ROYAL NEW ZEALAND PIPE BANDS' ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)

CONTEST RULES

(last updated November 2026)

Rules for the conduct and control of Pipe Band Contests held in pursuance of Rule 2 (d) of the Rules of the Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands Association 2022.

This update incorporates changes to rule 5.4, the Drum Majors Championship, approved in October 2026.

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Appendices include: Judging Panels; Judges Selection Committees, Contest Supervisors and Appointment of National Contest Judges

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1. Interpretation (chapter 1)

These Rules shall be known as the "Contest Rules" and shall include the Appendices attached in these Rules unless the context otherwise requires:

1.1 "The Association" shall mean the "Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands Association (Incorporated)".

1.2 "The Management Board" or "the Board" shall mean the Management Board of the Association constituted under Rule 8 of the Association Rules.

1.3 "Centre" shall mean a District Centre of the Association as constituted under Rule 13 of the Association's Rules.

1.4 "Band" shall mean a band eligible to take part in a Contest pursuant to Rule 2.1.

1.5 "Contest" shall mean a New Zealand Pipe Band Championship or National Contest conducted under these Rules.

1.6 "Contest Committee" shall mean the organisation which is granted permission by the Board to conduct a National Contest.

1.7 "Contest Funds" shall include all monies raised, donated or collected by any means in connection with a Contest and includes all monies received by or on behalf of a Contest Committee, for or in consequence of that Contest.

1.8 "Judge" shall mean a person whose name appears on the Panel of Judges established under these Rules or an overseas judge invited by the Board to judge at a Contest.

1.9 "Judicial Committee" shall mean a Committee appointed to adjudicate on all protests and other matters not covered by these Rules which may be referred to it during a Contest. It shall consist of the President or his appointee, two persons appointed by the Management Board, and two members of the Contest Committee. Three members of the Judicial Committee shall form a quorum.

1.10 "Score Sheets" shall mean the Association's Score Sheets prepared in accordance with the Appendix to these Rules upon which all piping, drumming, ensemble, marching, dress and mace flourishing points shall be entered.

1.11 "The President" means the President of the Association.

1.12 "Music Events" means the events described in Rule 5.3.

2. Administration (chapter 2)

2.1 SCOPE

Contests shall be open only to members of the Association, bands which are members of bodies with which the Association is affiliated, and bands invited by the Board to compete at a Contest.

2.11 The RNZPBA Board will, in consultation with the Contest Committee, appoint a Contest Announcer. The appointed Announcer will be responsible for all announcing including the Final Trophy presentation.

2.2 RULES

All National Contests shall be conducted in accordance with these Rules.

2.2.1 Contest Rules may be amended, as set out in Rule 14 , Change of Rules of the Association, by member bands that have competed at one of the last three previous National Contests.

2.3 PERMITS

Any band, combination of bands, or Centre may apply to the Association for permission to hold a National Contest.

2.3.1 The application:

i. shall be submitted in writing to the Board before distribution of the agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held at least two years prior to the date for which a permit is requested. (i.e., an application for the year 2020 Contest would be presented at the 2018 Annual General Meeting or earlier).

ii. shall contain relevant organisational details such as available accommodation, proposed dates, venues and facilities and any additional sponsorship or other special assistance which would be available.

iii. will be circularised to all bands and Centres with the agenda paper for the Annual General Meeting.

iv. will be considered by the Annual General Meeting which may either, approve or decline the application, delegate the decision to the

Management Board, or instruct the Management Board to conduct a vote on such terms as it may consider desirable.

2.3.2 Timing of the Contest: The National Contest shall not be held earlier than the second weekend in March and no later than the last weekend of March each year.

2.3.3 The Association, in Annual General Meeting, may approve an application for the national contest to be held in one place for a number of consecutive or alternate years on conditions agreed by the meeting.

2.3.4 Permission to hold the Contest may not be granted more than three years in advance, but applications further ahead may be lodged if all bands have been notified of the application

2.3.5 A non-refundable grant of $1,500 shall be advanced by the New Zealand Association to the Contest Committee upon the granting of the permit.

2.3.6 The Board may advance an amount up to $15,000 as a loan to the Contest Committee on application from the Committee:

i. When applying for a loan the Contest Committee shall provide a full budget of expenditure and income for the Contest and its proposals for raising funds for the Contest.

ii. The loan shall be repayable no later than 3 months after the Contest and must be paid before any allocation of Contest surplus under these Rules.

iii. Interest shall not be payable on the loan provided it is repaid within 3 months after the Contest.

2.3.7 Organisations running National Contests will be given the financial results of the previous three Contests in a standard format and will be required to submit financial forecasts and report their financial results in line with the standard format. The format is to be determined by the Management Board from time to time.

2.4 ENTRIES

No band shall be eligible to compete in any Contest unless all amounts due by the band to the Association are paid in full by the closing date for entries unless it is otherwise eligible pursuant to Rule 2.1. A band can only compete in the Grade in which it is classified pursuant to Rule 4.3. The closing date for entries for a Contest shall be 120 days prior to the commencement date. No late entries shall be accepted.

2.5 ENTRY FEES

The entry fees payable to the Association shall be set by the Board and endorsed by the Annual General Meeting. Such entry fees shall vary from time to time. School Bands' entry fees shall be 50% of those paid by all other bands. The fees shall incur GST. No part of the entry fee shall be refundable.

2.6 DRAWS AND TIME SCHEDULES

The draws for order of playing in each event shall be made by the National Contest Supervisor and the Management Board. Time schedules for each band in each event shall then be compiled by the National Contest Supervisor and published on the Association's web site within 30 days of the closing of entries.

2.7 RECORDING

(i) The Board shall appoint a Chief Recording Officer, who shall with such assistance and computing equipment as may be required, make up the points/rankings, penalties and placing of all bands in each event. These results may be announced at any time prior to the conclusion of the Contest.

(ii) The points/rankings, penalties and placing of all bands shall be compiled into master score sheets that will be available on the Association website as soon as practicable following the Contest.

(iii) Judges report sheets will be distributed to competing bands at the conclusion of the Contest, where practical, or forwarded within one week of the Contest.

2.8 DISTRIBUTION OF PROFITS

A half share of the Contest profits will be retained by the Contest Committee and the other 50% is to be sent to the Association.

2.9 **BRIEFING OF JUDGES**

Prior to the Contest, a meeting will be convened of all Contest Officials and Judges appointed to judge the Contest. The National Contest Supervisor and the Chief Recording Officer will conduct this meeting and its purpose will be to:

- Brief the Judges and Officials on their duties.
- Advise them of any changes in the Rules since the last Contest.
- Explain the desired method of marking the Score Sheets.
- Explain any other matters relevant to their duties in the conduct of the Contest.

2.10 **CONTEST SUPERVISORS**

The Board will appoint the National Contest Supervisor and Assistant National Contest Supervisor. Centres will elect a Centre Contest Supervisor if so required.

3. Functions of the Contest Committee (chapter 3)

3. The Contest Committee shall carry out the functions prescribed in Appendix 3.

4. GENERAL COMPETITION RULES (chapter 4)

4.1 COMPOSITION AND MEMBERSHIP OF BANDS

4.1.1 Grades 1, 2 and 3 Bands shall comprise not less than 8 pipers, 3 side drummers and 1 bass drummer. Grade 4 bands shall comprise not less than 6 pipers, 2 side drummers and 1 bass drummer.

