

CONTEST RULES AND CONDITIONS

4 April 2025

The Festival shall be run in accordance with these Rules and Conditions.

1. In these rules the words 'Contest Management' shall refer to the West of England Bandsmen's Festival Committee.
2. In these rules reference to 'Bandsmen' shall include 'Bandswomen'.

CHAMPIONSHIP, FIRST, SECOND, THIRD AND FOURTH SECTION BANDS

3. National Gradings will be used subject to the following: -

Championship Section shall be open to all bands.

First Section shall be open to all bands up to and including First Section status.

Second Section shall be open to all bands up to and including Second Section status.

Third Section shall be open to all bands up to and including Third Section status.

Fourth Section shall be open to Fourth Section bands only.

4. The contest is open to brass bands only and shall consist of a traditional British brass band instrumentation of up to 25 brass players plus percussionists as required by the music score. Only brass band instruments shall be permitted.
5. The Contest Management reserve the right to vary or add to these Rules and Conditions of the contest from time to time, to cancel the contest, to hold it on another day, to limit the number of entries, to close sections at an earlier date than stipulated on the 'Entry Form', or to accept or decline an entry.
6. All complaints, protests, objections or matters arising under these rules or otherwise, shall be submitted to and determined by the Contest Management, whose decision shall be final and shall not be subject to any further appeal or any legal proceedings whatsoever.
7. The Contest Management and Officials cannot be held responsible for damage to, or loss of instruments, music stands, equipment or property of any kind or any personal loss or injury. By entering the Festival it is deemed that all organisations have adequate insurances and health and safety provisions to ensure that their interest and those of the public are adequately covered.
8. The interpretation of these Rules and Conditions shall be the prerogative of the Contest Management whose decision shall be final.
9. In order to enter the contest, the band secretary must complete an official 'Entry Form' and return it to the 'Contest Promoter' together with the entry fee on or before the stated closing date. The entry fee is not refundable under any circumstances. All entries shall be subject to approval by the Contest Management.
10. All players taking part in the Contest (with the exception of any non-UK bands) must be registered with Brass Band Players Limited registry at least seven (7) days before the Friday of the contest weekend. It is the responsibility of the band secretary to apply to the relevant registry for the necessary registration documentation and to comply with the registry rules and procedures.

11. A bandsman who at anytime, gives his signature to documents for more than one band and/or a secretary or any other official or member of a band who submits a false registration or countenance a false signature, shall be dealt with under these rules by the Contest Management.
12. The 'Order of Play' for Fourth Section will be pre-drawn by the Contest Management during the week following the closing date for entries. All other sections will be drawn at the times stated in the General Instructions.
13. Day transfers will be allowed on completion of an 'Application for Temporary Day Transfer of Player's, signed correctly by all appropriate parties and must comply with the following: -
 - a) A band may use a maximum of 5 borrowed players.
 - b) A player, on temporary day transfer for a contest, may play for the band which has applied for the temporary transfer and has completed the appropriate form to the satisfaction of the contest promoter (subject to the restrictions on sections itemised below), and the band with which he/she is normally registered.
 - c) Championship, First, Second and Third Sections
Borrowed players in the above sections, shall be registered players from bands registered either the same grade or grades lower than the borrowing band. One of the 5 borrowed players may be registered from a band registered one section above the competing band.
 - d) Fourth Section
Borrowed players in the above section shall be registered players from bands in the same grade or from the Third Section.
 - e) The Bugle Contest is run as an 'Open Contest', which allows bands to enter sections above their National Grading, therefore borrowed players relate to the grading of the borrowing band and not the section entered.
 - f) It is the responsibility of the secretary of the borrowing band to ensure that the registration card of any player on a day transfer, is fully franked and produced at registration, or when requested by the contest organisers.
14.
 - a) If a bandsman is unable to compete due to personal illness/injury or family bereavement, and is able to provide documentary proof or evidence to the satisfaction of the Contest Promoter, the Contest Promoter will arrange to provide a deputy. This will be the same instrumentalist from another band competing in the section, complete with instrument and band parts.
 - b) The band drawn to play immediately before the band making application shall supply the deputy bandsman approved under this rule, and the Secretary of this band will be held responsible for seeing that this is fulfilled. If the band making application is drawn No. 1 the band drawn to play last shall supply the deputy bandsman.
 - c) A bandsman acting as deputy must not make any request for payment for his service and no such payment may be made by any official concerned.
14.
 - a) Where applicable at the registration table each bandsman shall present his Registration Card for scrutiny and endorsement, and may be required to sign a registration document.
 - b) Any discrepancy will be reported to the Contest Promoter, and in case of doubt he/she will notify the secretary or conductor that the bandsman may play at the risk

