, they shall have the right to appeal to the Association. Pending the result of the appeal, the findings of the Competition Committee shall be accepted by all the parties concerned.

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

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

8.2.6 In the event of a prize being awarded to the wrong band because of an error, such as totaling points, failure to deduct penalty points, or for any other reason, it shall be the responsibility of the Competition Committee to re-award such prizes to the deserving band as soon after such discovery is made.

9. Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions

9.1 Criteria for Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions

9.1.1 Competitions shall be approved by the Association's Board of Directors as Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions on meeting all the following criteria:

(a) The competition is held within the geographical area indicated in clause 1.2

(b) The competition organizers are current Highland Games Association members of the Association in good standing by Feb 28 of the competition year. Otherwise, Grand Aggregate Awards Competition status for the competition is suspended unless approved by a majority vote of the board of directors of the association

(c) The competition organizers have demonstrated that they have run a competition for a minimum of two years

(d) The competition has been run under the Association's competition rules all clauses 2.1 to 2.9

(e) The competition has used the Association's common music events and their music requirements as defined in clause 2.10

(f) The competition has used the Association's Approved Adjudicators or adjudicators from the approved adjudicators panels of piping/pipe band associations that the Association officially recognizes, as defined in clauses 5.1 and 5.2

(g) The competition has offered all the disciplines (solo piping, solo snare drumming, solo tenor drumming, and pipe bands)

(h) The competition has offered in each discipline, each official grade for which the full instrument is played

(i) The competition has offered the appropriate number of events in each official grade across the music disciplines (i.e. minimum 2 events per grade in solo piping and solo snare drumming, minimum 1 event per grade in solo tenor drumming, minimum 2 events per grade in pipe bands except for Grade 5 band events which shall be minimum 1 event)

(j) A minimum of 60 solo competitors who actually competed at the particular Games, otherwise the Grand Aggregate points awarded at the particular Games shall be scaled by the number of solo competitors who actually competed divided by 60. If a Games achieved Grand Aggregate status and had 60 or greater solo competitors who actually competed at the Games in a year, scaling would not be applied for two subsequent years at the Games if the number of solo competitors who actually competed at the Games was less than 60 in each of those years

(k) A minimum of 6 pipe bands which actually competed at the particular Games, otherwise the Grand Aggregate points awarded at the particular Games shall be scaled by the number of pipe bands which actually competed divided by 6. If a Games achieved Grand Aggregate status and had 6 or greater bands which actually competed at the Games in a year, scaling would not be applied for two subsequent years at the Games if the number of bands which actually competed at the Games was less than 6 in each of those years

(l) The competition organizers have contacted the Competition Operation Chair of the association with the primary and alternate contacts for the games organization committee by Feb 1 of each year.

(m) The competition organizers will use the current Competition software provided by the association and will advise the Competition Operations Chair by Feb 1 whether they will be using the Association's Competition Secretary or another individual as Chief Scorer. The competition organizer will supply an area for the scorers. They will supply electrical needs of the scorer and if required will supply electronic equipment required by the scorer. The competition organizers will supply a consistent power supply with sufficient outlets for the scorer for the day(s) of the event.

(n) The competition organizers will supply tables, chairs and shelter for each adjudicator platform.

(o) The competition organizers will provide a steward for each platform. Each platform will be supplied with pens and clipboards as required.

(p) If the competition organizer has not set up the competition site the night before the event, the competition site must be set up a minimum of 1 hours prior to the first event of the competition.

(q) The competition organizers have supplied an area for posting of order of play and results for all competitions. Such area must be easily accessible by all competitors.

(r) The competition organizers will follow the adjudicator and essential support personnel payment policy see addendum 1

(s) The competition organizer will provide medals and or other recognition for a minimum of the first three placings in each event. The recognition will be the same across all disciplines of solo amateur competition. All prize money, medals and trophies will be presented on the day of the event unless noted in advance. The competition organizer should make sure there are enough medals in advance of the game. If there is a shortage of medals or trophies on the day of the event the competition organization will be responsible to get the medals or trophies to the competitor.

