



## The Ulster Solo Piping and Drumming Championships 2018 Syllabus

*The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (Northern Ireland Branch)*

Venue: Lisnagarvey High School, Lisburn  
Date: Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2018  
Closing date for entries: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018 at 12 Noon

Competitions will commence at: 10.00 am

### RULES

- Competitors must register on arrival
- 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 Ulster 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 Ulster Solo Championships
- 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 room provided at the allocated performance slot.
- Pipers will have a maximum 3 minutes for tuning in the competition hall.
- Competitors will be required to guarantee that their practice room will be left as found. Competitors will be held financially responsible for any damage caused in the classrooms.
- In drumming contests the number of accompanying pipers is limited to two.
- Drummers and accompanying pipers must wear uniform.
- Smoking is strictly illegal and forbidden. This rule will be strictly enforced and a fine of £30 will be levied on any person found to contravene the No Smoking rule.
- 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 RSPBA NI.
- Open Hornpipe & Jig competition is open to all over 18 competitors
- Overall Ulster Piping Champion will be decided by combining the A Grade Piping and the Piobaireachd A results

### 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

### 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

## 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 2017) 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 2017) 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 1st November on the year prior to the competition.  
Competitors who are aged 16 or over, on or before 1st 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 1st 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 Senior by the RSPBANI (up to 2017)  
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 (up to 2017) by the RSPBANI  
Competitors who have won 1<sup>st</sup> place in a Piobaireachd B All Ireland contest up to 2017  
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\*

\*See Playing Requirements for exceptions to these rules for 2018 and 2019

## PLAYING REQUIREMENTS

- 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
- In all competitions where a Hornpipe and Jig are to be played, each tune should be a minimum of 4 parts and should be played without stopping between tunes
- Drones are optional in the Novice Piping – Pipe Chanter competition
- Competitors in the Senior Piping March, Strathspey and Reel competition must submit three Marches, three Strathspeys and three Reels.\*
- Competitors in the Intermediate Piping March, Strathspey and Reel competition must submit two Marches, two Strathspeys and two Reels.\*
- Competitors in the Senior Piobaireachd competition must submit two Piobaireachd. The Piobaireachd to play will be chosen by the Adjudicator prior to the performance.
- Competitors in the Senior Drumming March, Strathspey and Reel competition must submit two sets. A draw for the set to play will take place approximately one hour before the start of the grade

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

## BASS/TENOR DRUMMING

- 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**

### ***New format for 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 will be promoted to B Grade/Intermediate

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

## PLAYING REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

### Tenor Drumming

U14	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature
U16	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)
C Grade / Junior	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)
B Grade / Intermediate	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)
A Grade / Senior	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)

### Bass Drumming

Open Grade	March, Strathspey and Reel (each tune to be at least 4 parts)
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### Novice Drumming

Novice Drum Pad	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature
Advanced Drum Pad	Four part 2/4 March
Unaccompanied Snare Drum	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature

### Drumming

U14	Four part 2/4 March
U16	March, Strathspey and Reel
U18	March, Strathspey and Reel
C Grade / Junior	March, Strathspey and Reel
B Grade / Intermediate	March, Strathspey and Reel
A Grade / Senior MSR	March, Strathspey and Reel (2 sets to be submitted)
A Grade / Senior Hornpipe & Jig	Hornpipe & Jig (at least 4 parts each)

### Novice Piping

Novice Chanter	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature
Advanced Chanter	Four part 2/4 March
Pipe Chanter	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature

### Piping

U14	Four part 2/4 March
U16	Four part 2/4 March
U18	March, Strathspey and Reel
C Grade / Junior	March, Strathspey and Reel
B Grade / Intermediate	March, Strathspey and Reel (2 of each to be submitted)
A Grade / Senior	March, Strathspey and Reel (3 of each to be submitted)
Open Hornpipe & Jig	Hornpipe & Jig (at least 4 parts each)
U16 Piobaireachd	Ground & 1 <sup>st</sup> Variation
U18 Piobaireachd	Piobaireachd
Piobaireachd B	Piobaireachd
Piobaireachd A	Piobaireachd (2 tunes to be submitted)

## ENTRY FEES

Novice (Chanters/Pads)	£4 (€4.50)
Juvenile	£5 (€5.75)
Hornpipe & Jig	£4 (€4.50)
Junior (C)/Intermediate (B)/Senior (A)	£8 (€9)
Piobaireachd (Novice/U18)	£6 (€7)
Piobaireachd (A/B)	£10 (€11.50)