

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR COMPETITORS

Please read the conditions carefully. Strict observation of these must be followed, otherwise entries will not be accepted.

ENTRY FEES – Entry fees for all classes appear at the beginning of each section of the Syllabus and are clearly notated on the online entry form. There will be no refund unless the class is cancelled by the Society. Any entries unpaid at the time the programme section is ready for uploading to the website will not be included in the online programme.

AMATEUR STATUS OF COMPETITORS – The competitions are for amateurs, and are not open to professional performers. 'Professional' means any performer who has achieved this status by qualification or experience and/or whose income and chosen career requires him or her to be recognised (classified) as a professional.

RESTRICTED – Means that such a class is open to any person who has not won a first prize AT ANY AGE in that particular artistic field at the time of entry, at any previous competition/festival in New Zealand. Highland and National Dancing competitors see RULE 10.

AGE LIMIT – Competitor's age shall be taken as at 25 June in the year of the festival. Highland and National Dancing competitor's ages as at the date of competing. Any competitor whose age may be questioned shall produce a Birth Certificate or other evidence of age if required to do so.

Competitors under the age of 5 years, will not be eligible to compete except in the following sections:

Ballet, Tap, Highland & National Dancing and Speech & Drama.

LIABILITY – Whilst every care is taken to ensure the safety of competitors and members of the public, the Society takes NO responsibility for any unforeseen event; damage to, or loss of, personal property that may occur. Competitors undertake to compete at their own risk and are urged to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves and their personal property.

ADJUDICATOR COPIES – Competitors must hand in a copy of their items for the Adjudicator (where applicable), before the commencement of the class. All copies must have the Class number, Competitor's name and number, clearly marked at the top right hand corner. Copies should be collected on completion of the class or they will be destroyed. In music sections, a manuscript copy may be used provided it is well written, but competitors are advised that the use of copied music for performance is an infringement of the Copyright Laws.

COMPETITORS MAY NOT PERFORM THE SAME ITEM IN TWO CLASSES IN THIS FESTIVAL IN THE SAME YEAR. See special rule for dancing. No competitor may use any title which has won a first prize in any previous festival held by this Society during the past 3 years, except in the dancing sections.

ADJUDICATORS – The SAPACS Committee reserves the right to replace any advertised adjudicator due to unforeseen circumstances. The decision of the Adjudicators shall be final in ALL cases. Any Adjudicator may refuse to make an award if an item is not deemed to be of sufficient merit. Communications with the Adjudicator by competitors, teachers or any other interested parties, either prior to or during the competition are absolutely prohibited. The committee may disqualify a competitor for any breach of this rule. Competitors should note that you may NOT enter this festival if you have been taught on a regular basis by the advertised adjudicator any time in the past two years. Occasional workshopping or coaching is generally permitted. Please enquire if in doubt.

ORDER OF PERFORMANCE – Competitors must perform in the order set down, unless otherwise directed by the Stage Manager. All competitors in each class must be in attendance at the time stated for that class or section to commence. Note that sometimes the section may run up to one hour early due to competitors not turning up, so always allow plenty of time. Competitors in Impromptu Classes are required to present themselves 5 minutes before the starting time of their class. They will then be in a separate room until called by the Stage Manager or Deputy. Competitors leaving the room without being so called will not be allowed to compete.

TIME LIMIT – The time limit for many of the classes is THREE MINUTES but where this varies it will be clearly shown in the Syllabus and Programme. Competitors exceeding time limits will be penalised as advertised in each section. The Adjudicator has the right to use the bell if the time limit is exceeded.

HIGHLAND AND NATIONAL DANCING – Will be conducted under the Rules of the Piping and Dancing Association of New Zealand.

OFFICIAL ACCOMPANISTS for Vocal and Instrumental Sections are no longer provided. If you need help finding an accompanist, please contact the section convenor.

STAGE MANAGER – All management of the stage, backstage dressing room areas, is in the hands of the Stage Manager. Do not attempt to enter the Backstage area from outside of the building unless this is arranged by first reporting inside.

BACKSTAGE AREA – No person other than competitors, officials and accompanists will be permitted on the side or backstage areas, with the exception of the 'Under 10 Dancing Classes'. For these classes, the teacher of the competitor taking part in the class may be backstage. At the conclusion of his or her item, competitors **MUST** leave the backstage area.

ADMITTANCE TO HALLS – There is a door charge or a donation for all sessions of the Festival. See information provided in the rules of each section. Competitors are entitled to free-of-charge admittance to any part of the Hall, but only for the particular section in which they have appeared, or is to appear.

CHAMPIONSHIPS – Most championships in this festival are decided on points awarded for places gained in constituent events. Where this is applicable, please note that **TO QUALIFY, A COMPETITOR MUST COMPETE IN ALL CLASSES SPECIFIED.**

CUPS AND TROPHIES – Cups and trophies that are the property of the Society are held by the winner for the remainder of the competition year only. They must be returned to the Section Convenor by 01 June. The Society is **NOT** responsible for engraving. **PLEASE HAVE THIS DONE PROFESSIONALLY – DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DO IT YOURSELF.** Competitors must return trophies undamaged and will be liable for damage incurred while in their possession or in transit. A reputable silver polish only must be used where applicable.

PROTESTS – Must be lodged in writing to the Secretary within 24 hours of the class results being announced by the Adjudicator, accompanied by a deposit of \$5. This may be forfeited if the protest is deemed frivolous or unfounded.

PROMPTING – No prompting or assistance of any kind may be given during a performance, except by the Adjudicator.

POINTS – For challenge trophies, points awarded shall be: First Place – Five, Second Place – Three, Third Place – One. In the event of a tie on points, award to be decided on aggregate marks. Ties for placings will be awarded as follows: Four points each for First equal, One point to next placed competitor. Two points each for Second equal and no Third. Half a point each for Third equal. In the event of a tie in placings in a class, placings will be awarded as follows:

First equal – No Second, but there will be a Third.

Second equal – No Third.

Third equal – Very Highly Commended may still be awarded.

PRIZES – Awards are advertised in each section. Note that a message of thanks is often appreciated by our sponsors, particular for the larger awards. SAPACS can forward these messages on.

PRIVACY ACT/RECORDING: Competitors please note that winner's names will be posted on our website, and may be published in local newspapers etc. By submitting your entry, you agree to your name being published should you receive an award. Generally, a competitor may arrange for their performance to be recorded by an audience member, but please check rules for each individual section. You are reminded that IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES may you record, on any device, another performer without their permission. Flash photography is not allowed DURING an item. Please use tripods with consideration for the audience and note that the adjudicator's view must not be obscured. The Adjudicator's verbal summary comments MAY NOT BE RECORDED by any means.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE reserves the right of determining the status of all competitors and applying and interpreting all the Rules. The decision of the Committee is final.