

MWPBA MUSIC BOARD REPORT

2016 Annual General Meeting

News

This spring, ANAPBA established a sub-committee to coordinate with the RSPBA and (1) create a Supplemental Roster to be used by bands competing in RSPBA events; (2) act as a point of contact for the RSPBA Grading Convener; and (3) discuss and clarify with the RSPBA any rules issues that might arise. The roster will be posted on the MWPBA website. Bands intending to compete in Scotland are encouraged to contact the Music Board with any rules or roster questions.

Proposed Rule Changes

The Music Board recommends that the membership adopt the following rule changes at the 2016 AGM. Most are clarifications of situations that are not clearly addressed in the current rules.

Proposal 1 (to amend the bullet point in Section I.D): Bands and soloists that are disqualified for any Rules violation are not eligible for CS-Points. *However, bands and soloists that start an event but fail to finish the event (i.e., a “break down”) and bands and soloists that are disqualified in an event are still counted toward the number of competitors in that event for CS-Point calculations, despite the fact that they are not awarded any CS-Points. Bands and soloists who are registered for a given event but do not perform in the event are not counted toward the number of competitors in that event for CS-Point calculations.*

Rationale: To clarify the calculation process for CS-Points.

Proposal 2 (to amend the chart in Section III.C): The number of tunes required for submission for the Open solo piping events shall be *four (4) tunes* in each category for the MSR, H/J and 6/8 March events.

Proposal 3 (to amend the chart in Section III.C): The number of tunes required for submission for the Grade 2 solo piping events shall be *two (2) tunes* in each category for the MSR, H/J and 6/8 March events.

Rationale: Proposals 2 and 3 will bring the MWPBA into alignment with the ANAPBA recommendations and the existing requirements in most other associations.

Proposal 4 (to amend the bullet point in Section III.B): In bass drumming, the Grade shall be divided into *three Amateur grades, Advanced, Intermediate and Novice. ~~Bass drummers in Grade 4 or 5 bands may register in Novice Bass. Bass drummers in Grade 3, Grade 2, and Grade 1 bands may register in Advanced Bass.~~*

Proposal 5 (to amend the chart in Section III.C): *The Bass Contest Requirements for Intermediate Bass shall be 1 MSR.*

Rationale: Proposals 4 and 5 remove the transitional language which is no longer necessary, bring the MWPBA into closer alignment with other pipe band associations, ANAPBA recommendations and the solo Tenor grades. This will provide the fairest possible contest conditions for solo Bass competitors.

Proposal 6 (to amend the chart in Section III.C): The number of tunes required for submission for the Open Snare drumming events shall be *one (1) tune* in each category for the MSR and H/J events.

Rationale: This change will hopefully encourage more competitors in the event and is consistent with actual practice in solo drumming contests.

Proposal 7 (to be added as a new footnote to the chart in Section III.C): *A Grade 3 competitor is not required to play an a mach variation on any piobaireachd and shall not be penalized for the omission of the variation unless the setting of the piobaireachd played has a taorluath a mach, in which case the taorluath a mach and crunluath a mach must be played. The adjudicator must be informed of the player's intent prior to the commencement of the tune. In all other solo grades, the decision to play an a mach variation is within the discretion of the performer, provided, however, that if an a mach variation is not played, an adjudicator may consider whether an a mach variation is traditionally played in that tune and consider the omission of the variation as a factor in the evaluation.*

Rationale: To clarify for competitors when an a mach variation is required and provide guidance for adjudicators in how to treat the omission of the variation.

Proposal 8 (to amend the bullet point in Section III.B): In solo piping, the Novice Grade *and* Grade 4 *Light Music Events* shall be subdivided into 2 categories: Senior (30 years and over as of the 1st Games of the season), Junior (29 years and under). *The Practice Chanter event shall be open to all ages.*

Rationale: The Grade 4 events will be much easier to schedule and adjudicate if they are split into separate events in the same manner as the Novice events.

