



## The Mid Ulster Outdoor Solo Contest Syllabus

*The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (Northern Ireland Branch) – Mid Ulster Section*

Venue: Cookstown High School Grounds,  
Cookstown  
Date: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021  
Closing date for entries: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 3.00pm

### ENTRIES:

- Entries to be completed via the RSPBANI website at [www.rspbani.org](http://www.rspbani.org)
- Instructions on how to enter will be posted on the website

### ENTRY FEES:

- Free

### COVID RISK ASSESSMENT:

A full and comprehensive Covid-19 Risk Assessment will be prepared and made available to all competitors, officials and members of public attending the Solo Contest, this Risk assessment will comply with NI Coronavirus Regulations in force at the time and take full account of best practice

Covid 19 mitigation measures may include (*dependent on best practice guidance and Regulations at date of event*):

- PHA messages will be distributed to all attending the event and displayed
- Contest to take place in well ventilated Marquee-type setting
- Separation of 2 metres between pipers & drummers.
- Separation of seating for spectators at two metre intervals.
- Separation of 4 Metres from competitors, adjudicators and spectators
- Track and Trace system in place
- Hand sanitising available
- Face covering within competition venue to be worn by spectators
- Cap on maximum numbers of spectators that venue can accommodate, and can safely control

## COMPETITION GRADES:

### Practice Chanter/Drum Pads

*Novice and Advanced sections are confined to competitors who have never competed with a band in a competition*

**Novice:** Confined to competitors who are aged under 12 as of 1<sup>st</sup> November on the year prior to the competition. Competitors who are aged 12 or over, on or before 1<sup>st</sup> November will not be eligible to enter. Evidence of age must be produced on request

**Advanced:** Confined to competitors who are aged under 13 as of 1<sup>st</sup> November on the year prior to the competition. Competitors who are aged 13 or over, on or before 1<sup>st</sup> November will not be eligible to enter. Evidence of age must be produced on request

### Novice Piping/Unaccompanied Snare:

*Confined to competitors who have never competed with a band in a competition*

Confined to competitors who are aged under 13 as of 1<sup>st</sup> November on the year prior to the competition. Competitors who are aged 13 or over, on or before 1<sup>st</sup> November will not be eligible to enter. Evidence of age must be produced on request

**Juvenile U14:** Confined to competitors who are aged under 14 as of 1<sup>st</sup> November on the year prior to the competition. Competitors who are aged 14 or over, on or before 1<sup>st</sup> November will not be eligible to enter. Evidence of age must be produced on request.

**Juvenile U16:** Confined to competitors who are aged under 16 as of 1<sup>st</sup> November on the year prior to the competition. Competitors who are aged 16 or over, on or before 1<sup>st</sup> November will not be eligible to enter. Evidence of age must be produced on request.

**Juvenile U18:** Confined to competitors who are aged under 18 as of 1<sup>st</sup> November on the year prior to the competition. Competitors who are aged 18 or over, on or before 1<sup>st</sup> November will not be eligible to enter. Evidence of age must be produced on request.

**C Grade / Junior** Confined to:  
Competitors over 18 who have hitherto not been graded as Intermediate by the RSPBANI,  
Competitors who have been graded C or below by the CPA (Competing Pipers Association)

**B Grade / Intermediate** Confined to:  
Competitors who have hitherto been graded as Intermediate by the RSPBANI  
Competitors who have won a C1 Grade All Ireland 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Competitors who have been graded B- by the CPA (Competing Pipers Association)

**Note:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed players in the C1 Grade (All Ireland) have the option of upgrading to B Grade and must remain in the B Grade if this option is taken up

**A Grade / Senior** Confined to:  
Competitors who have hitherto been graded as senior by the RSPBANI  
Competitors who have won a B Grade All Ireland 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Competitors who have been graded B, B+ or A by the CPA (Competing Pipers Association)  
Competitors who competed in the Final of the World Drumming Solos

**Note:** 2<sup>nd</sup> placed players in B Grade (All Ireland) have the option of upgrading to Senior Grade and must remain in the A Grade if this option is taken up.

## Piobaireachd

- U16** Confined to:  
Competitors who are aged under 16 as of 1<sup>st</sup> November on the year prior to the competition.  
Competitors who are aged 16 or over, on or before 1<sup>st</sup> November will not be eligible to enter.  
Evidence of age must be produced on request.
- U18** Confined to:  
Competitors who are aged under 18 as of 1<sup>st</sup> November on the year prior to the competition.  
Competitors who are aged 18 or over, on or before 1<sup>st</sup> November will not be eligible to enter.  
Evidence of age must be produced on request.
- B** Confined to:  
Competitors over 18 who have hitherto not been graded as Piobaireachd B by the RSPBANI  
Competitors who have not won 1<sup>st</sup> place in a Piobaireachd B All Ireland contest  
Competitors who have been graded C (Piobaireachd) or below by the CPA (Competing Pipers Association)
- A** Confined to:  
Competitors who have hitherto been graded as Piobaireachd A by the RSPBANI  
Competitors who have won 1<sup>st</sup> place in a Piobaireachd B All Ireland contest  
Competitors who have been graded B- (Piobaireachd) or above by the CPA (Competing Pipers Association)