4.1.2 Every member of a competing band may compete with only one band at a Contest.

4.1.3 However, dispensation may be sought to allow an **Eligible Band Officer** to compete with a Band in a higher grade:

i. Eligible Band Officer is defined as a Pipe Major, Musical Director, Pipe Sergeant, Pipe Corporal, Drum Sergeant, Leading Drummer, Drum Corporal, Section Leader, Pipe Tutor and Drum Tutor. The dispensation rule does not apply to the Drum Major. Please refer to Rule 5.6 Drum Majors Championship, on playing in more than one band.

ii. Any player for whom dispensation is sought must have been an Eligible Band Officer in a Lower Grade Band for at least six months prior to the National Contest.

iii. A band may have no more than three members: one piper, one snare drummer, one tenor/bass player that shall be granted dispensation to play in two bands.

4.1.4 Application shall be made by the player and the lower grade band seeking dispensation on the prescribed Application Form.

i. All applications for dispensation must be supported by full documentation from the Lower Grade Bands records including copies of minutes of Annual General Meetings or Special General Meetings confirming appointment to the position held by any player for whom dispensation is sought.

ii. Applications shall be made at the time of submitting entries for the National Contest and must be forwarded to the National Contest Supervisor for determination.

4.1.5 The National Contest Supervisor shall make a decision on the application in consultation with the Board. The National Contest Supervisor may consider non-compliant applications which outline extenuating circumstances.

4.1.6 Dispensation shall not be granted where the prescribed requirements are not documented in an acceptable format.

4.1.7 Details of all approved dispensations shall be published and circulated to all competing bands at least 28 days prior to the Contest.

4.2 REPLACEMENTS AND SUBSTITUTIONS

In the event of the sudden illness or any other emergency circumstances of any member of a band immediately prior to competing the band shall, if the band would otherwise infringe Rule 4.1.1, advise the National Contest Supervisor and request permission to compete without such member.

In the event of a Drum Major or bass drummer suddenly becoming ill or otherwise unavailable during the Contest, application may be made to the National Contest Supervisor for permission to use a replacement. Details of the replacement's name, band and grade will be supplied.

No competing band will be allowed to use dummy players in any event.

4.3 GRADING OF BANDS

Grading shall be determined by the Grading Committee as prescribed in Appendix 4.

4.4 DRESS

(This section should be read in conjunction with Appendix 2 Guide to Wearing Highland Dress)

4.4.1 Subject to Rules 4.4.2 and 4.4.3, bands shall compete wearing EITHER:

i. Military style dress, viz black shoes, spats, hose, flashes, sporran, kilt, doublet, waist belt, sword or cross belt, plaid (full for pipers and belted for drummers, either for Drum Major), shoulder brooch, head dress (feather bonnet with plume, balmoral or glengarry); or

ii. Civilian style dress viz shirt, tie, kilt, day sporran, hose, flashes, black shoes, glengarry or balmoral; and either waistcoat or cut away jacket and waistcoat, or waistbelt and cut away jacket.

iii. Such other traditional dress as may from time to time or on application be approved by the Board.

iv. Bands wearing dress as specified in 4.4.1.2 may, at their discretion, dispense with jackets and waistcoats for the March, Strathspey, and Reel (MSR) and Medley events.

4.4.2 The Board shall maintain a register of dress approvals granted.

4.4.3 School Bands may wear any of the above alternatives or a minimum dress of shoes, hose, kilt, sporran, and head dress (feather bonnet with plume, balmoral or glengarry).

4.4.4 The Dress Inspection shall be judged in five sections, namely Grades 1, 2, 3, 4a and 4b. School Bands are eligible within their respective grades for the Grade Dress Trophies. In addition, the School Band with the highest dress points across all grades will be the winner of the School Dress competition.

4.5 CONTEST EVENTS

The events at a Contest shall comprise the Dress Inspection, Street March, Medley, MSR**,** Grade 4B March Set, Mace Flourishing, Massed Bands, Drumming Contest, Drum Majors' Competition and Juvenile Event, plus any other special events approved by the Board.

4.6 COMPULSORY EVENTS

i. All competing bands except those entered in the Juvenile Event must participate in the Medley, MSR**,** Grade 4B March Set, Street March and the Massed Bands. The Massed Bands displays will be held as set out in the official programme and bands may only be excused after written application to the National Contest Supervisor fourteen days prior to the Contest. Only in extreme, unforeseen circumstances would dispensation be granted later than this.

ii. In the case of inclement weather, the National Contest Supervisor may, in consultation with the Association President, cancel any, or all, Grades' Street

March so as not to impact negatively on any band's performance in the Championship events which follow the Street March.

4.7 JUDGING AND SCORING

4.7.1 In each of the MSR, Medley, Grade 4B March Set events, the Piping, Drumming and Ensemble Judges shall rank each band in order of its performance level, viz. 1 for 1st, 2 for 2nd etc. No Judge shall have two rankings the same. The Recorders shall determine the event rankings by totalling each band's rankings, ensuring that the number of rankings corresponds to the number of bands in each event, the winning band being that with the lowest total. Where totalled rankings are equal, rankings shall be determined by giving preference to the band ranked highest in Ensemble.

4.7.2 The Bass and Tenor Judge will judge the Medley event for Grades 4B, 4A, and 3, plus judge both the MSR and Medley events for Grades 1 and 2. The Bass and Tenor judge's placings will be recorded, but will not be included in the aggregate results. The Bass and Tenor judge shall use ranking in accordance with current Rule 4.7.1. Where total rankings are equal, rankings shall be determined by giving preference to the band ranked highest in the MSR event.

4.7.3 In the Street March event, judging and recording procedures shall be the same as in Rule 4.7.1 except that where totalled rankings are equal, rankings shall be determined by giving preference to the band ranked highest in Music (i.e., having the lowest total of Piping, Drumming and Ensemble rankings).

4.7.4 For all non-championship events other than the Street March, judges shall award points according to their assessment of each performance, the winner being awarded the highest points.

4.8 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Band Championship and Drumming Championship placings in all grades, including those where Heats and Finals are held in accordance with rule 5.3.7, shall be determined by aggregating the relevant total rankings gained by each band in the MSR and Medley events, Grade 4B March Set events the band with the lowest total being the winner.

4.8.1 Should the total aggregate of ranking points result in a tie for a grade winner,

The preference shall be as follows:

1st preference - Ensemble combined overall totals

2nd preference – Piping combined overall totals

3rd Preference - Drumming combined over all totals

4th Preference – Ensemble total in MSR event, Grade 4B March Set

5th Preference – Ensemble total in Medley event

4.8.2 In the event of a tie in the Drumming Championship, the preference shall be the drumming total in the MSR event, Grade 4B March Set.

4.9 **ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS**

Bands shall parade at the time and place appointed and notified by the Contest Committee either in the official programme or over the public address system.

4.10 **INTERFERENCE**

A band will not allow any person to interfere with it in any way from the time it is given the signal to commence a Contest event until it has completed the event.

4.11 **SCRATCHINGS**

Bands may scratch from any event other than compulsory events and shall notify the Supervisor at least two hours prior to the scheduled time of commencement of that event. Any scratching will be announced over the public address system.

4.12 **TIME SCHEDULING**

4.12.1 **OFFICIAL TIME**

For the purposes of Time Scheduling, official time shall be that displayed by a digital clock showing hours and minutes with figures of a size that can be easily read, erected at the following points:

i. For the Street March, at the designated final tuning area.

ii. For the MSR's, Grade 4B March Set, and Medleys at the designated final tuning area which is to be located between 50 and 100 metres from the designated competition board.

