



Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba, Inc

Contest Information Package

Revised: November 2014

What it Means to Be Sanctioned

Sanctioned contests are beneficial for both the contest organizers and the competitors. When a contest is sanctioned, its organizers can be confident that they are providing a quality competitive opportunity to its participants. In addition, sanctioning assures the competitor that a contest will run according to agreed-upon standards and procedures set out by the Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba. For instance, an individual competitor or band is not surprised by tune requirements, and knows that all adjudication will come from certified adjudicators.

Furthermore, sanctioning ensures a standard system of scoring and awarding prizes. Because of this standardization, points from all sanctioned games can be combined and compared at the end of the season in order to determine Champion Supreme winners in each grade and discipline. In short, solo competitors and bands are more likely to enter sanctioned contests, thus increasing participation and leading toward a more successful contest.

Importantly, the process of sanctioning creates a liaison between the contest committee and the PPBAM. This partnership helps direct the contest organisers, but it also informs the PPBAM of emerging trends and needs of its membership. The Director of Contests is available to provide any assistance required prior to the competition, and she (or a substitute representative from the PPBAM Executive) attends every sanctioned games.

The Information in This Package

This “contest package” is meant to inform the contest organisers of their rights and responsibilities with regard to planning and running a sanctioned competition. This package includes PPBAM constitution items, standard protocols, and helpful hints relevant to the running of a sanctioned contest. (Keep in mind that constitution items are referenced throughout, and that you are encouraged to be familiar with the entire constitution document.)

The Sanctioning Application Form is available from the Director of Contests and from the PPBAM website. Once your organisation is approved for sanctioning, this should be stated on your entry form (for example: “Competition held under Prairie Pipe Band Association of Manitoba, Inc rules”).

Contact Information

Director of Contests, PPBAM
Gale Walker
30 Calder Bay
Winnipeg, MB R3T 5L9

What Events Will We Offer?

In general, each contest offers solo piping, solo drumming, and mini- or full-band events. Sanctioned competitions must choose events from the following lists. However, it is NOT necessary to offer all events in a given grade. Unless otherwise indicated, players submit 1 of each tune, and each tune must have at least 4 parts. When required to play four parts, competitors must use one four-parted tune. Where two or more sets are submitted the competitor will play the adjudicator's choice. A march, strathspey and reel will be taken as one set and the adjudicator will not split the sets.

SOLO PIPING

Piping Grade	Sanctioned Events / Tune Requirements	
Open/ Professional	1. MSR	- as 1 event: submit 4 of each tune OR - as 2 events: a) 2/4 March submit 4; b) S&R submit 4 of each tune
	2. Hornpipe and Jig	- submit 3 of each tune OR - Jig submit 4 tunes; selected tune played twice, time permitting
	3. 6/8 March	- submit 3, play 2
	4. Piobaireachd	- submit 4
Amateur Grade 1	1. MSR	- as 1 event: submit 2 of each tune OR - as 2 events: a) 2/4 March submit 2; b) S&R submit 2 of each tune
	2. Hornpipe and Jig	- submit 2 of each tune OR - Jig submit 2 tunes; selected tune played twice, time permitting
	3. 6/8 March	- submit 2
	4. Piobaireachd	- submit 3
Amateur Grade 2	1. MSR	- as 1 event: submit 2 M, 1S, 1R OR - as 2 events: a) 2/4 March submit 2; b) S&R submit 1 of each tune
	2. Hornpipe and Jig	- submit 1 of each tune OR - Jig: submit 2
	3. 6/8 March	
	4. Piobaireachd	- submit 2
Amateur Grade 3	1. 2/4 March	
	2. Strathspey & Reel	
	3. Jig	
	4. 6/8 March	
	5. Piobaireachd	
Amateur Grade 4	1. 2/4 March	
	2. Slow Air	- 2 parts
	3. Piobaireachd	- Ground and 1 st variation
Amateur Grade 5	1. 2/4 March	- 2 parts
Chanter	1. Approved PPBAM Chanter Contest Playing Requirements (available at http://www.ppbam.org/info/PracticeChanter.pdf)	