of subsequent objection.

15. An interval of FOUR (4) minutes shall be allowed between performances. Any band not being ready to play within FOUR (4) minutes of the time for the section to commence, or of the preceding band leaving the platform, may be disqualified. Reasonable additional time shall be allowed to a band where any of its competing bandsmen or bandswomen shall suffer from infirmity or disability.
16. No bandsman shall be allowed to play more than one brass instrument. It is permissible for a brass player to assist on percussion. It is not permissible for a percussionist to assist/play a brass instrument.
17. At the conclusion of the contest the decision of the Adjudicator/s shall be announced. Subject to these rules, the Adjudicators decision shall be FINAL on all matters relating to adjudication.
18.
 - a) Any protest at the time of a contest made before the results are announced should be presented to the Contest Promoter in writing. The band protesting shall deposit an amount of £25, which shall be returned if the protest is sustained, but not otherwise.
 - b) Any protest made after the results have been announced should be presented, in writing, to the Contest Promoter within FOURTEEN (14) days following the date of the contest, accompanied by a deposit of £25, which shall be returned if the protest is sustained, but not otherwise.
 - c) No deposit shall be required when an authorised official, steward, or a member of the Protest Committee for the contest presents a protest. The Protest Committee shall comprise of the Chairperson, Promoter and persons that the Promoter considers appropriate to make an unbiased decision.
19. If at the expiration of FOURTEEN (14) days the Contest Management is satisfied that no serious breach under these rules has occurred, prize-winning cheques will be processed in the normal manner.
20. Department will be judged on the morning march to the contest field. Traditional uniform must be worn on stage and on the march to and from the contest field.
21. All Trophies are the property of the Festival.
 - a) Any band winning a Trophy must give an undertaking signed by an official of the band to keep the trophy in good and safe condition and to protect and insure it against loss or damage.
 - b) It is the bands responsibility to return all trophies in a good and clean condition to the Trophy Officer as directed on the signature form, a copy of which will have been provided to the band.
22. Any member, performer, official or conductor of a contesting band found guilty of a breach of these rules or failing to comply with the conditions set forth in the 'Schedule', 'Entry Form' or 'General Instructions', or who commits any act which, in the opinion of the Contest Management would be calculated to be prejudicial to the proper conduct or reputation of the contest, will be subject to disqualification and/or forfeiture of prizes, and/or suspension from entering the contest held under these rules, for such time as may

be decided upon by the Contest Management.

23. Any matters arising at the contest which are not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by the Contest Promoter, in a manner which he/she feels will be in the best interest of all competitors. His/her decision shall be final.