4.12.2 **REPORTING**

i. The first band to play in any event shall report to the designated final tuning area before their notified competing time with sufficient time to allow for final tuning.

ii. Once any band is in the final tuning area it shall not leave the area except by way of the competition board at its designated playing time or if disqualified from the event.

iii. At the time in the programme the band is designated to play, after ensuring the board is clear of previous bands and adjudicators are ready as indicated by the Board Supervisor, the designated Board Marshal will instruct the Pipe Major of the band to proceed to the starting point to compete.

iv. In the event the band fails or refuses to move from the final tuning area when instructed by the Board Marshal, the Board Marshal shall issue a two-minute warning to the Pipe Major to move the band from the final tuning area.

v. After one minute of the two-minute warning period has elapsed, the Board Marshal shall advise the Pipe Major that unless the Band moves within the time remaining of the two-minute warning, the band will be disqualified.

vi. At the conclusion of the two-minute warning period the Board Marshal shall instruct the Pipe Major to move the Band immediately to the designated starting point for the event or be disqualified under rule 8.1.2(iii).

vii. Each subsequent following Band in any event, shall move to the final tuning area as soon as the previous band has left the final tuning area.

viii. The Board Marshal shall advise the Pipe Major when the previous band has finished and moved off from the competition board. The Board Marshal shall then advise the Pipe Major of the time remaining before they are required to move off the Final Tuning Area to the competition board.

ix. If the board is clear and the judges are ready, as indicated by the Board Supervisor, the Band may move from the final tuning area and play before the designated competing time in the programme.

x. In the event that the competition is running ahead of schedule, a band may elect to wait to play at the timing as advised in the programme or go on earlier when advised by the Board Marshal.

xi. If the event is running late, the Board Marshal shall advise the Band in the final tuning area of the delay.

xii. After halting at the designated starting point for the event, no bandsperson shall be allowed to withdraw.

4.13. **PLAYING ON/OFF**

i. For each National Contest venue, the Contest Supervisor will define the playing and nonplaying areas of the Contest Arena for each event and grade and will advise all competing bands at least 5 days before the Contest which grades will be allowed to play on/off.

ii. For MSR, Grade 4B March Set, and Medley events, no band or member of a band shall play any instrument other than a bass drum tap, anywhere within the contest arena, from the time and place when the band has left the final tuning area until the band reaches the starting line for its programmed musical performance. No band shall play off the arena after it has performed. Breaches of this rule shall be penalised by the National Contest Supervisor.

4.14. **SCALE OF PENALTIES**

Penalties for breaches of the Contest Rules may be imposed by the National Contest Supervisor, as provided by Chapter 8.

5. DETAILS OF EVENTS (chapter 5)

5.1. DRESS INSPECTION

5.1.1 **Definition:** The dress inspection is an event involving the assessment of the manner of wearing the Highland Dress, and cleanliness of the dress and instruments. Refer to Appendix 2 “Guide to Wearing Highland Dress”.

5.1.2 **Form of Inspection:** During either the MSR or Medley, the inspection will take place as directed by the National Contest Supervisor.

5.1.3 **Judging:** Bands will be inspected by the Judge of Dress and Instruments.

5.1.4 **Method of Inspection:** Bands will be judged as follows:

i. The inspection will take place outside the formation of the band. The Judge shall not pass between the ranks or files.

ii. No band will be penalised for wearing old uniforms or having old instruments provided they are correctly worn and clean.

iii. No band will be penalised for members who wear sunglasses, providing they are in sensible frames similar to prescription glasses.

5.1.5 **Criteria:** The criteria for assessing Dress and Instruments shall be as follows:

i. Uniformity both in articles of dress and the manner worn.

ii. Cleanliness and smartness of uniforms, instruments and band members.

5.2. STREET MARCH

5.2.1 **Definition:** The Street March is an event where bands play and march over a prescribed course including up to two wheels. The event is the same for all grades and although not part of the championship the Street March is a compulsory event for all bands.

5.2.2 **Course:** The Street March length will be not less than 300 metres nor more than 400 metres from start to finish and will include two wheels. If, in exceptional circumstances, due to the layout of the route, then the length shall not exceed 500 metres and may include only one wheel or change of direction. A plan depicting the start and finish (both clearly defined), compulsory playing area and wheels shall be available to bands prior to the Contest.

5.2.3 **Music:** Each band will select its own tunes.

5.2.4 **Playing:** Bands must play throughout the compulsory playing area which will be clearly shown on the march plan.

5.2.5 **Judging:** Bands will be judged by two Piping judges, one Ensemble judge, one Drumming judge, and three Drill judges, positioned as directed by the Contest Supervisor.

The Music judges will alternate between Grades. Judges will assess each band's performance and place the bands in order of preference using the ranking system. (See Rule 4.7).

5.2.6 **Criteria for Marching:** Bands will march at regular intervals between ranks and files and will be judged on their total visual presentation (excluding dress).

5.3. **MEDLEY, MSR's, and for GRADE 4B MARCHES**

5.3.1 **Definition:** The Medley, MSR, and for Grade 4B Marches, are events in which a band's musical performance is assessed.

5.3.2 **Music:** Grade 1 and Grade 2 bands will submit one Medley and two MSR's, Grade 3 and Grade 4A bands will submit one Medley and one MSR, and Grade 4B bands one Medley and one six-parted March set.

Where more than one MSR is to be submitted each band shall submit their MSRs to the Contest Supervisor no later than 20 days before the Contest. The same tune shall not be included in more than one MSR.

For Grades 1 and 2 the MSR event will be drawn on the line by the Pipe Major of the competing band in the presence of the Contest Supervisor or a representative

of the Management Board allocated to this task, with either Set 1 or 2 as submitted in accordance with this Rule, being drawn.

If any music is to change from the tunes selected at time of entry, in any grade, then the band representative is to notify the Contest group Leader no less than 20 days prior to the date of the Contest. If notification is not received, then the band is to play the tunes nominated at the time of entry.

5.3.3 **The Medley** will comprise a selection of various types of tunes chosen by the band and introduced by two three, or one five, beat roll.

iii. Grade 1 medleys will last for not less than five minutes nor more than seven minutes.

iv. Grades 2 and 3 medleys will last for not less than four minutes nor more than six minutes.

iii. Grades 4A and 4B medleys will last for not less than three minutes nor more than six minutes.

5.3.4 **MSRs** will comprise a 2/4 march, strathspey and reel played in that order, and introduced by two three, or one five, beat roll.

iii. For Grades 1 and 2 each tune must be of at least four parts.

iv. For Grades 3 and 4A each tune must be a minimum of two parts in March, Strathspey, and Reel.

5.3.5 **MARCHES**. For Grade 4B a six-parted March set will be played, and introduced by two three, or one five, beat roll.

5.3.6 **Judging**

Bands will be judged by two Piping Judges, one Ensemble Judge, one Drumming Judge, and one Bass & Tenor Judge, from the commencement of the rolls until the band ceases playing to determine the winner of the event.

The Bass & Tenor Judge's placing will be recorded, but will not be included in the aggregate rankings of the event. Suitable enclosures shall be provided for judges which will enable them to see the competing bands. Writers may be used by judges if desired. Each judge will assess each band's performance and place the bands in order of preference (see Rule 4.7).

5.3.7 **The playing area**

The playing area will be marked on the ground by two circles – a Band circle and an Adjudicator's circle. The inner Band circle shall have a diameter of 8 metres, and the outer Adjudicator's circle shall have a diameter of 14 metres. The Band circle is intended as a guide to Bands and the Adjudicator's must not enter the outer circle. Each band will march to the point of commencement, which will be marked by two flags situated fifteen metres from the centre of the circle, and halt.