SOLO DRUMMING

Snare Grade	Sanctioned Events / Tune Requirements	
Open/ Professional	1. MSR	- submit 2 sets
	2. Hornpipe and Jig	- submit 2 sets
	3. Drum Solo without piper	- 3-5 minutes
Amateur Grade 1	1. MSR	
	2. Hornpipe and Jig	
	3. Drum Solo without piper	- 2-4 minutes
Amateur Grade 2	1. MSR	
	2. Hornpipe and Jig	
	3. 6/8 March	
Amateur Grade 3	1. MSR	
	2. Jig	
	3. 6/8 March	
Amateur Grade 4	1. 2/4 March	
Amateur Grade 5	1. 2/4 March	- 2 parts
Drum Pad	1. Approved PPBAM Drum Pad Contest Playing Requirements (available at http://www.ppbam.org/info/DrumPad.pdf)	

Tenor Grade	Sanctioned Events / Tune Requirements	
Professional	1. MSR	
	2. Hornpipe and Jig	
Intermediate	1. MSR	
Novice	1. March	

Bass Grade	Sanctioned Events / Tune Requirements	
Professional	1. MSR	
	2. Hornpipe and Jig	
Novice	1. 2/4 March- 4 parts	

BANDS

Band Grade	Sanctioned Events / Tune Requirements
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 march, strathspey, & reel selections - 2 medleys (5-7 minutes) - slow march (2 parts) & 6/8 (4 parts) (to be performed in circle formation)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 march, strathspey, & reel selections - 1 medley (4-6 minutes) - slow march (2 parts) & 6/8 (4 parts) (to be performed in circle formation)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 march, strathspey and reel selection - 1 medley (3-5 minutes) - slow march (2 parts) & 6/8 (4 parts) (to be performed in circle formation)
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 quick march medley (at least 8 parts of march music; 2:45 – 4:30 minutes) - 1 medley (3-5 minutes) - slow march (2 parts) & 6/8 (4 parts) (to be performed in circle formation)
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 quick march medley (8 parts of march music; 2:45 – 4:30 minutes) - slow march (2 parts) & 6/8 (4 parts) (to be performed in circle formation)

Note: We encourage contest organisers to offer at least the first set listed in Grades III, IV, V and the first two sets listed in Grades I and II.

Your Responsibilities Regarding Adjudicators

- Only those judges approved by the PPBAM or affiliated associations shall be allowed to judge at an approved contest. When this is not practical, a written request for approval must be made one month prior to the contest to the PPAM Board detailing the proposed substitution. (8.4f)
- Sanctioned Games are required to have 2 piping, 1 ensemble, and 1 drumming judge for band events. (8.4h)
- At any events or contest, a judge shall not adjudicate:
 - a) a pipe band of which they are a member;
 - b) a pipe band of which they are on the nominal roll;
 - c) a relative in a solo event;
 - d) wherever possible, their own student in a solo event. (8.4c)
- Contest organisers are responsible for:
 - contacting and securing adjudicators for the contest.
 - all transportation arrangements and costs for the judges (i.e., flights, parking at the airport, ground transportation, etc).
 - supplying meals or meal stipends to all judges
 - paying judges at the end of the contest (the standard minimum judge's fee is \$125 per half day).
- Provide a minimum of one Steward to each adjudicator. A Steward's job is to ensure the timely and orderly flow of competitors before the judge. The Steward also brings adjudication sheets and grading memo sheets to the scoring table following each event.

Who is Eligible to Compete?