FESTIVAL SHOWCASE SECTION

1. In these rules the words 'Contest Management' shall refer to the West of England Bandsmen's Festival Committee.
2. In these rules reference to 'Bandsmen' shall include 'Bandswomen'.
3. The contest is open to brass bands only and shall consist of a maximum of 35 players including percussionists. Only brass band instruments shall be permitted.
4. Fourteen days prior to the contest date the Band Secretary must provide a list of competing players.
5. The Contest Management reserve the right to vary or add to these Rules and Conditions of the contest from time to time, to cancel the contest, to hold it on another day, to limit the number of entries, to close the section at an earlier date than stipulated on the 'Entry Form', or to accept or decline an entry.
6. All complaints, protests, objections or matters arising under these rules or otherwise, shall be submitted to and determined by the Contest Management, whose decision shall be final and shall not be subject to any further appeal or any legal proceedings whatsoever.
7. The Contest Management and Officials cannot be held responsible for damage to, or loss of instruments, music stands, equipment or property of any kind or any personal loss or injury. By entering the Festival it is deemed that all organisations have adequate insurances and health and safety provisions to ensure that their interest and those of the public are adequately covered.
8. The interpretation of these Rules and Conditions shall be the prerogative of the Contest Management whose decision shall be final.
9. In order to enter the contest, the band secretary must complete an official 'Entry Form' and return it to the 'Contest Promoter' on or before the stated closing date. All entries shall be subject to approval by the Contest Management.
10. The 'Order of Play' will be pre-drawn by the Contest Management during the week following the closing date for entries. All other sections will be drawn at the times stated in the General Instructions.
11. An interval of FOUR (4) minutes shall be allowed between performances. Any band not being ready to play within FOUR (4) minutes of the time for the section to commence, or of the preceding band leaving the platform, may be disqualified. Reasonable additional time shall be allowed to a band where any of its competing bandsmen or bandswomen shall suffer from infirmity or disability.
12. At the conclusion of the contest the decision of the Adjudicator/s shall be announced. Subject to these rules, the Adjudicators decision shall be FINAL on all matters relating to adjudication.
13.
 - a) Any protest at the time of a contest made before the results are announced should be presented to the Contest Promoter in writing. The band protesting shall deposit

an amount of £25, which shall be returned if the protest is sustained, but not otherwise.

- b) Any protest made after the results have been announced should be presented, in writing, to the Contest Promoter in writing within FOURTEEN (14) days following the date of the contest, accompanied by a deposit of £25, which shall be returned if the protest is sustained, but not otherwise.
 - c) No deposit shall be required when an authorised official, steward, or a member of the Protest Committee for the contest presents a protest. The Protest Committee shall comprise of the Chairperson, Promoter and persons that the Promoter considers appropriate to make an unbiased decision.
14. If at the expiration of FOURTEEN (14) days the Contest Management is satisfied that no serious breach under these rules has occurred, prize-winning cheques will be processed in the normal manner.
15. Department will be judged on the morning march to the contest field. Traditional uniform must be worn on stage and on the march to and from the contest field.
16. All Trophies are the property of the Festival.
- a) Any band winning a Trophy must give an undertaking signed by an official of the band to keep the trophy in good and safe condition and to protect and insure it against loss or damage.
 - b) It is the bands responsibility to return all trophies in a good and clean condition to the Trophy Officer as directed on the signature form, a copy of which will have been provided to the band.
17. Any member, performer, official or conductor of a contesting band found guilty of a breach of these rules or failing to comply with the conditions set forth in the 'Schedule', 'Entry Form' or 'General Instructions', or who commits any act which, in the opinion of the Contest Management would be calculated to be prejudicial to the proper conduct or reputation of the contest, will be subject to disqualification and/or forfeiture of prizes, and/or suspension from entering the contest held under these rules, for such time as may be decided upon by the Contest Management.
18. Any matters arising at the contest which are not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by the Contest Promoter, in a manner which he/she feels will be in the best interest of all competitors. His/her decision shall be final.

YOUTH AND TRAINING SECTION BANDS

19. In these rules the words 'Contest Management' shall refer to the West of England Bandsmen's Festival Committee.
20. In these rules reference to 'Bandsmen' shall include 'Bandswomen'.
21. The contest is open to brass bands only and shall consist of a maximum of 35 players including percussionists. Only brass band instruments shall be permitted.
22. No players shall be over the age of 20 years on the day of the contest (i.e. not 21) except that a band may elect to play either two bass players OR one bass player and one bass trombone player over 20 years of age.

