2026 Victoria Highland Games Association

PIPING, DRUMMING, AND PIPE BAND COMPETITION INFORMATION GUIDE

Games Date: May 16 and 17, 2026

Entry Open Date: March 2 **Early Bird Date: March 9** **Closing: April 27**

VENUE –Topaz Park: Gates open at 8:00 AM

ENTRY FEES – Beginner Free, Amateur/Drum Major $20, Open Piping and drumming $20, Open Piobaireachd $50, Band fees range from $50 to $70. Non BCPA or affiliate member surcharge for this event are $30 solos, $60 bands

EARLY BIRD – EARLY RANDOM ENTRY POOL – The first week of entries is considered an early random entry pool. All entries received in the first week will be entered into a randomized draw for order of play. After the first week all entries are first to enter, last to play.
LATE ENTRY FEES – Late entries up to 72 hours after close of registration will be accepted at double entry fee. Competitor must contact the organizer or the entries secretary (entries@bcpipers.orga)

ADMISSION FOR COMPETITORS: No Gate passes will be issued. You will be granted entry to the games if you are in uniform and/or with your instrument.

ADMISSION FOR SPECTATORS: See: https://victoriahighlandgames.com/tickets/. Early Bird discount until April 18

ONSITE REGISTRATION: Competitors should check in and obtain a competitor number at the Piping & Drumming Registration tent. Field entries are not accepted.

RULES – Victoria Highland Games events in solo piping, solo drumming and pipe bands are conducted under the rules of the BC Pipers' Association. For full rules see Solo piping rules or Solo drumming rules or Pipe Band Rules All bands are required to participate in the Opening and Closing Massed Band to receive any monies. Bands challenging up is not being offered at this games, except for Grade 5 bands which can challenge up in only the Grade 4 Medley event. NOTE: During the opening and closing ceremonies, solo competitors must not play or warm-up their instruments.

SCHEDULE: Solo competitions will start early morning and band competitions begin in the afternoon. In advance of the games, schedules will be posted on the BCPA Website at Event Schedule and at the Piping and Drumming Registration Tent on games day.

ORDER OF PLAY: Orders of play for all Open Events will be determined by random draw. The draw will take place 1 day following the closing date at the BCPA Entries Secretary's address. See Early Random Entry Pool (Early Bird) above. In advance of the games, all orders of play will be posted on the BCPA Website Order of Play and at the Piping and Drumming Registration Table on games day.

TUNE SUBMISSIONS and SELECTIONS: Where required tunes must be submitted online when entering or submitted by email to entries@bcpipers.org by entry closing date. For events where submission of more than one tune/set is required, the adjudicator shall select the tune/set from the competitor's list submitted with their entry form.
For band events, selection of MSR (Grades 1 & 2) will be conducted by the Chief Steward when band is at the starting line.

PRIZES: For solo events other than Open, prizes are medals. For solo Open and Band events, monetary prizes are awarded. Value of prize money can be requested from the Games organizer at mailto:info@victoriahighlandgames.com Be advised that the performance fees may be capped at the discretion of the VHGA Piping and Drumming Chair depending upon number of entrants. To be eligible for the performance fee, the FULL BAND MUST PLAY IN BOTH THE OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES FOR BOTH DAYS.

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GAMES SPONSOR HOTEL - Strathcona Hotel – Call 1.800.663.7476 or go to www.strathconahotel.com

WAIVER STATEMENT – *(To be agreed to by competitor, or parent/guardian if under age 18)*
I desire to enter the events identified, and in consideration of your acceptance of this entry, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and relieve any and all claims I may have against the Games name and society for injuries which may be suffered by me while in attendance. I hereby grant permission to BCPA and Victoria Highland Games or their representatives the right to take photographs, video recordings, and audio recordings of me at the Games. I authorize the use of my name, image, likeness, and voice in any promotional materials including websites, social media, print, and broadcast media without compensation.

PERFORMING RIGHTS STATEMENT – (*To be agreed to by competitor or band representative)*
The player or band referenced on this entry has permission to publicly perform all of the music he/she/it will perform at the Victoria Highland Games competitions and consents to the Victoria Highland Games recording, storing, reproducing and broadcasting any performances publicly through whatever means it deems appropriate. The representative of the band completing this entry has consent from all individual performers in the band to act on their behalf in providing consent to Victoria Highland Games to record, store, reproduce and broadcast performances by those performers.

