



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 - £10

Additional fee of £5 per quartet to 'Play Up', or play in the Open Grade

COMPETITION GRADES

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

PLAYING REQUIREMENTS

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|-------------------|---|
| 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

1. Late entries **will not** be accepted
2. All quartets must be from bands that are members of RSPBA or an affiliated association
3. Quartets may play up one grade (subject to entry numbers)
4. All quartets may enter the Open grade
5. Order of play will be Grade 4B, 4A, 3, 2, 1, and Open at the times stipulated in the draw
6. The draw will be published on the RSPBANI Branch website
7. Quartets must register on arrival
8. Quartets must be ready to play at the allocated time
9. Quartets not ready to play at the allocated time may be disqualified
10. 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
11. 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
12. 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

13. A quartet will consist of 4 pipers
14. 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
15. 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)