- Every year, the PPBAM Grading Committee grades every solo competitor and every band that are members of our association. Grading is based on the request of the individual/band, as well as performance levels from the previous year(s). Grading cards are then issued to every individual competing member to certify that individual's grade. Nominal rolls are returned to each band, certifying their grade as well as their official roster of players. Contest organisers should be aware of the following:
 - Bands who reside in Manitoba or whose home association is PPBAM and who wish to compete in competitions sanctioned by the PPBAM must be registered with the PPBAM. All other bands must be registered with an association. (8.1b)

- All solo competitors entering any competition sanctioned by the PPBAM must possess and present on request a grading card obtained from the PPBAM or their ‘home association’ stating their name and grade for that calendar year. (8.5a)
 - It is the responsibility of each contest organiser to ensure each competitor is a graded member of the PPBAM or a ‘home’ association. (8.2n)
- Competition organisers generally take care of these rules by asking for players’ grading card numbers, and bands’ home association, on the entry form.

Grading and “Playing Up”

- Grading of light music and piobaireachd is done separately. This means that a small number of pipers may enter a particular grade for light music events (MSR, Hornpipe & Jig, 6/8 March) and another grade for the piobaireachd events.
- Be prepared to have some solo competitors wishing to play in two grades. Please note: Any competitor may choose to compete in a grade higher than what is stated on their current grading card, **provided that he/she enters all the events in his/her regular grade.** (8.5m)
- When it comes to bands, however, you will need to decide whether you will allow bands to “play up” a grade; and if so, you will need to indicate this on your entry form. Please read the following constitution item carefully:

- A band may choose to play up one grade level provided that the following criteria are met:
- a) The competition committee has indicated on the entry form that challenging up a grade is permitted and the committee determines that there is enough time available for the band to compete in the higher grade.
 - b) On submitting their entry form, the band enters all the events in its regular grade.
 - c) The band meets the music requirements for the higher grade’s events.
 - d) There is at least one other band registered to compete in the higher grade.
 - Should a band choose to play up, there will be a mandatory review of that band’s grading before the following competition season. At that time, based on player turnover, and results over the entire season, the band may be subject to upgrading.
 - In the event that a band wins a prize in two grades, competition organisers must award all prizes won.
 - In the event that a band plays up and no other band competes in that higher grade event, the band shall play for adjudication only. (8.2k)

Responsibilities Prior to the Contest

- Where possible, classes with more than 23 entries should be split into two separate classes. (Keep in mind that each section of the event is treated as if it was a separate event. See scoring section for more details). (8.2p)
- The order of play will be decided by a random draw unless otherwise noted in the entry form and where possible, the grade 4 event will play first, followed by grade 3 event, then grade 2 event, then the grade 1 event. (8.2c)
- Allow for approximately 5 minutes in between each event. Approximate time allotment for events are as follows:
 - **5** minutes for each 2/4 March, 6/8 March, Slow March, and Jig event
 - **8** minutes for each Strathspey & Reel event
 - **10** minutes for each MSR, Chanter, Drum Pad, Grade III & IV Piobaireachd, and Drum Solo event, as well as all band events
 - **15** minutes for each Grade I & II Piobaireachd event
 - **20** minutes for each Professional piobaireachd event
- If at all possible, communicate the order of play and approximate timing to competitors before the event.
- PPBAM adjudication sheets must be used at all sanctioned contests (8.4d). Sheets for solo contests include: 1) Solo Piping, 2) Solo Snare Drumming, and 3) Solo Tenor/Bass Drumming. Sheets for band events include: 1) Band Piping (x2), 2) Band Drumming, and 3) Ensemble. It is the contest organisers' responsibility (not that of the adjudicator) to fill in the top of these sheets BEFORE the day of the contest (including contest name & date, event, grade, competitor's & adjudicator's name).
- Every event must have a corresponding Grading Memo Sheet (8.4d). The contest organisers should prepare this sheet BEFORE the day of the contest. (The judge completes the form while adjudicating each event.)
- It is up to the contest organisers to set prize money amounts for band events and professional solo piping and drumming events, and indicate these on the entry form. Contest organisers must also decide how many medals will be distributed for solo events, and should communicate this system on the entry form. One *possibility* is the following:

up to 7 competitors – 3 awards	10-11 competitors – 5 awards
8-9 competitors – 4 awards	12 or more competitors – 6 awards
- It is up to the contest organisers whether they wish to offer special trophies (for example, Piper of the Day, Drummer of the Day, Best Youth Band, Dress and Department, Best Drum Corps). The criteria for such special awards should be set by the organisers prior to the contest and should appear on the entry form.