VENUE RULES - The Victoria Highland Games and Celtic Festival is held at Topaz Park located at the corner of Finlayson Street and Blanshard Street in Victoria.

For the safety of our furry friends, dogs are not allowed at the park/on the field during the Games weekend

Following CRD BYLAW 3962, the games are a SMOKE FREE EVENT

Gates open one hour before the competition starts. The competition begins 9:00 am for solo piping and drumming, 1:30 pm for band contest. These times are subject to change, dependent upon number of entries received.

No Gate passes will be issued. You will be granted entry to the games if you are in uniform and/or with your instrument.

All public health orders at the time of the Games will be strictly followed.

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Piping Events [Piping Music Requirements]

Event Num	Grade	Event Name		
102	Beginner	Slow Air	Sat	
103	Beginner	2/4 March		Sun
104	Beginner	6/8 March	Sat	
111	Grade 5	2/4 March		Sun
112	Grade 5	Slow Air	Sat	
113	Grade 5	6/8 March		Sun
121	Grade 4	2/4 March	Sat	
122	Grade 4	Piobaireachd		Sun
123	Grade 4	Strathspey & Reel	Sat	
131	Grade 3	2/4 March		Sun
132	Grade 3	Strathspey & Reel	Sat	
133	Grade 3	Piobaireachd		Sun
142	Grade 2	Piobaireachd	Sat	
146	Grade 2	2/4 March		Sun
147	Grade 2	Strathspey & Reel	Sat	
151	Grade 1	MSR		Sun
152	Grade 1	Piobaireachd	Sat	
154	Grade 1	Jig		Sun
161	Open	MSR	Sat	
162	Open	Piobaireachd		Sun
164	Open	Jig	Sat	
175	Adult	Strathspey & Reel	Sat	
174	Adult	Piobaireachd		Sun
171	Adult	2/4 March		Sun
181	Adult Prep	2/4 March	Sat	
182	Adult Prep	Slow Air		Sun
183	Adult Prep	6/8 March	Sat	

Drum Majoring – Regimental – Marching & Deportment

551	Drum Major	Dress, Deport, Flourish	Sat	
551	Drum Major	Dress, Deport, Flourish		Sun

Drum Major Free Clinic - Saturday and Sunday - 9:30 am 10:30 am. Minimum of 6 registrants required for the clinic.

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Drumming Events

Drumming Music Requirements

Event Num	Grade	Event Name		
202	Beginner	2/4 March	Sat	
203	Beginner	6/8 March		Sun
221	Grade 4	2/4 March	Sat	
222	Grade 4	6/8 March		Sun
231	Grade 3	2/4 March	Sat	
232	Grade 3	6/8 March		Sun
241	Grade 2	MSR	Sat	
242	Grade 2	Hornpipe & Jig		Sun
251	Grade 1	MSR	Sat	
252	Grade 1	Hornpipe & Jig		Sun
261	Open	MSR	Sat	
262	Open	Hornpipe & Jig		Sun
301	Beginner	2/4 March	Sat	
302	Beginner	6/8 March		Sun
341	Novice	2/4 March	Sat	
342	Novice	6/8 March		Sun
351	Intermediate	MSR	Sat	
353	Intermediate	6/8 March		Sun
361	Open	MSR	Sat	
362	Open	Hornpipe & Jig		Sun

Pipe Band Events

Pipe Band and Corps Music Requirements

Event Num	Grade	Event Name		
812	Grade 5	Quick Marches Set	Sat	
812	Grade 5	Quick Marches Set		Sun
821	Grade 4	Medley	Sat	
822	Grade 4	MSR		Sun
831	Grade 3	Medley	Sat	
832	Grade 3	MSR		Sun
841	Grade 2	Medley	Sat	
842	Grade 2	MSR		Sun
851	Grade 1	Medley	Sat	
	Grade 1	Medley Demo		Sun
852	Grade 1	MSR		Sun
	Grade 1	MSR Demo	Sat	