

# 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 November. Competitors may not compete in a class of a higher age group than their own, except where the classes state "and under".

## 3. Entry Form and Fees

All entries must be sent on official entry forms accompanied by the fee, with cheques made payable to Beckenham Festival. No conditional entries will be accepted. Entry fees and accompanists' fees are non-returnable.

## 4. Multiple Entries

Only one form need be submitted for an entry consisting of two, three or four performers. Teachers may attach a list of their entries to an official entry form (except in Speech & Drama and Dancing sections – see additional rules).

## 5. 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 in "own choice" classes the Festival will accept a reproduced copy for the adjudicator's use provided that the competitor has already purchased a published copy. Any such reproduction will be retained by a Festival official and destroyed immediately after the class. In "set piece" classes a reproduced copy is not required for the adjudicator and competitors will be expected to perform either from a published copy or from memory. Reproductions for performance may be confiscated by a Festival official. 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.

## 6. Entry Restriction - Repeated Items

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 Stage Dancing section, nor may a competitor perform the same piece in more than one class.

## 7. 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.

## 8. 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.

## 9. Entry Charges at the Festival

Competitors, their teachers and accompanists 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.

## **10. Adjudicators' Decisions**

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.

## **11. 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 will be announced by the adjudicator at the end of each class (Distinction and Honours marks only in Music and Speech & Drama sections).

## **12. 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 sections). In the event of a tie the competitors judged to be equal in merit will receive identical awards.

## **13. 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 must be returned by 30th September each year.**

## **14. 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.

## **15. 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 Safeguarding Policy on page 4.

## **16. Video / Audio Recording and Mobile Phones**

No video or audio recording will be allowed as it is an offence and in breach of copyright law. Mobile phones must be switched off in rooms where performances are taking place.

## **17. 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 (see page 1).

## **18. 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 may be published in the local press and on the Festival website, unless requested otherwise.

The Festival invites suggestions for classes not covered by the syllabus for inclusion in future festivals.

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