Number of Players in Band Events

- The minimum number of players required by bands when competing in a full band contest recognised and approved by the PPBAM is:

Grade 1	8 pipers	3 side drummers	1 bass drummer
Grade 2	6 pipers	2 side drummers	1 bass drummer
Grade 3	6 pipers	2 side drummers	1 bass drummer
Grade 4	5 pipers	2 side drummers	1 bass drummer (8.2g)
- When a band bass drummer is not able to play and the band requires one to compete a substitute bass drummer may be obtained from another band with the approval of the Director of Contests (8.2h)
- Each band between marching on and off the contest field must retain the same number of playing members. (8.2j)
- Competitors competing in the Drum Pad class are ineligible to compete in Band Events as a snare drummer.

Scoring and Communicating Results

- When classes are split due to a large number of entries, competition organisers shall not aggregate the points. Prizes shall be awarded to each section of the event as if it was a separate event. (8.2p)
- The scoring for competitions shall be done where possible using the RSPBA ranking and point system (8.4a). In other words, each judge ranks bands, these rankings are added, and the lowest scoring band wins. Ties are broken on ensemble preference.
- Regardless of the amount of medals distributed, have all adjudicators rank the top six competitors (where possible) on the Grading Memo Sheets. For example, even if you have decided to give out only 4 medals for 8 competitors, the judge must rank the top 6 players. This practice is absolutely necessary for grading, and for champion supreme tabulations.
- In order to determine aggregate winners, the following point system must be used: 1st = 6 points, 2nd = 4 points, 3rd = 2 points, 4th = 1 point, 5th = 1 point, 6th = 1 point. (8.4b)
- When scoring the Grade I and II band contests, the combined scores of both the MSR and medley shall be used to determine the winner. (8.3a & b)

- Grading Memo Sheets and band results must be forwarded to the PPBAM Board within 30 days of the contest. (8.4d)
- Results of the band events at each contest, including points scored from each judge must be communicated to each competing band following the contest. (8.4e)

Responsibilities During the Contest

- Sometimes, scheduling conflicts exist between a piper's solo event and a drumming event for which he/she is playing. In such cases, it is understood that the piper's solo event will take precedence.
- When bands must submit two sets, one set will be drawn at the line before the performance. (8.3a & b)
- For all band events that have time limits, contest organizers are responsible for timing each band's performance. Any band that does not play within these time limits **is** disqualified.
- Any protest regarding judging, or otherwise, of recognised and approved contests must be submitted in writing no later than 15 minutes after the conclusion of Massed Band to the local games committee. If the local games committee cannot settle the matter, the protest must be forwarded to the designated PPBAM representatives attending the games for a final decision. (8.2b)
- Solo Piping Tuning Times- Piping competitors shall adhere to the following tuning times: for piobaireachd, a limit of 5 minutes; for all other events a limit of 2 minutes or as per the judge's discretion. Individuals exceeding the allowable tuning times may be disqualified. Please indicate this change on your entry form and advise all stewards of this contest requirement change.
- Band Tuning Times- Bands will be expected to be tuned and at the line for their contest at the time appointed or time communicated to them from contest organisers. Bands arriving after their appointed time may be disqualified. Please indicate this change on your entry form.
- Massed Band Requirements- As a condition for receiving prize money, all bands must participate in mass bands at the conclusion of the competition unless exempted as specified below:
 - i) Inclement weather poses an imminent danger to band members.
 - ii) The massed band portion of the contest is cancelled by contest organisers due to unforeseen circumstances.
 - iii) The band has notified the contest organisers 2 weeks prior to the contest in writing of a legitimate schedule conflict.
- **New (Amended Nov. 2014 AGM) The Novice Bass shall play 4 parts of a 2/4 March and Professional/Open shall play an M/S/R and/or a Hornpipe and Jig. (8.51)**