23. Fourteen days prior to the contest date the Band Secretary must provide a list of competing players complete with their date of birth. In the event of a dispute, proof of age must be provided.
24. The Contest Management reserve the right to vary or add to these Rules and Conditions of the contest from time to time, to cancel the contest, to hold it on another day, to limit the number of entries, to close the section at an earlier date than stipulated on the 'Entry Form', or to accept or decline an entry.
25. All complaints, protests, objections or matters arising under these rules or otherwise, shall be submitted to and determined by the Contest Management, whose decision shall be final and shall not be subject to any further appeal or any legal proceedings whatsoever.
26. The Contest Management and Officials cannot be held responsible for damage to, or loss of instruments, music stands, equipment or property of any kind.
27. The interpretation of these Rules and Conditions shall be the prerogative of the Contest Management whose decision shall be final.
28. In order to enter the contest, the band secretary must complete an official 'Entry Form' and return it to the 'Contest Promoter' on or before the stated closing date. All entries shall be subject to approval by the Contest Management.
29. The 'Order of Play' will be drawn at the times stated in the General Instructions.
30. An interval of FOUR (4) minutes shall be allowed between performances. Any band not being ready to play within FOUR (4) minutes of the time for the section to commence, or of the preceding band leaving the platform, may be disqualified. Reasonable additional time shall be allowed to a band where any of its competing bandsmen or bandswomen shall suffer from infirmity or disability.
31. No bandsman shall be allowed to play more than one brass instrument. It is permissible for a brass player to assist on percussion. It is not permissible for a percussionist to assist/play a brass instrument.
32. At the conclusion of the contest the decision of the Adjudicator/s shall be announced. Subject to these rules, the Adjudicators decision shall be FINAL on all matters relating to adjudication.
33.
 - a) Any protest at the time of a contest made before the results are announced should be presented to the Contest Promoter in writing. The band protesting shall deposit an amount of £25, which shall be returned if the protest is sustained, but not otherwise.
 - b) Any protest made after the results have been announced should be presented, in writing, to the Contest Promoter in writing within FOURTEEN (14) days following the date of the contest, accompanied by a deposit of £25, which shall be returned if the protest is sustained, but not otherwise.
 - c) No deposit shall be required when an authorised official, steward, or a member of the Protest Committee for the contest presents a protest. The Protest Committee shall comprise of the Chairperson, Promoter and persons that the Promoter considers appropriate to make an unbiased decision.
34. If at the expiration of FOURTEEN (14) days the Contest Management is satisfied that no serious breach under these rules has occurred, prize-winning cheques will be processed in the normal manner.
35. Department will be judged on the morning march to the contest field.
Traditional uniform must be worn on stage and on the march to and from the contest

field.

36. All Trophies are the property of the Festival.
 - a) Any band winning a Trophy must give an undertaking signed by an official of the band to keep the trophy in good and safe condition and to protect and insure it against loss or damage.
 - b) It is the bands responsibility to return all trophies in a good and clean condition to the Trophy Officer as directed on the signature form, a copy of which will have been provided to the band.
37. Any member, performer, official or conductor of a contesting band found guilty of a breach of these rules or failing to comply with the conditions set forth in the 'Schedule', 'Entry Form' or 'General Instructions', or who commits any act which, in the opinion of the Contest Management would be calculated to be prejudicial to the proper conduct or reputation of the contest, will be subject to disqualification and/or forfeiture of prizes, and/or suspension from entering the contest held under these rules, for such time as may be decided upon by the Contest Management.
38. Any matters arising at the contest which are not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by the Contest Promoter, in a manner which he/she feels will be in the best interest of all competitors. His/her decision shall be final.

TRAINING SECTION

The Youth rules apply with the exception of rule No. 4. In this section there is no age limit and a band may elect to play either 2 registered bass players or 1 bass player and 1 bass trombone player.