The Supervisor will ensure the Judges are ready and advise the band that the performance can commence. The band will then start its performance, in band formation, playing as prescribed and marching into the circle where it will take up a suitable formation for presentation of the prescribed music.

Conducting is optional but the conductor will be a bona fide active member or tutor of the band and will not count as a playing member. Drum Majors may take up a position no more than two metres from the band and outside the circle if appropriate.

Judges should avoid being closer than two metres from the band formation during the performance.

Upon completion of the performance bands shall march off the area as directed by the Supervisor.

5.3.8

i. If the number of entries exceeds sixteen in the MSR, Grade 4B March Set, and Medley events in any grade the National Contest Supervisor may decide to hold Heats and Finals Competitions for that grade.

ii. Within thirty days after the closing date of entries the National Contest Supervisor shall divide the entries into two Heats so that they are as near as possible numerically equal and there is as equal a distribution of performance levels as possible in each Heat having regard to the available results from contests held over the previous twelve months and the four previous New Zealand Championships.

iii. In no case shall the number of bands in any Heat exceed sixteen.

iv. The compilation of the Heats shall be at the sole discretion of the National Contest Supervisor whose decision shall be final.

v. Each band in each Heat shall play a Set, if G4B a six-parted March set, as prescribed in Rule 5.3.

vi. The draws for the order of playing in each Heat shall be made and time schedules compiled and notified to bands in accordance with Rule 2.6.

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vii. The top placing bands from each Heat, known as the Qualifying Bands, shall compete in a Championship Final and the remaining bands from both Heats shall compete in a Plate Final in accordance with the following schedule:

Total Entries in Grade	Qualifying Bands from Each Heat	Number of Bands in Championship Final
17 to 23	5	10
24 to 28	6	12
29 to 30	7	14
31 to 32	8	16

viii. The order of playing in the Championship and Plate Finals shall be announced by the National Contest Supervisor at the same time as the results of the Heats are announced and shall as far as practicable follow the order of playing in each of the Heats.

a) In the Championship Final each band shall play a Medley as prescribed under Rule 5.3.

b) In the Plate Final each band shall play a Medley as prescribed under Rule 5.3.

5.4. MACE FLOURISHING

5.4.1 **Definition**: The Mace Flourishing competition is an open event where bands march and play over a prescribed course, while the Drum Major flourishes the Mace. Eliminations may be held to determine up to six finalists at the discretion of the National Contest Supervisor and the Judge.

5.4.2 **Eligibility:** The event is open to anyone who wishes to compete. Prior arrangement with a competing band is necessary.

5.4.3 **Elimination Course**: The course for the elimination event will be a straight march of 70 meters from a marked start line A to a marked finish line B. The Drum Major will be judged from their "March" command, and judging will cease when the Drum Major passes point B. The course may be altered at the discretion of the National Contest Supervisor. Any course alterations will be notified to the appointed judge and all competitors prior to commencement of the event.

5.4.4 **Finals Course:** The course for the finals will be a straight march of 70 meters parallel with the main stand, a counter march followed by a right wheel at the center of the straight march, 30 meters to a counter march at rear of ground and halt in front of main stand.

The course may be altered at the discretion of the National Contest Supervisor. Any course alterations will be notified to the appointed judge and all competitors prior to commencement of the event.

5.4.5 **Judging:** The event will be judged by one adjudicator.
The Adjudicator will commence judging the Drum Major upon receiving a signal from the Contest Supervisor (who at that stage will have briefed the Drum Major on the course composition and exit route when the performance has been completed). Judging will cease on completion of their salute once the band has ceased playing.

The adjudicator will record comments on the competitors' score sheet during the performance.

Comments will be in relation to flourishing technique, overall mace control and flow, deportment, control of the band and adherence to the prescribed course.

At the completion of the event, the adjudicator will then allocate a score on each competitor's score sheet reflecting deductions based on identified faults for each competitor.

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The Winner will be the competitor with the highest points score.

5.4.6 **Dress:** Competitors must wear the band uniform prescribed by Rule 4.4. If a competitor chooses "Civilian Style" dress under Rule 4.4.1 ii, a waistcoat must be worn for this event and may be worn with a civilian-style jacket.

5.4.7 **Mace:** The Mace length should be proportionate to the competitor (just below the shoulder).

5.4.8 **Substitutions:** If a band is unavailable for some satisfactory reason a competitor from that band may, with the permission of the National Contest Supervisor, lead another band in this event.

5.4.9 **Playing:** For the eliminations, bands will commence playing at point A and will cease on the signal from the Drum Major after passing point B -but will continue to march as directed by the Supervisor. At the conclusion of the eliminations the finalists will be announced over the public address system. For the finals, bands will play continuously from point A to the finish. The finalists shall compete in the same order as for the eliminations.

5.6 DRUM MAJORS' CHAMPIONSHIP

5.6.1 **Definition:** The Drum Majors' Championship is an open competition judged in the Street March at a position allocated by the National Contest Supervisor. Before each Contest the National Contest Supervisor will appoint one of the four Judges of Marching to judge the Drum Majors' Contest.

5.6.2 The Drum Majors' Judge will allocate up to 100 points for each Drum Major. The other three Drill Judges can assist the Drum Majors' Judge in a collaborative manner, but will not have an allocation of points.

5.6.3 **Criteria for Judging:** Drum Majors will be assessed under the following headings:

- Control – Commands -Step Off at Point "A"
- Mace Drill
- Dress
- Deportment – head/eyes
- Drill – foot work/arm swing
- Swagger – walking Mace

- Wheel – control – Mace
- Salute

5.6.4 The judges report sheets and master score sheet for this event will be distributed to all competing bands.

5.6.5 (i) Any Drum Major who intends leading more than one band in the Street March must apply to the National Contest Supervisor for dispensation to do so. They must advise which bands they will be leading and will only be judged with the first band they command in the event.

5.6.5 (ii) Applications to lead more than one band shall be made at the time of submitting entries for the National Contest, and must be forwarded to the National Contest Supervisor for determination.

5.6.5 (iii) in the event of sudden illness or other emergency circumstances, refer **Replacement & Substitutions 4.2.**

5.7 MASSED BANDS

5.7.1 Definition: The Massed Bands is a compulsory event for all grades in which all competing bands combine to play together.

5.7.2 The National Contest Supervisor will consult with the Contest Committee as to the preferred format, based on the aspects of the grounds and timetable, and advise Bands of the proposed format in advance of the Contest.

5.7.3 The parade will be under the direction of the National Contest Supervisor who will designate a competent Drum Major to control the marching.

5.7.4 Bands will be notified of the music to be played.

5.8 JUVENILE EVENT

5.8.1 The Juvenile Event is open to bands formed from:

i. any eligible group from any school or college (from NZ or elsewhere) irrespective of Association membership; or

ii. any eligible group drawn from, affiliated to or under the auspices of any Member Band or District Centre; or

iii. any eligible group from non-member bands which are competing in the Contest (generally overseas bands). (such groups shall be known as Juvenile Bands.)

5.8.2 Juvenile Band shall comprise no fewer than six pipers, one side drummer and one tenor or bass drummer.

5.8.3 Players in Juvenile Bands may be drawn from other competing bands and notwithstanding Rule 4.1.2 may compete with that other band and the Juvenile Band at the same Contest.

5.8.4 A player in a Juvenile Band must be aged 18 years or under on the 1st day of January immediately preceding the Contest.