(t) The competition organizers will be responsible to make sure the electronic results of the competition are submitted to the Competition Operations Chair within 24 hours of the completion of the competition.

(u) The competition organizer or the BCPA administrative team as applicable must publicize the schedule for the events a minimum of 3 days ahead of the event. The schedule will indicate start and end time of each class.

9.1.2 The Association shall publish a list of the Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions.

9.2 Criteria to retain Grand Aggregate Status

9.2.1 A Grand Aggregate Awards Competition shall meet all of the above conditions for their competition, otherwise the Association and the competition's organizers shall jointly develop and execute an improvement plan to bring the following year's competition into compliance. The following procedures will be followed:

(a) A document will be prepared by the Competition Operations Chair outlining the areas requiring improvement. This document must be signed by the Competition Operations and the Organizer of the competition in question

(b) Both parties must agree to the plans for improvement by signing such plans in advance of the competition season.

9.2.2 If all parties have signed the agreements, the competition shall retain its grand aggregate status for one year pending improvements being implemented in the following year.

9.2.3 In the event that the organizer of the competition does not agree to sign the documents regarding improvements the competition will cease to be included in the grand aggregate points. In order to reinstate the grand point status the organizer of the competition will have to follow all items in clause 9

9.2.4 In the event that the only violation is to 9.1.1b, the competition organizer will be given 14 days to remedy the failure or to negotiate s suitable arrangement for payment.

9.3 Criteria for events to award Grand Aggregate Awards Points at Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions

9.3.1 Criteria for events to award Grand Aggregate Awards Points at Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions are:

(a) The particular grade (Grade 5, 4, 3 etc) for the discipline (solo piping, solo snare drumming, solo tenor drumming, and pipe bands) must be offered by a minimum of 50% of the Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions; and

(b) The event must not have a numerical limit on the number of competitors or a geographical restriction on who can enter for the event; and

(c) For pipe band competitions, the event must be a full band event; and

(d) For competitions which are more than one day in length, the event may occur on any day of the competition

ADDENDUM #1

BC Pipers' Association

Policy for Remuneration of Adjudicators & Essential Support Personnel Fees, Travel, Accommodation and Meals

Approved by the Board of Directors and Highland Games Organizers October 30, 2016

POLICY

All figures are in Canadian dollars. Prevailing US dollar exchange rate applies. Adjudication Fee (for Highland Games)

$300 Full Day, $150 Half Day, $75 Quarter Day

Adjudication Fee (for Mini-Gatherings)

$100

Essential Support Personnel

No fee. Essential Support Personnel is defined as the Chief Steward, the Chief Compiler, and where needed the Assistant Compiler.

Travel

Reimbursement is based on Eligible Roundtrip Distance which is computed as (shortest distance between home and venue per Google Maps MINUS 25 km) TIMES 2 rounded to nearest dollar. Distance by ferries shall not be included in the calculation.

The first 50 km of Eligible Roundtrip Distance is reimbursed at $0.54 per kilometer. For the remaining Eligible Roundtrip Distance over 50 km, the reimbursed amount is at $0.15 per kilometer.

For travel that includes a ferry, the cost for a car and a driver both ways shall be reimbursed. For travel that includes tolls, the cost of tolls shall be reimbursed.

Adjudicators already intending to be at the Games as part of their band do not receive kilometerage fees, or ferries and tolls reimbursements.

Accommodation

For one way distance from residence to competition site greater than 100 km, the cost for a single room with queen sized bed shall be reimbursed.

Meals

For meals not already provided by the competition, Per Diems shall be provided as follows: $15 breakfast, $15 lunch, $25 dinner. On travel days before or after the competition, per diems shall be provided from time of departure from residence to the time of arrival at the accommodation location and from time of departure from accommodation location to the time of arrival at residence.

