

The Ulster Solo Piping and Drumming Championships 2025 Syllabus

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (Northern Ireland Branch)

Venue:	Cookstown High School, Cookstown
Date:	Saturday 12th April 2025
Closing date for entries:	Monday 31st March 2025
Competitions will commence at:	10.00 am

ENTRIES

- Entries to be completed via the RSPBANI website at www.rspbani.org

ENTRY FEES

Novice (Chanters/Pads)	£5
Juvenile	£6
Hornpipe & Jig	£5
C Grade (Junior)/B Grade (Intermediate)/ A Grade (Senior)	£9
Piobaireachd (U16/U18)	£7
Piobaireachd (A/B)	£11

COMPETITION GRADES

Practice Chanter/Drum Pads

Novice and Advanced sections are intended for competitors who have never competed with a band in a competition

Novice: Confined to competitors who are aged under 12 as of 1st November on the year prior to the competition. Competitors who are aged 12 or over, on or before 1st 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 1st November on the year prior to the competition. Competitors who are aged 13 or over, on or before 1st November will not be eligible to enter. Evidence of age must be produced on request

Novice Piping/Unaccompanied Snare:

** A competitor in the Pipe Chanter/Unaccompanied Snare Grade can only remain in this grade for one competitive season
(A competitive season ends with the All Irelands)*

Confined to competitors who are aged under 13 as of 1st November on the year prior to the competition. Competitors who are aged 13 or over, on or before 1st 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 1st November on the year prior to the competition. Competitors who are aged 14 or over, on or before 1st 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 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.

Juvenile U18: Confined to competitors who are aged under 18 as of 1st 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.

C Grade / Junior Confined to competitors aged 18 or over who have hitherto not been graded as Intermediate by the RSPBANI, and 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 1st Place, and competitors who have been graded B- by the CPA (Competing Pipers Association)
Note: 2nd and 3rd 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 1st Place, and competitors who have been graded B, B+ or A by the CPA (Competing Pipers Association) or competitors who competed in the Final of the World Drumming Solos

Note: 2nd 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 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 1st 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 aged 18 or over who have hitherto not been graded as Piobaireachd B by the RSPBANI, competitors who have not won 1st place in a Piobaireachd B All Ireland contest and 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 1st place in a Piobaireachd B All Ireland contest and 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 1st November on the year prior to the competition. Evidence of age must be produced on request.
- U16** Confined to competitors who are aged under 16 as of 1st November on the year prior to the competition. Evidence of age must be produced on request.
- C Grade** Confined to competitors aged 16 or over as of 1st November on the year prior to the competition
- B Grade** Confined to competitors who have who have won a C Grade All Irelands 1st Place
- A Grade** Confined to competitors who have won a B Grade All Irelands 1st Place

PLAYING REQUIREMENTS

	DRUMMING	PIPING
Novice	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature
Advanced	Four part 2/4 March or 6/8 March	Four part 2/4 March or 6/8 March
Unaccompanied/Novice Piping	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature	Four parts of Quick March, in any time signature <i>No drones to be sounded</i>
Juvenile U14	Four part 2/4 March	Four part 2/4 March
Juvenile U16	March, Strathspey and Reel	Four part 2/4 March
Juvenile U18	March, Strathspey and Reel	March, Strathspey and Reel
C Grade (Junior)	March, Strathspey and Reel	March, Strathspey and Reel
B Grade (Intermediate)	March, Strathspey and Reel	March, Strathspey and Reel (2 of each to be submitted)
A Grade (Senior)	March, Strathspey and Reel (2 sets to be submitted)	March, Strathspey and Reel (3 of each to be submitted)
Hornpipe & Jig	Hornpipe & Jig (at least 4 parts each)	Hornpipe & Jig (at least 4 parts each) Confined to over 18's only

PLAYING REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

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

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

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

- Competitors in the A Grade/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
- 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

RULES CONTINUED

Piping

- Overall Ulster Piping Champion will be decided by combining the A Grade Piping and the Piobaireachd A results, in the event of a tie, Piobaireachd placing will take preference
- Open Hornpipe & Jig competition is open to entrants of adult contests only
- 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.*
- 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 3 minutes for tuning for MSR in the competition hall.
- Pipers will have a maximum 4 minutes for tuning for Piobaireachd in the competition hall.

* 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
- Competitors are confined to a single grade in their respective discipline
- 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
- 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
- A player may appeal such a placing if they feel 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.
- 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.
- 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 RSPBANI.