5.8.5 One person over the age of 18 may compete with the Juvenile Band as well as with his/her other band but shall not be the lead drummer of the Juvenile Band.

5.8.6 The music for the Juvenile Event shall be six measures of march-time music of any time signature(s), each measure played through twice and introduced by two three beat rolls, altogether of no greater duration than four minutes.

5.8.7 A Juvenile Band may march up to the circle playing from the point of commencement as in Rule 5.3.6. Alternatively, at its option, a Juvenile Band may take up suitable formation in the circle then commence playing. Upon completion the band will march off as directed by the Contest Supervisor.

5.8.8 Juvenile Bands should endeavour to be dressed uniformly and smartly, as far as possible in kilts and in keeping with Appendix 2 of these Rules.

5.8.9 Judging will be as in Rule 5.3.5 viz. two Piping, one Ensemble and one Drumming. It is expected that judges' remarks will provide as much guidance as criticism.

One Bass and Tenor Judge will be appointed, but this will be for the purpose of written reports only and will not form part of the overall result.

6. JUDGING PANELS; JUDGES SELECTION COMMITTEES (chapter 6)

6.1 Judges, Judging Panels, Selection Committees, Contest Supervisors and certain National Contest appointments shall be subject to the rules in Appendix 5.

7. TROPHIES AND AWARDS (chapter 7)

7.1 Bands will compete for Trophies, Medals and/or Certificates in accordance with the events defined in these Rules.

7.2 Cash prizes may, at the discretion of the Board, be competed for at Contests.

7.3 Bands winning trophies at a Contest must have them engraved at the band's expense.

7.4 All Association trophies will be sent by the holders to the Contest Secretary not less than one month before the Contest. All trophies must be engraved and in a clean condition before being sent to the Contest Secretary. Bands failing to forward trophies within the prescribed time will be liable to a penalty of $20 or such other disciplinary action as shall be determined by the Board. The Contest Secretary will be the Custodian of Trophies and will, on their receipt, ensure that all engraving, repairs and cleaning which are necessary to restore them to a condition suitable for presentation are carried out.

The cost of any such engraving, repairs and cleaning which are considered not to be due to fair wear and tear or the cost of any engraving required will be recoverable from the band from which the trophy has been received.

7.5 Any trophies won at a Contest must remain in New Zealand.

7.6 **SPECIAL AWARDS**

The Association may from time to time approve Special Awards. The purpose, the criteria by which the competition will be assessed and the judge or judges of any such award, shall be fully set out and advised to competing bands.

8. PENALTIES AND PROTESTS (chapter 8)

8.1 PENALTIES

8.1.1 Penalties may be imposed by the National Contest Supervisor only for breaches of the Contest Rules. Judges observing a breach of the rules shall bring to the notice of the National Contest Supervisor by a suitable note on the score sheet the nature of the breach and where it occurred.

Marshals or timekeepers observing a breach of the rules will make a written report to the National Contest Supervisor, with the exception of the Board Marshal who shall have the discretion to apply rule 8.1.2(iii) in the event of any band refusing to heed a final order to move from final tuning to the competition board. All penalties shall be assessed by the National Contest Supervisor according to the gravity of the offence and shall be announced as soon as possible after the conclusion of each event.

8.1.2 Specific breaches for which prescribed penalties are provided are listed as follows:

	Breach	Penalty
i.	Failure to participate in a compulsory event	Forfeiture of awards or such other (Rule 4.6) penalty as is determined by the National Contest Supervisor. Maximum 2 ranking placings, usual penalty 1 ranking placing.
ii.	Failure to play music in accordance with the rules for music in the **MSR** or Medley (Rule 5.3)	Maximum 2 ranking placings, usual penalty 1 ranking placing.
iii.	In the event that the band fails to move off from the final tuning area to the competition board at the conclusion of the two-minute warning period and after having received the one-minute warning and the final order to move (Rule 4.9)	Disqualification from the event at the discretion of the Board Marshal.

iv.	Failing to play the minimum or exceeding the maximum time allowed for the medley	Medley: 1 ranking placing for every 15 seconds or part thereof over or under.
v.	(Rules 5.3 & 5.4)	
vi.	Failing to play with correct composition and membership (Rule 4.1 & Rule 4.12.2 xii)	Forfeiture of awards or such other penalty as is determined by the National Contest Supervisor. Music and Street March events: Maximum penalty 2 ranking placings, but usual penalty 1 ranking placing for each breach. Page 19 Other events: Maximum penalty 10 points, but usual penalty 1 point for each breach.
vii.	Failure to wear correct dress (Rule 4.4)	Maximum 10 points, but usual penalty 1 point for each breach.

8.1.3 Any penalties for breaches not expressly provided for shall be assessed and imposed by the National Contest Supervisor.

Explanation of application of penalties in ranked events: if a one ranking penalty was applied to this example band in a music event the outcome would be a score of 8 from the music judges plus one for the penalty making a final total of 9:

Band	Piping 1	Piping 2	Ensemble	Drumming	Penalty	Total
City of Z	2	3	2	1	1	9

8.2 PROTESTS AND APPEALS

8.2.1 A protest or appeal may be lodged by or against any band in respect of any event at a Contest on any of the following grounds:

i. That any band or member of a band is for any reason ineligible to compete in the event.

ii. That any band or member of a band has been guilty of a breach of these Rules.

iii. That any Judge has not acted in accordance with these Rules.

iv. That any penalty imposed by the National Contest Supervisor is unjustified or excessive.

8.2.2 The protest or appeal shall be lodged with the Chief Recording Officer by:

i. A member of the Management Board of the Association.

ii. Any band competing in the event in respect of which the appeal is lodged.

iii. Any competitor in the Mace Flourishing or the Drum Major's competition, such protest or appeal to relate to Mace Flourishing and/or Drum Major's competition.

8.2.3 Every protest or appeal will be in writing.

8.2.4 A protest or appeal must be lodged within half an hour after the points awarded in the event have been publicly announced, provided however that the Judicial Committee may at its absolute discretion (and shall where fraud is alleged) extend the time for such period as it shall think fit.

Any protest or appeal where fraud is alleged may be disallowed by the Judicial Committee if there has been unreasonable delay in making the protest or appeal after the discovery of the fraud.

8.2.5 The Judicial Committee shall:

i. As soon as possible receive submissions, consider and decide all protests and appeals.

ii. Promptly notify the band or person protested against of the protest or appeal and the time and place at which it will be considered by the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee may in its discretion also notify any other band or person likely in the opinion of the Judicial Committee to be prejudiced by the appeal or protest.

iii. Notify the band or person which has lodged the appeal or protest of the time and place of the hearing.

iv. Permit one representative of the band or bands notified pursuant to paragraphs (ii) and (iii) to make oral or written submissions before a decision is made.

v. After the hearing is completed, deliver judgement, which shall be final.

APPENDIX 1

GUIDE TO DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL CONTEST SUPERVISOR

The function of the National Contest Supervisor is to see to the smooth running of all phases of the Contest. The success of any Contest will substantially depend upon the tact and patience with which these duties are carried out as follows:

GENERAL

Control of Marshals and through the Chief Marshal see that all Marshals are aware of their duties and that they perform them efficiently.

The National Contest Supervisor shall be conversant with every aspect of a Contest and be in a position to answer questions promptly and accurately, always remembering that competitors are under a strain during a Contest and look to the National Contest Supervisor for help in their difficulties. A National Contest Supervisor must be able to make a quick decision in an emergency.