Proposal 9 (to add a new bullet point in Section III.C): *Any aggregate award for best performance in more than one event in solo piping or drumming (e.g., Piper of the Day, Drummer of the Day, Overall Winner, etc.) shall be awarded to the player competing on the day in the highest grade eligible for the award who is awarded the highest total number of Champion Supreme Points in that grade. Unless the award is announced in advance as restricted to MWPBA members, for purposes of this award only, Champion Supreme points shall be calculated for all competitors in all events offered in the highest grade eligible and points will be assigned to all competitors (and not limited to a maximum of 6 points). A tie in points between players in the same grade shall be broken first by the Piobaireachd result in that grade, if applicable. If a tie still exists, the tie shall be broken by the MSR result (or 2/4 March result) in that grade, as applicable. Game Sponsors may adopt any other criteria for such aggregate awards, provided the criteria is announced in advance of the contest.*

Rationale: There were several awards this year for which a tie-breaker was necessary, but the current Rules do not clearly provide for a tie-breaker.

Proposal 10 (to add a new bullet point to Section IV.G): *If a Games Sponsor offers one or more band awards based on best aggregate performance in more than one event, a band must compete in each and every one of those designated events to be considered for any aggregate award. The order of placing in such a contest shall be determined by totaling the rankings of all judges in all designated events which are part of the aggregate contest. First place shall be awarded to the band with the lowest ranking total, second place to the band with the next lowest ranking total, and so forth. In the case of a tie, the band with the higher finish in the MSR event (after applying all tie-breakers for the MSR event) shall be placed higher in the aggregate contest than the band with the lower finish in the MSR event.*

Proposal 11 (to amend the bullet point in Section I.B): The Music Board will review bands and solo competitors after the last Games of the MWPBA outdoor season. Any band or soloist may be re-graded if appropriate. *The Music Board may regrade, either up or down, any band or soloist at any time during the year to correct what the Music Board determines is a serious grading disparity.*

Rationale: This clarifies the Music Board's authority to correct grading issues at any time.

Proposal 12 (to amend the existing bullet point in Section I.B): All pipe bands *and soloists* from other recognized Pipe Band Associations shall enter the grade assigned by their home association.

Rationale: This clarifies existing practice concerning soloists.

Proposal 13 (to add a new bullet point in Section III.C): *A solo competitor need not march while competing in any solo event.*

Rationale: This is a commonly asked question that should be addressed in the rules.

Proposal 14 (to add a new bullet point to Section IV.E): *Concert Formation: Subject to prior approval of the Executive Committee, a Games Sponsor may choose to have bands compete in Concert Formation for any event, provided this requirement is announced in advance. The Games Sponsor shall designate an adequate area for the Concert Formation event within which each band shall play in any formation of the band's choosing. No marching is required as part of a Concert Formation performance. Adjudicators shall evaluate the bands from one or more predetermined locations outside the Concert Formation area.*

Rationale: To provide clarity for this type of event.

Grading Decisions

PIPING

Light Music

Any player in the Novice grades can
"self-grade" into Grade 4 when they register

Jr. Novice to Grade 4

Thomas McCollum

Aidan McParland

Sean Lambe

Sr. Novice to Grade 4

Mark Kilgore

Mike Dickenson

Paula Leigeb

Damon McParland

Grade 4 to Grade 3

Brendan Fergus

Rhys O'Higgins

Duncan Pedersen-Jones

Tamara Miceli

Egan Dickerson

Grade 3 to Grade 2

Patrick Higgins
Joseph Fischer
Michael Kazmierski-Dunn

Grade 2 to Grade 1

Kolya Sier

Piobaireachd

Grade 4 to Grade 3

Rhys O'Higgins
Sydney Howieson
Duncan Pedersen-Jones
Tamara Miceli

Grade 3 to Grade 2

Kolya Sier
Meredith Richmond
Joe Fischer
Michael Kazmierski- Dunn
Jacob Schrader

DRUMMING

All players in Beginning Snare and Tenor automatically go to Grade 4 after one season

Grade 4 Snare to Grade 3

Gregory Crabb

Novice Tenor to Intermediate

Kiera O'Higgins

Novice Bass to Intermediate (if event approved)

Grace Jirsa

BANDS

Dundee Scottish from Grade 5 to Grade 4

Reminder: any grading applications must be filed by March 31, 2017.

For the Music Board,

Tom Weithers
Chairman