Revision Date	Revision Number	Revisions Summary
Mar 11 2007	9	• Added Calibre element to calculation of Grand Aggregate Award points earned for placings • Extended scope of competitions not included in Grand Aggregate Awards points calculations
Nov 3 2007	10	• Revised Clause 3.1.2 to update non-member fee to $40 CDN or $40 US per band or mini-band
Mar 29, 2009	11	• Revised Clause 2.9.2 once the band has stopped marching at the starting line no member shall be dropped. • Revised 2.10.2 tunes shall be submitted to Chief Steward by noon. • Revised 2.11.7 This decision shall be made by the attending Steward in consultation with the Chief Steward. • Added List of Highland Games – Grand Aggregate Status
Oct 18, 2011	12	• Deleted List of Highland Games – Grand Aggregate Status • Added Section 9 – Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions • Revised clause 6.5.1 to refer to new section 9 clauses • Revised fees in clause 3.1.2 to $60 CDN or $60 US per band per Games • Clause 4.1.1 amended to include Grade 5 as an official band grade • Some spelling errors corrected
Mar 31, 2014	13	• Deleted the defunct Southern United States Pipe Band Association from the list of affiliated associations • Revised minimum numbers of players for band grades • Reduced the penalty for player shortage • Introduced rule for use of Eligible Instructors as Players in Grades 5, 4 and 3 bands in place of rule for use of Higher Grade Members in a Juvenile band • Revised competition area dimensions to RSPBA dimensions • Made submit one medley mandatory when a Games offers both a set event and a medley event in a grade where music requirements indicate more than one set and more than one medley are required to be submitted • Introduced penalty of loss of Grand Aggregate points for excessive late to the line • Clarified requirements for Juvenile status for a band • Added “The Rowan Tree” and “The Barren Rocks of Aden” as official BCPA Massed Bands tunes. Changed Music Sources from published books to BCPA settings • Editorial changes
Mar 9, 2015	14	• Renamed Side to Snare • Defined all grades as only amateur grades of competition • Added requirement for adjudicators to provide instructional elements in assessments • Added up to 6 prizes may be awarded and for Games Sponsors to make available the number and value of prizes to award • Added condition that if there is only one band in an event, the adjudicators shall confer and make a documented decision as to whether the performance is worthy of being awarded first prize. • Added condition that prize money may be awarded for last place in a band competition only if the adjudicators confer and make a documented decision as to whether the performance is worthy of being awarded the prize. • Editorial changes

Oct 1, 2016	15	• In Clause 2.10.1, named Appendix A as "Music Requirements for Piping, Drumming and Pipe Band Competitions" and revised it as follows: o Grade 5 Band Event 812 Quick Marches Set to "4 x 2 parted Marches from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Associations list of prescribed tunes http://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes.php" o Grade 4 Event 822 to "March, Strathspey & Reel" and "1 x 4 parted or 2 x 2 parted Marches, Strathspeys, Reels from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Associations list of prescribed tunes http://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes.php" o Grade 4 Pipe Corp Event 621 Quartette - March, Strathspey & Reel to "1 x 4 parted or 2 x 2 parted Marches, Strathspeys, Reels from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Associations list of prescribed tunes http://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes.php" • In Clause 2.11.4, added Grade 5 band event minimum and maximum timings • Added new Clause 4.2.8 defining alignment of BCPA band grade calibres with RSPBA band grade calibres • Revised Clause 4.3 to permit Grade 5 bands to compete in a Grade 4 band Medley event with minimal conditions
Mar 13, 2018	16	• Revised Clause 2.5.1 to reduce the grade difference to one and added the ability for a registered Eligible Instructor not to be required to be a registered member of a higher grade band
Jan 5, 2019	17	• Added Competing Pipers Association (UK residents only) to list of affiliated associations • Revised the band events non-member fee US dollar amount to reflect current exchange rate • Revised Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions Criteria to add minimum 2 events per grade in pipe bands except for Grade 5 band events which shall be minimum 1 event • Revised Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions Criteria to introduce scaling of points if lower than minimum numbers of solo competitors and bands
26 Mar2025	18	• Added specific requirements for games to retain grand aggregate status • Added the adjudicator remuneration policy as addendum to the rules • Clarified the process for improving games to retain grand aggregate status.