The National Contest Supervisor should maintain close liaison with the Chief Marshal and so ensure that everything possible is done to make things run smoothly. He/she should see that bells for Judges and Marshals are available and see that appropriate score sheets are in the hands of Judges as early as possible before each event. The National Contest Supervisor is responsible to see that no unauthorised persons gain access to or remain on the Contest ground.

During the running of any event the National Contest Supervisor must be on the alert to see that things are running smoothly and that the Rules governing the Contest are being observed.

He/she will appoint from the Judges panel one judge to act as Judges Convenor.

DUTIES OF JUDGES CONVENOR

i. Organise departure from Hotel to venue and vice versa according to schedule.

ii. Issue score sheets for each event.

iii. Supervise lunch and tea breaks to ensure Judges report on time.

iv. Act as a go-between for National Contest Supervisor with officials and others.

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v. Collect expense sheets and hand to Contest Secretary by Saturday Midday.

vi. Organise and control runners for score sheet collection.

MUSIC EVENTS

i. Conduct the draw for the Music as required by Rule 5.3.2.

ii. Arrange with Grounds Committee to ensure that all bands' requirements are met at the competing venues.

iii. See that 14 tables, 16 chairs, 2 bells, are available for Judges and Supervisors.

iv. Ensure that adequate lighting and golf umbrellas are available for Judges.

v. Ensure that Marshals keep bands up to programme and by tactful supervision ensure the smooth running of the event.

STREET MARCH

i. Ensure that the start and finish of the Street March course is clearly marked, and that Drum Majors are conversant with the course.

ii. Ensure that placard bearers are aware of their duties and arrange for them to take up their positions at rear of each band at the appropriate time.

iii. Ensure that bands are dispersed clear of the finishing line, and that no obstruction is caused to the following bands.

MACE FLOURISHING

i. Ensure that the Mace Flourishing Course is correctly marked out.

ii. Ensure that each competitor's mace is measured and is regulation length as laid down in the Contest Rules.

iii. Ensure that each competitor is dressed according to Contest Rules.

APPENDIX 2

GUIDE TO WEARING HIGHLAND DRESS

Notes:

- uniformity is the fundamental criteria when being judged.
- all items to be clean, pressed and polished where applicable.

Brogues or shoes	Footwear should not be a mixture of brogues or shoes. All laces should be the same thickness and tied uniformly.
Hose	The height of the hose should be in proportion with the length of the kilt. If the kilt is long, the correct height is the width of four fingers lower than the inside bone of the knee. If the kilt is being worn a little shorter, then hose can be worn a little higher on the leg. Hose should be at an equal height and the tops should be parallel to the ground, not up at the back.
Flashes	The position is a matter of uniformity, worn with inside edge of flashes on front centreline of leg or midway on outside of leg when viewed from the side.
Kilt	The kilt should be worn to give the best hang of the pleats. Care should be taken that the kilt hangs evenly all round and not up or down at front or back. Keepers should be used to stop kilt straps from dangling. The length of the kilt should be uniform throughout the band.
Sporran	The length of a dress sporran is defined by the height of the wearer. The sporran straps should fit snugly into the groin. Drummers should take care their sporrans are all in the same position on the hip, right hand side, towards the rear. There should be no sporran straps dangling at rear.
Glengarry & badge	The correct position on the head is right fore and aft. The fall is all to the right side, close to the right ear or may be worn square on the head. The front peak should be no more than one inch above the right eyebrow. Hat badges to be of the same basic design.
Belts and jackets	Waist belts should fit tightly around the top edge of the kilt when jackets are not worn. All jackets should fit snugly. If it is decided by the band to leave jackets unbuttoned, then all jackets must be undone. If it is decided by the band to button jackets, then all jackets must be buttoned.
Waistcoats	Should not be worn too long. They are waistcoats and should be of standard length proportional to the wearer. Shirts should not be visible between the waistcoat and the kilt. It is permissible to leave the bottom button of the waistcoat undone. If one person chooses to do this, then EVERYONE must leave the bottom button undone.

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Shirt and necktie	The long or short sleeved shirt should be fully buttoned and of a colour appropriate to the uniform. The shirt should be clean and well pressed. The necktie should be well tied and fit snugly in the collar.
Pipe bags and cords	Bag covers and cord lengths are made and fitted uniformly.

FULL MILITARY UNIFORM

Shoes	Should be black and clean.
Hose	The height of the hose should be in proportion with the length of the kilt. The seam should be at the centre of leg at the back.
Spats	These should fit closely around the legs and top of shoes and should show no wrinkles. The point at back must meet the centre of the hose-seam.
Flashes	The position is a matter of uniformity and can be worn as above (dress uniform).
Kilt	As above (dress uniform).
Sporran	A hair sporran should be worn level with the bottom of the kilt. The sporran straps should fit snugly into the groin. Drummers should take care their sporrans are all in the same position on the hip, right hand side, towards the rear. There should be no sporran straps dangling at rear.
Plaid	The lowest point of the fringe of the piper's plaid should reach no lower than the top of the back peak of the spats. A belted drummer's plaid must not hang below the kilt.
Shoulder brooch	The shoulder brooch should be placed in a uniform position and attached to the plaid on the left shoulder.
Glengarry & badge	As above (dress uniform).
Feather bonnet:	The feather bonnet may be worn with a slight cant to the right side, two fingers above the left eye and one finger above the right eye. It can also be worn straight on the head but should not be more than two finger's breadth above the eyebrow, as for the Glengarry. In a band they should all be worn uniformly.
Belts and tunics	Waist belts should fit tightly. Tunics should fit snugly. All buckles of sword belts should be exactly the same place on the breast, with the mounts equally spaced after the belt has been adjusted to suit the wearer.
Pipe bags and cord	Bag covers and cord lengths are made and fitted uniformly.

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APPENDIX 3

FUNCTIONS OF THE CONTEST COMMITTEE

1 ACCOMMODATION

1.1 The Contest Committee shall, before application is made for a permit for a Contest, ensure that satisfactory accommodation will be available at the time proposed for the Contest.

1.2 Bands shall book their own accommodation for a contest and advise the Contest Committee of the place booked and number of beds. This information will be requested on the Contest Entry Form.

1.3 The Contest Committee shall appoint an Accommodation Officer responsible for handling accommodation requests from any other Band having difficulty finding accommodation.

2 EXPENSES OF JUDGES AND OFFICIALS

2.1 Travelling and accommodation expenses of Contest Officials and Judges, and, where applicable, out of pocket expenses, shall be paid in accordance with the following schedule.

	Accommodation	Travel	Out of Pocket	Paid By
Association President	50%	50%		Contest Committee
	50%	50%		RNZPBA
Judicial Committee (2 appointees)	50%	50%		Contest Committee
	50%	50%		RNZPBA
NZ Resident Music Judges	100%	100%	100%	Contest Committee

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Overseas Judges	100%	100%	100%	Contest Committee RNZPBA
Judges of Dress, Marching, Mace Flourishing and Special Trophies	100%	100%	100%	Contest Committee
Executive Officer	100%	100%		Contest Committee
National Contest Supervisor	100%	100%	100%	Contest Committee
Assistant Contest Supervisor	100%	100%	100%	Contest Committee
Promotional Group Leader	100%	100%	100%	RNZPBA

2.2 Out of pocket expenses of not less than $100 shall be paid to New Zealand resident Piping, Drumming, Ensemble, Dress, Marching, Mace Flourishing, Special Trophies Judges and Supervisors.

