



MID ULSTER

PIPING QUARTET CONTEST

2026

Syllabus

Run under the auspices of RSPBA

Venue:

Cookstown Primary School, Cookstown

Date:

Saturday 9th May 2026

Closing date for entries:

Monday 20th April 2026

Competitions will commence at:

12.00 pm

ENTRIES

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

Entry fee for all quartets in all grades (including Open Grade) - £10

Additional fee of £5 per quartet to 'Play Up'

COMPETITION GRADES

Grades 4B, 4A, 3, 2 & an open grade

PLAYING REQUIREMENTS

Grade 4B	Prescribed Marches: 4×2-parted Marches All tunes to be from the RSPBA list of prescribed tunes. OR Selection in March rhythm 2.5 – 4.5 minutes duration
Grade 4A	Prescribed MSR: 1×4-parted March or 2×2-parted Marches 1×4-parted Strathspey or 2×2-parted Strathspeys 1×4-parted Reel or 2×2-parted Reels All tunes to be from the RSPBA list of prescribed tunes.
Grade 3	March, Strathspey and Reel (min. 4 parts each).
Grade 2	March, Strathspey and Reel (min. 4 parts each).
Grade 1	March, Strathspey and Reel (min. 4 parts each).
Open Grade	Medley Selection (3-7 mins)

RULES

- Late entries **will not** be accepted
- All quartets must be from bands that are members of RSPBA or an affiliated association
- Quartets may play up one grade (subject to entry numbers)
- All quartets may enter the Open grade
- Order of play will be Grade 4B, 4A, 3, 2, 1, and Open at the times stipulated in the draw
- The draw will be published on the RSPBANI Branch website
- Quartets must register on arrival
- Quartets must be ready to play at the allocated time
- Quartets not ready to play at the allocated time may be disqualified
- All withdrawals or non-attendances must be notified to the contest secretary at least one hour prior to the competition starting time for that grade
- Bands will be required to guarantee that their practice room will be left as found. Bands will be held financially responsible for any damage caused in the classrooms
- Smoking is strictly prohibited. A fine will be levied on any person found to contravene the No Smoking rule. This also includes the use of Vapes & E-cigarettes

CONTEST SPECIFIC RULES

- A quartet will consist of 4 pipers
- Only the registered Pipe Major, or the nominated Pipe Major on the day, may play in more than one quartet, and then only as Pipe Major
- In the event of a band withdrawing a quartet after the draw date, the quartet withdrawn will be that which is latest in the draw (where a band has entered more than one quartet)