## Tenor Drumming

- U14** Confined to:  
Competitors who are aged under 14 as of 1<sup>st</sup> November on the year prior to the competition
- U16** Confined to:  
Competitors who are aged under 16 as of 1<sup>st</sup> November on the year prior to the competition
- C Grade/  
Junior** Confined to:  
Competitors over 16 who have hitherto not been graded as Intermediate by the RSPBANI
- B Grade/  
Intermediate** Confined to:  
Competitors who have hitherto been graded as Intermediate by the RSPBANI  
Competitors who have won a C Grade All Irelands 1<sup>st</sup> Place
- A Grade/  
Senior** Confined to:  
Competitors who have hitherto been graded as Senior by the RSPBANI  
Competitors who have won a B Grade All Irelands 1<sup>st</sup> Place

**PLAYING REQUIREMENTS**

	<b>DRUMMING</b>	<b>PIPING</b>
<b>Novice</b>	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature
<b>Advanced</b>	Four part 2/4 March or 6/8 March	Four part 2/4 March or 6/8 March
<b>Unaccompanied/Pipe Chanter</b>	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature
<b>Juvenile U14</b>	Four part 2/4 March	Four part 2/4 March
<b>Juvenile U16</b>	March, Strathspey and Reel	Four part 2/4 March
<b>Juvenile U18</b>	March, Strathspey and Reel	March, Strathspey and Reel
<b>C Grade (Junior)</b>	March, Strathspey and Reel	March, Strathspey and Reel
<b>B Grade (Intermediate)</b>	March, Strathspey and Reel	March, Strathspey and Reel (2 of each to be submitted)
<b>A Grade (Senior)</b>	March, Strathspey and Reel	March, Strathspey and Reel (3 of each to be submitted)

<b>PIOBAIREACHD</b>	
<b>U16 Piobaireachd</b>	Ground & 1st Variation
<b>U18 Piobaireachd</b>	Piobaireachd (1 tune to be submitted)
<b>Piobaireachd B</b>	Piobaireachd (1 tune to be submitted)
<b>Piobaireachd A</b>	Piobaireachd (2 tunes to be submitted)

**PLAYING REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED**

***Tenor Drumming - New format from 2018***

Tenors will be split in Juvenile/Adult categories, for the inaugural year, all Adult competitors will be placed in 'C Grade/Junior'.

The change in format has been made to align our competition with the International Tenor Drumming Solos. For 2018 only, the top 5 competitors from C Grade/Junior were promoted to B Grade/Intermediate (based on Ulster's and All Irelands)

In 2019, the top 3 competitors from C Grade/Junior will be promoted to B Grade/Intermediate, the top 2 competitors from B Grade/Intermediate will be promoted to A Grade/Senior

In 2020, the winner of C Grade/Junior and B Grade/Intermediate will be promoted to B Grade/Intermediate and A Grade/Senior respectively

**Note** In the future, the RSPBANI may take the decision to upgrade more players than stated above or to downgrade players depending on grade sizes – players will be notified of such decisions

<b>TENOR DRUMMING</b>	
<b>Juvenile U14</b>	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature
<b>Juvenile U16</b>	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)
<b>C Grade</b>	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)
<b>B Grade</b>	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)
<b>A Grade</b>	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)

<b>BASS DRUMMING</b>	
<b>Open Grade</b>	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)

## PRIZES

- Medals will be presented to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each grade.
- A Perpetual trophy will accompany the medals for 1st prize in each grade

## RULES

### *Drumming*

- In drumming contests the number of accompanying pipers is limited to two.
- Drummers and accompanying pipers must wear uniform.
- Tenor drummers must be accompanied by at least one piper and one snare drummer.
- Tenors must start with two 3 paced introduction rolls.
- Bass Drumming competition is confined to players who are registered Bass Drummers **only**
- In the event of a tie, RSPBA rule [4.71](#) will be used

### *Piping*

- Competitors in the A Grade/Senior Piping March, Strathspey and Reel competition must submit three Marches, three Strathspeys and three Reels.\*
- Competitors in the B Grade/Intermediate Piping March, Strathspey and Reel competition must submit two Marches, two Strathspeys and two Reels.\*
- Pipers will have a maximum 3 minutes for tuning for MSR in the competition area.
- Competitors in the Piobaireachd A competition must submit two Piobaireachd. The Piobaireachd to play will be chosen by the Adjudicator prior to the performance.
- Pipers will have a maximum 4 minutes for tuning for Piobaireachd in the competition area

\* The Adjudicator will chose one March, one Strathspey and one Reel prior to the performance to be played as an MSR without stopping between tunes

### *General*

- Competitors must register on arrival
- In all competitions where a March, Strathspey and Reel are to be played, each tune should be a minimum of 4 parts and should be played without stopping between tunes
- Only registered members of bands in membership of Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association and affiliated organisations are eligible to take part.
- Solo players outside RSPBANI wishing to enter the Solos should submit a short resume of their contest achievements and their current grading position (if any) in their native association. The organising committee will endeavour to place the contestant in an equivalent grade/level in the Solo contest
- Competitors in Novice sections must never have competed with a band in a competition
- A player may appeal such a placing if he/she feels it is not the correct level. Final arbitration will be made after consultation with the Solo Advisory Committee of the RSPBANI
- Any Grade may be split depending on entry numbers.
- Uniforms must be worn by all competitors, except in the Novice categories
- It is each competitor's responsibility to present themselves to the adjudicator in the competition arena at the allocated performance slot.
- A competitor having cause to protest must lodge same with a deposit of £10.00 with the contest secretary before the presentation of prizes. The deposit will be returned if the protest is upheld.
- All Adjudicators will be selected by RSPBANI.