2.3 Before the contest, the Executive Officer will provide officials and judges with guidelines on what expenses they may claim. Prior to the conclusion of the Contest the Officials and Judges referred to above shall submit to the Executive Officer, in writing, the details of their travelling expenses and appropriate refunds shall be made to them within five business days of the conclusion of the contest.

3 CONTEST ACCOUNTS

All debts and liabilities incurred by the Contest Committee shall be paid by the Committee which shall as soon as possible after the conclusion of the Contest and not in any case later than ninety days thereafter, forward to the Board financial statements relating to the Contest. The Contest Committee shall arrange for the financial statements to be reviewed (or audited) by an independent suitably experienced person approved by the Board before they are sent to the Board.

4 CONTEST APPOINTMENTS & REQUIREMENTS

The Contest Committee shall make the following appointments and such others as it may consider necessary for the efficient conduct of the Contest:

4.1 A Chief Marshal and Assistants, one of whom shall be appointed Board Marshal.

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4.2 Runners, and placard bearers, for the Street March event

4.3 A Liaison Officer for each competing band

4.4 Writers if requested by Piping, Drumming or Ensemble Judges.

4.5 Suitable accommodation for the Recording Officer and Assistants to record results, together with the equipment required. The Contest Committee is to contact the Recording Officer as to the accommodation and equipment requirements, which may include photocopier(s) and printer(s).

4.6 A Press and Radio/TV Liaison Officer who, with the leader of the Promotions Management Group, shall ensure that full coverage of results is made available to all media outlets, so as to have results circulated throughout New Zealand.

4.7 The Contest Committee will appoint a Judges' Liaison Officer to assist the National Contest Supervisor by:

i. Ensuring that transport is available for the National Contest Supervisor and Judges when required.

ii. Organising tea, coffee and other refreshments for all Judges both on the ground and in the Judges' meeting room.

iii. Overseeing collection and copying of score sheets at the completion of each event and delivering to the recording room.

iv. Carrying out other duties as required.

4.8 The Contest Committee will appoint two suitable people to act as timekeepers for the Medley event,.

5. PROGRAMME

The Contest Committee will, before publishing is undertaken, submit the following details of the proposed programme, to the Management Board for approval:

5.1 The time schedules supplied by the Contest Group leader in consultation with the National Contest Supervisor for each band in each event.

5.2 The proposed order of programme events. The order of events as published in the Contest Programme will be adhered to unless an alteration is necessary owing to weather conditions. Any changes will be decided by the Supervisor in consultation with the Judicial Committee.

5.3 Copy for the front cover, unless the cover is supplied by the Management Board.

5.4 How prominence is intended to be given to major sponsors on contest letterheads, P.A. system and the media.

6 GROUND REQUIREMENTS

The Contest Committee will provide suitable flags for use on the Contest ground**.**

6.1 Suitable stakes, rope, or tape to protect the playing boards.

6.2 Digital clock of a size clearly visible to performance and tuning areas on the grounds, and a clock to be placed at the beginning of the Street March.

6.3 Judges tents on each board to be no smaller than 5m x 3m with three sides enclosed.

7 CONTEST VENUE

All venues for the Contest must be approved by the Board prior to the Contest.

8 TUNING AREAS

Bands should be notified of tuning areas before the events and these should be clearly marked and suitably located including a final tuning area for each competition board that shall be located between 50 and 100 metres from the competition board.

9 STREET MARCH

The Contest Committee shall determine the Street March course and include the March plan in the programme.

10 Should the Board require the Contest Committee to make any changes to the programme (paragraph 5) or any changes to the venues (paragraph 7) the Board will contact the Contest Committee to discuss the reasons for the proposed change or changes.

APPENDIX 4

GRADING OF BANDS

1 All bands shall be graded for competing purposes into five groups to be known as Grade 1, 2, 3, 4A and 4B. The purpose of grading shall be:

1.1 To endeavour as far as possible to have each grade comprise bands of similar playing standard.

1.2 To provide encouragement and incentives to achievement and improvement within each grade.

1.3 To enable Judges to more effectively assess bands and thereby improve the quality of judging.

2 GRADING COMMITTEE.

Grading shall be determined by the Grading Committee appointed under paragraph 2.1.

2.1 Prior to the 31st of December each year the Management Board shall appoint a Grading Committee comprising two members nominated by the Music Judges Committee and a convenor nominated by the Management Board.

2.2 Each member of the Grading Committee shall be a current member of the Piping, Drumming or Ensemble Music Judges Panels and at least one member shall, at the time of appointment, be a judge appointed under paragraph 5.2 of Appendix 5 to judge at the next year's National Contest.

2.3 The Executive Officer shall act as secretary of the Grading Committee and all correspondence for the Committee shall be sent by post, fax or email to the Association.

3 ANY BAND:

3.1 Wishing to be promoted or relegated.

3.2 In respect of which no grading has been determined.

May apply in writing to the Grading Committee to review or determine its grading and shall supply all relevant information in support of its application.

4 The grading of any band may be reviewed and determined by the Grading Committee following receipt of a grading review notification from the Grading Advisory Panel appointed under paragraph 4.1.

4.1 The Grading Advisory Panel shall comprise the Piping, Drumming and Ensemble Judges elected or appointed for the National Contest in each year including any overseas judges and a convenor appointed by the Management Board.

4.2 The convenor of the Grading Advisory Panel shall convene a meeting of the Panel as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the Championship events at each National Contest.

4.3 The sole duty of the Grading Advisory Panel shall be to determine which member bands' grading shall be reviewed by the Grading Committee and to make any recommendations in relation to any bands grading the Panel sees fit.

4.4 The convenor of the Grading Advisory Panel shall within 21 days after its meeting notify in writing the Grading Committee and those bands whose grading is to be reviewed advising the Panel's decisions including details of any recommendations of the Panel.

4.5 Any band receiving notice under paragraph 4.4 shall send all written submissions or other information they wish the Grading Committee to take into account to the Committee by the 30th of June following receipt of notice from the Grading Advisory Panel.

5. Upon receipt of any application under paragraph 3 or a notification from the Grading Advisory Panel and any submissions under paragraph 4 the Grading Committee shall be entitled to determine the grading of the affected bands having regard to:

i. Any recommendations of the Grading Advisory Panel.

ii. Any written or oral submissions received from member bands.

iii. The optimum number of bands in each grade which the Committee considers will achieve the best possible competition within that grade.

iv. The desirability of promoting the winner and relegating the lowest band in each grade except in exceptional circumstances.

v. Performances by any band at other contests of which the Committees are aware.

vi. The frequency of attendance of any band at National or other contests.

vii. Any other relevant matter.

6. Any grading decisions of the Grading Committee shall be effective from such date as the Committee determines provided no alteration to the grading of any band may be made later than four calendar months prior to a National Contest.

7. All decisions of the Grading Committee shall be final.

8. The Grading Committee and Grading Advisory Panel may regulate their own procedure, but it shall not be necessary for the Grading Committee to meet, and decisions can be made by:

i. A resolution in writing circulated for signature to each member of the Committee and signed by a majority of the Committee.

ii. A telephone conference so long as all members have notice of the proposed conference and notice of any decision reached is given to any member of the Committee not participating in the telephone conference.

APPENDIX 5

JUDGES

` Including Judging Panels, Judges Selection Committees, Judges Supervisors, and appointment of Judges at Contests

1. NON-MUSIC AND MUSIC JUDGING PANELS

1.1 The Association shall establish

i. Three National Panels of Judges, one for each of Marching, Dress and Mace Flourishing (Non-Music Panels) which shall be selected by a single Committee known as the Non-Music Judges Committee.

ii. Four National Panels of Judges, one for each of Piping, Drumming, Bass & Tenor and Ensemble (Music Panels) which shall be selected by a single Committee known as the Music Judges Committee.

