



Pipers' and Pipe Band Society of Ontario Judge's Code of Practice

PPBSO Policy #7
v. 1-24

PURPOSE

Judges hold a unique position in our community - one of leadership, influence, and trust. The success and validity of our contests depend on the integrity and reputation of our PPBSO Judges and their ability to judge a contest fairly, provide supportive and insightful feedback to competitors, and use their best judgement when compiling contest results. When a member accepts the responsibility of becoming a judge, they are expected to exhibit the highest standards of character, conduct, and knowledge. This Code should serve as a guide for meeting those expectations.

Quality, impartiality, continuous improvement, and communication are the core tenets of judging, but due to the unique position of judges in our community, this code must maintain a broader purview. This is not a comprehensive catalogue of expected practice, but rather a limited list of guidelines which will help ensure the integrity of our judges is not brought into question.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Judges should seek to broaden their knowledge, increase familiarity with alternative settings and styles, expand their repertoire, and stay current with the latest developments and evolution of music and our idiom.
2. Judges must constantly improve their abilities as a judge, which may include participation in professional development seminars, attending competitions, recitals, workshops as an audience member, and engaging in constructive conversation with peers. Formal professional development should be practiced annually.
3. Judges must constantly strive for impartiality and objectivity both musically and personally.
4. Wherever possible, judges must provide clear and constructive score sheets supported by appropriate musical terminology. Written feedback should attempt to justify the rationale of placing a particular performance and provide constructive feedback to assist the competitor in attaining a higher standard of performance.
5. To foster open and constructive communication, judges should be approachable so that competitors may reasonably seek clarification and initiate constructive conversation.
6. Judges should always act with the professionalism their position commands. They must be reliable, prompt, adequately prepared to fulfil their duties and appropriately outfitted in Highland dress.
7. A judge must give the contest, and specifically the performance of the moment, their full attention to ensure that all competitors receive a fair listen and the results are based on the performances of the day.
8. Judges shall not knowingly accept an assignment to judge a discipline in which they are not certified.
9. PPBSO judges act as ambassadors for our Society and their peers when they travel and should act accordingly.
10. When judging in other jurisdictions, judges must actively seek to familiarize themselves with and adhere to the rules governing local competitions.
11. Results are not to be released prior to the formal prize-giving without specific permission from the organizer or, at Highland Games, the PPBSO Operations Manager.

12. To maintain the respect and confidence of their peers, judges must be supportive of decisions and respect the confidentiality of any deliberations leading to those decisions.
13. Judges should be seen to support their judging colleagues and their decisions.
14. Judges must refrain from using social media to show support or bias toward any individual competitor or band.
15. Judges must refrain from attempting to influence their colleagues. In bench situations, discussions should be reserved for the privacy of the period following the competition.
16. Judges must be mindful of potential conflicts of interest. Any guidance or advice should only be guided by the best interests of the contest and competitors. Judges should refer to local rules regarding judging family members or pupils - but should declare any such associations as soon as they become known and avoid them when possible.
17. Judges must never take advantage of their role for personal gain or through any endeavour or inaction, bring the reputation of themselves or their position into disrepute.
18. PPBSO Judges must prioritize PPBSO Highland Games ahead of other jurisdictions when submitting their availability to judge in order to maintain their active status. If a Judge is consistently unavailable to judge PPBSO Highland Games without cause, their status as an active PPBSO Judge will be reviewed by the Music Committee (Judging Subcommittee).
19. Judges are expected to be members in good standing of the PPBSO or of an affiliated organization in the case of visiting judges.
20. Judges are reminded that this code of practice applies in addition to the PPBSO Code of Conduct, the Competition Rule Book, By-Laws and any other regulations and policies.

REMEDIATION

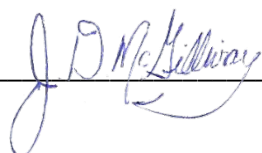
Remediation is a confidential process between the Judging Subcommittee, the Board and the Judge concerned.

As a member of the Judges' Panel of the Pipers' & Pipe Band Society of Ontario, any practice that contravenes this Code may result in a verbal reminder, a written reminder, supervision by the Music Committee (Judging Subcommittee), temporary or permanent removal from the panel.

Remediation that includes a temporary or permanent removal from the panel will be administered by the PPBSO Board on the recommendation of the Music Committee. The Board reserves the right to remove a judge from the panel without notice in its own discretion.

The Board reserves the right to amend this policy without prior notice.

Board Approved: 14th November, 2024

Chair, Music Committee:  PPBSO Secretary: 