



79th All Ireland Pipe Band Championships 2026

Syllabus

The Championships are under the joint auspices of Cumann Buíon Píobaire na hÉireann (Irish Pipe Band Association) & the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association (Northern Ireland Branch)

Event	All Ireland Pipe Band & Drum Major Championships 2026	
Contest Date	Saturday 4 th July 2026	
Start Time	11.00 am	
Venue	St Catherine's Park, Lucan, Co Dublin	
Entries Close	Saturday 6 th June 2026	
Fee	Grades: 4b (5), 4a, 3b & 3a	£15/€17
	Grades: 2 & 1	£20/€22
	Drum Majors (all grades)	£6/€8
Entries To	Entries to be completed via IPBA Secretary sheehanjohn54@gmail.com 00353 (0)87-2314444	
Entry Fee Payment	Directly To: BIC: AIBKIE 2D IBAN: IE95 AIBK 9312 6807 919072 (leave a narrative when lodging to verify payment)	
Alternative Entry	via the RSPBANI website at www.rspbani.org	

Payment has to be made at the time of entry.



Music Requirements

Grade 4b (5)	2mins 30sec – 4mins 30sec in Quick March (any time signature) or 4 x 2 parted Marches from the <u>RSPBA list of prescribed tunes</u>
Grade 4a	1 x 4 parted Marches or 2 x 2 parted Marches, 1 x 4 Parted Strathspey or 2 x 2 parted Strathspeys and 1 x 4 Parted Reel or 2 x 2 Parted Reels from the <u>RSPBA list of prescribed tunes</u>
Grades 3b & 3a	MSR (minimum 4pts each)
Grade 2	Medley (4 to 6 minutes)
Grade 1	MSR 4 pts per tune + Medley (5 to 7 minutes) [submit 2] own choice

Drum Majors

Prizes

Novice Under 11 years	Medals 1 st to 5 th places
Junior 11-14 years	1 st McBride Family Shield & Medals to 2 nd to 5 th places
Juvenile 14-18 years	1 st Crozier Cup & Medals to 2 nd to 5 th places
Senior over 18years	1 st Briscoe Cup & Medals to 2 nd to 5 th places

Marching & Department

Contest for Marching and Department will be adjudicated on a grade basis. Three trophies will be awarded.



Band Prizes

Grade 4b/5			Grade 4a		
1 st	St Patrick's Annsborough Cup	€195	1 st	Lar Cullen Cup	€195
2 nd	R. McComb Mem. Shield	€185	2 nd	Kilkenny City P.B. Trophy	€185
3 rd	Bank of Ireland Trophy	€165	3 rd	Essey Shield	€165
4 th	J&M Hunt Shield	€155	4 th	Noel Campbell Trophy	€155
Best Pipes	The Jemmy Russell Memorial Trophy		Best Pipes	Martin Dempsey Cup	
Best Drums	James Porter Mem. Cup		Best Drums	I.P.B.A. Cup	
Best Mid Section	P J Gallagher Cup		Best Mid Section	Thomas Lane Cup	
Best Overseas	IPBA Trophy		Best Overseas	IPBA Trophy	
Grade 3b			Grade 3a		
1 st	P J Berrill Cup	€220	1 st	James Story Cup	€220
2 nd	Peadar Wallace Trophy	€205	2 nd	Leinster Branch Trophy	€205
3 rd	Donegal Challenge Cup	€185	3 rd	Arklow Trophy	€185
4 th	Card Power Trophy	€175	4 th	Bert Gordon	€175
Best Pipes	George Duffy Cup		Best Pipes	Adrian Carrick Trophy	
Best Drums	James Lawlor Cup		Best Drums	J.A.C. Cup	
Best Mid Section	James Story Cup		Best Mid Section	Trophy	
Best Overseas	IPBA Trophy		Best Overseas	IPBA Trophy	
Grade 2			Grade 1		
1 st	J.O'Driscoll Trophy	€260	1 st	T Geddis Mem. Trophy	€385
2 nd	Teeling Cup	€230	2 nd	McAlevy Cup	€325
3 rd	Tom Farrell Cup	€220	3 rd	Mrs. T.J. Keogh Cup	€255
4 th	Sheila Henry Cup	€195	4 th	Nelson Challenge Trophy	€215
Best Pipes	Leech/Solan		Best Pipes	P/M Alex Penny Trophy	
Best Drums	McCullough/Piggott Cup		Best Drums	Prize Premier Cup	
Best Mid Section	McConnell Cup		2 nd Drums	Donovan Cup	
			Best Mid Section	James Story Trophy	
			Best MSR	Tony Markey Cup	
			Best Medley	Tommy Moore Mem. Cup	



Finale

Lament For deceased members of our Associations

The Battle's O'er In celebration of all gathered in music and to mark the end of the All Ireland Pipe Band & Drum Majors Championships 2026

The Minstrel Boy Salute to the Chieftain

Rules

- All bands competing must be in membership of the I.P.B.A., the R.S.P.B.A. or be a band in membership of an Association which is affiliated to the I.P.B.A. or the R.S.P.B.A.
- Bands are confined to their own grade at the All Ireland Pipe Band Championships.
- Bands who enter and fail to take part and do not notify the secretary by 6pm the day prior to the contest date will be fined £25 or €30
- Bands that do not return a trophy for the contest will be disqualified from the event.
- Where more than 23 bands enter for a grade, it will be split into two heats with 6 finalists from each heat qualifying for a final of 12 bands
- A dual registered Piper is allowed to play with a 4a or 4b (G5 IPBA) band but he/she must carry out the role of the Pipe Major
- Drumming Instructor: A Drummer from a higher-grade band may register as Instructor with a Grade 4a or Grade 4b/5 band, and in doing so, may play in contest with, but only in addition to, a Grade 4a or Grade 4b/5 Drum Corps and **may** act as Lead Drummer
- Minimum number of players:
 - Grade 4a & b - 6 pipers, 2 snare drummers, and 1 bass drummer
 - Grade 3a & b - 6 pipers, 2 snare drummers, and 1 bass drummer
 - Grade 2 6 pipers, 2 snare drummers, and 1 bass drummer
 - Grade 1 8 pipers, 3 snare drummers, and 1 bass drummer
- All bands in Grades 4a, 3b, 3a must submit a 6_8 March as they will be required to play for Drum Majors. Failure to undertake this duty may result in sanction.
- A sub-committee comprised of the IPBA/ RSPBA Chairmen and IPBA/ RSPBA Secretaries may investigate any matter arising from the contest and shall adjudicate on any issue, complaint or protest.
- Any band wishing to complain or protest must do so in writing, clearly outlining the issue. This must be lodged at the Registration Post



accompanied with a fee of £25 or €30. The decision of the sub-committee shall be final and binding on all protests or complaints.

Please Note

- We seek the help of all bands to leave their practice area in a clean condition, free of litter.
- The consumption of alcohol is not allowed in Public Parks in the Republic of Ireland.
- The use of cooking or barbequing equipment is prohibited in St Catherine's Park, Lucan