1.2. NON-MUSIC JUDGES COMMITTEE

The Non-Music Judges Committee will comprise a Convenor, appointed by the Management Board, plus a group of not more than five active judges from the National Panels of Drill Dress and Mace Flourishing.

The Management Board, having appointed the Convenor for a two-year period, will seek nominations for the Committee from the National Judges Panel, Centres and Bands. Nominations will be sent to the Executive Officer by a prescribed date and forwarded to the Convenor.

From the nominations received, and after consultation with the National Contest Supervisor, and the current Non- Music Judges Committee, the Convenor shall recommend to the Management Board the appointments for the balance of the committee.

The Management Board shall appoint the Committee from those recommended by the Convenor in consultation with above mentioned groups. Retiring members will be eligible for reappointment.

1.3 DUTIES OF THE NON-MUSIC JUDGES COMMITTEE

The Non-Music Judges Committee shall maintain and develop Panels of Judges in each of Drill, Dress and Mace Flourishing by:

i. Appointing new judges to Panels.
ii. Removing judges from Panels
iii. Promoting and facilitating improved knowledge and skills development of judges and suitable experienced aspiring applicants.

1.4 MUSIC JUDGES COMMITTEE

The Music Judges Committee will comprise a convenor nominated by the Management Board plus four elected members who shall be two from the Piping Panel, one from the Drumming Panel and one from the Ensemble Panel. Nominations for the Committee shall be made by Member Bands and election shall be by ballot of Member Bands in the same manner and timetable as for the Association's other Officers. The Committee shall retire after a period of two years to be re-elected as aforesaid. Retiring Committee members shall be eligible for renomination. The Management Board shall announce its appointed convenor prior to the commencement of any election process.

1.5 DUTIES OF THE MUSIC JUDGES COMMITTEE

The Music Judges Committee shall maintain and develop Panels of Judges in each of Piping, Drumming, Bass & Tenor and Ensemble by:

i. Appointing new judges to Panels
ii. Removing judges from the Panels
iii. Promoting and facilitating improved knowledge and skills development of Panel judges and suitably experienced aspiring applicants.

1.6 APPOINTMENT TO PANELS

Subject to Guidelines contained in these Rules the Music and Non-Music Judges' Committees shall consider applications received from the Executive Officer by the following procedures:

i. An applicant must be nominated and seconded by two Member Bands.

ii. Applicants will complete the appropriate application form which shall be available on the Association's website.

iii. Applications must be endorsed by a Centre to verify that the information in the application is correct. A Centre may not unreasonably refuse to endorse a qualifying application.

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iv. Immediately following their application the Applicant must send a relevant curriculum vitae to the Executive Officer, who shall then forward the application and supporting curriculum vitae to the relevant Convenor of the Music or Non- Music Judges Committees.

v. The relevant Committee may choose to interview the applicant or a Centre Officer as part of the application process.

vi. Applications accompanied by the relevant curriculum vitae may be made at any time during the year.

1.7 DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS

The Committee decisions shall be determined by consensus or by majority within the Committee. The Convenor shall have a casting vote in the event of the other members failing to achieve a decision.

The Committee's decision shall be conveyed to the National Contest Supervisor and Executive Officer who shall advise the nominee and the Centre of the success or otherwise of the nomination. If nominations are declined the Committee shall give reasons for its decision.

1.8 GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MUSIC OR NON-MUSIC NATIONAL JUDGING PANELS.

Applicants must :

i Be New Zealand residents of good standing,

ii Have suitable knowledge and experience either as a pipe major, musical director, drum major or drill instructor or have experience in a competing band within the ten years prior to application.

iii Have judged at least three full pipe band competitions that had at least eight bands competing. In exceptional circumstances the Committee at its absolute discretion may consider applications outside these Guidelines.

iv. To be accepted on to the Mace Flourishing panel, Applicants must have competed in this event at least twice at National level. It is also essential that the Applicant must have previous judging experience of this event.

1.9 REMOVAL OF JUDGES FROM PANELS

The Committee may remove judges from Panels on the grounds of incompetence, misbehaviour or any other justifiable cause. Further, judges who have failed to

make themselves available to judge at the New Zealand Championships for five consecutive years will be removed from the Panel unless they can show good reason for failing to be available.

The Committee's reason(s) for removal shall be conveyed to the judge concerned who shall have the opportunity to make a written submission to dispute the decision.

The Committee's final determination shall be conveyed to the National Contest Supervisor and the Executive Officer who shall communicate the decision in writing to the person concerned and the relevant Centre.

1.10 COMMITTEE'S POWER TO SEEK APPLICATIONS

The Committee shall have discretionary power to invite suitable persons to seek nomination in terms of 1.4 and to make recommendations to Centres accordingly. A Centre may not unreasonably decline to support a nomination.

1.11 INVITATIONAL OVERSEAS JUDGES

When called upon to do so, the Committee will make recommendations to the Management Board on suitable invitational judges from overseas.

2 NATIONAL CONTEST SUPERVISOR

The National Supervisor shall ensure that Judges act according to the rules, check their score sheets and allocate their judging positions. Judges score sheets will be collected at the conclusion of each grade of an event and sent immediately to the Chief Recording Officer.

The National Contest Supervisor shall do all that is necessary to ensure that bands compete on an equitable basis.

3 CENTRE CONTEST SUPERVISORS

Each Centre may at its annual meeting elect a Centre Contest Supervisor, whose duties in their respective Centres shall be the same as the National Contest Supervisors responsibilities at a National Contest.

The National Contest Supervisor shall conduct instruction courses for Centre Contest Supervisors.

4 APPOINTMENT OF NATIONAL CONTEST JUDGES

4.1 COMPOSITION OF MUSIC JUDGING PANELS

There shall be two or more panels of music judges appointed for National Contests each comprising:

i. Two Piping Judges.
ii. One Drumming Judge.
iii. One Ensemble Judge.

The Management Board at its absolute discretion may reduce the number of judges to one panel if entries for the Contest are fewer than 30 bands.

4.2 APPOINTMENT OF MUSIC JUDGES TO NATIONAL CONTEST PANELS

The panels of Music Judges as in paragraph 5.1 shall be appointed from those National Panel Judges who have confirmed their availability for any Contest.

Music Judges will be appointed by ballot conducted among members bands that have competed at one or both of the last two previous National Contests. Bands that have not competed at either of the last two Contests will not be eligible to vote. Ballot papers listing the available Judges shall be forwarded to each band eligible to vote no later than six months prior to the date of the National Contest and must be completed and returned to the Board one month later.

In the case of a tie, the President shall have a casting vote.

4.3 Non-Music Judges from the respective Panels shall be appointed by the Convenor of the Non Music Judges' Committee, in consultation with the Contest Group Leader, and the National Supervisor.

4.4 The Convenor of the Music Judges Committee will appoint, in consultation with the committee, a competent person from the Bass and Tenor Panel to judge the Bass & Tenor sections. The appointed Adjudicator will judge the best Bass and Tenor section in each grade, (1,2,3,4A, and 4B)

The Bass and Tenor Adjudicator for the Juvenile Event will be appointed by the Local Centre.

4.5 No Judge while officiating at a Contest shall be eligible to compete at that contest.

4.6 The National Contest Supervisor shall appoint Timekeepers from the Non-Music Judges appointed for each contest. Any additional helpers to be approved by the Contest Group Leader.