

GENERAL RULES

1. Eligibility of Competitors

All competitors are limited to non-professionals except in open classes. For the purpose of this rule, persons receiving an occasional fee will be deemed to be non-professional. Competitors not entitled to compete in one sub-section under this rule may, however, compete in another sub-section in which they can qualify as a non-professional. Any question as to the eligibility of a competitor will be decided by the committee.

2. Age of Competitors

The age of competitors will be taken as on 1st September. Competitors may not compete in a class of a higher age group than their own, except where the classes state "and under".

3. Entry Forms and Fees

All entries must be made using the online entry facility, or sent on official entry forms accompanied by the fee. No conditional entries will be accepted. Entry fees and accompanists' fees are non-returnable.

4. Photocopying

Competitors are reminded that it is illegal to reproduce copyright materials by photocopying or any other means without written permission from the copyright owner. The Festival cannot be held responsible for any breaches of the copyright law. However the Festival will accept a reproduced paper copy for the adjudicator's use provided that a published copy has already been purchased. This copy will be retained by a Festival official and destroyed immediately after the class. At the adjudicator's discretion competitors who contravene any aspect of these rules may be prohibited from performing, or may not receive a written report and/or mark.

5. Entry Restriction and Repeated Items

A competitor may enter only once in any class. No competitor may present an item with which the competitor has been awarded first prize within the last three years at the Festival, except in the Dancing section, nor may a competitor perform the same item in more than one class.

6. Dates and Times of Classes

The dates and times of the competitions will be arranged after the entry is closed. The order of performance will be decided by ballot and competitors will be informed of the dates and approximate times of their classes once the programme is finalised.

7. Alteration of Classes / Adjudicators

The committee reserves the right to cancel competitions in any class, to change dates if necessary, and to merge or split classes. The committee reserves the right to appoint other adjudicators should unforeseen circumstances render such a course necessary.

8. Entry Charges at the Festival

Competitors, their teacher (Dancing section – two teachers only) and instrumental accompanists (Music section) are admitted to the hall free of charge for the session that includes the class in which they are competing. There is a daily entrance charge for non-competitors.

9. Adjudicators' Decisions and Time Limits

Adjudicators may stop any performance once their judgment has been formed. Competitors who over-run the time limit may be stopped and/or penalised. If competitors are not available

when called they may forfeit their right to perform. All adjudicators' decisions concerning performance are final and no discussion or correspondence can be accepted.

10. Marks and Certificates

Marks for each competitor will be recorded on the adjudicator's remark sheets distributed to all competitors at the end of each class. Certificates will be awarded as follows – Distinction 90 marks and above, Honours 85 – 89, Merit 80 – 84, Proficiency 75 – 79. Where the mark is below 75 a Performer's certificate may be awarded at the adjudicator's discretion. Marks of 85 and above will be announced by the adjudicator at the end of each class.

11. Medals

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded to the first, second and third placed competitors, except in certificate classes (provided Honours standard is reached in Music and Speech & Drama classes). In the event of a tie the competitors judged to be equal in merit will receive identical awards.

12. Cups and Trophies

Cups, trophies, vouchers and cash prizes will only be awarded if Honours standard is reached. In the event of a competitor winning the same cup for three consecutive years, he/she will also be given a special award. Winners of cups may have them suitably engraved at their own expense. Cups may not be taken out of the country, and **must be returned one month before the next Festival.**

13. Loss or Damage

The committee does not hold itself responsible for any loss or damage which may occur to competitors' copies, remark sheets or any other property at the Festival. Any lost items should be claimed within one month.

14. Injury and Behaviour

The committee does not hold itself responsible for any injury sustained by any competitor or member of the public whilst on Festival premises. The committee may refuse entry to any person found trespassing on or damaging premises or property. All children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult who will be held fully responsible for the behaviour of children in their care. See Child Protection Policy.

15. Photography, Recording and Mobile Phones

No photography or video or audio recording will be allowed at the Festival. Mobile phones must be switched off in rooms where performances are taking place.

16. Further Information

All enquiries relating to the Festival must be sent to the secretary in writing (enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for reply), or by e-mail.

17. Personal Data

The Festival will hold personal data solely for the purpose of running the Festival. No personal data is passed to any other organisation. Names of prizewinners will be published on the Festival website, unless requested otherwise.

**PLEASE ALSO SEE ADDITIONAL RULES FOR MUSIC, DANCING AND SPEECH & DRAMA SECTIONS,
AND CONDITIONS ON THE ENTRY FORM**