

Changes proposed by Ross R Naismith. WUPSBA # 0579PP. Professional Grade Solo Piper. Member of the Grade 3 Cameron Highlanders Pipe Band and Pipe Major / Instructor of the Grade 4 Cameron Highlanders Pipe Band. If there are any questions comments or concerns, please feel free to e-mail me at ross.r.naismith@gmail.com. Thanks!

Below will outline the changes, but briefly, I am proposing changing Grade 4 to Grade 4A and also changing Grade 5 to Grade 4B. I would like one of our two competition days to line up as it is at the World Pipe Band Championships. Playing requirements would also match that as the RSPBA for one of our two competition days.

I am suggesting that these changes be made effective January 1, 2016. All Grade 4A and Grade 4B bands would then have over a year to ready themselves.

The link you see here and below, <http://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes.php>, really lays it out well what I'd like to do.

## **Bylaws Proposal**

### **Article XIV- Band Grading**

#### **2. Grades:**

##### **Existing Text:**

The Executive Committee shall, on the recommendation of the Music Board, grade all bands into one of the following grades: Grade I, Grade II, Grade III, Grade IV or GradeV.

##### **Proposed Text:**

The Executive Committee shall, on the recommendation of the Music Board, grade all bands into one of the following grades: Grade I, Grade II, Grade III, Grade IV A or Grade IV B.

## **Contest Rules Proposals**

## Part 2. Band Contest Rules

### 7.4. Set Definitions:

#### Existing Text:

7.4. Set Definitions: The following definitions will be used for band competitions.

7.4.1. March Strathspey Reel (MSR): An MSR shall consist of exactly one (1) 2/4 March, one (1) Strathspey, and one (1) Reel. Each tune shall have a minimum of four (4) parts. In grades that require the submission of two sets, a random draw will determine which set will be played. The random draw shall be conducted at the line prior to each band's performance.

. 7.4.2. Time Limit Medley (TLM): A TLM shall consist of any tunes in any time signature.

. 7.4.3. Quick March Medley (QMM): A QMM shall consist of any number of quick marches in any time signature.

. 7.4.4. March, Slow March, March (MSM): An MSM shall consist of two (2) to four (4) parts of march in any time signature, one (1) Slow March in any time signature, and another two (2) to four (4) parts of march in any time signature. The marches may be reused between this medley and the QMM. Bands must march into a circle using a traditional three (3) pace roll off.

. 7.4.5. Set Composition: Tunes in any set may not be used in another set during a contest.

. 7.4.6. Musical Instruments: Sets shall be restricted to the Highland Bagpipes, Snare Drum, Tenor Drum, and Bass Drum instrumentation only.

. 7.4.7. Grade Event Requirements: Event requirements are outlined in table 6.

	<b>MSR</b>	<b>TLM</b>	<b>QMM</b>	<b>MSM</b>
Grade 1	Submit two (2)	5 - 7 minutes	N/A	N/A
Grade 2	Submit two (2)	4 - 6 minutes	N/A	N/A
Grade 3	Submit one	3 - 5 minutes	N/A	N/A

	(1)			
Grade 4	N/A	3 - 5 minutes	2:45 - 4:30 minutes	N/A
Grade 5	N/A	N/A	2:45 - 4:30 minutes	Submit one (1)

**Table 6. Grade Event Requirements**

Grade 4

TLM ( Timed Limit Medley ) - 3 - 5 minutes.

QMM ( Quick March Medley ) - 2:45 - 4:30 minutes.

Grade 5

MSM ( March - Slow March - March ) - Submit one (1).

QMM ( Quick March Medley ) - 2:45 - 4:30 minutes.

**Proposed Text:**

7.4. Set Definitions: The following definitions will be used for band competitions.

7.4.1. March Strathspey Reel (MSR): An MSR shall consist of exactly one (1) 2/4 March, one (1) Strathspey, and one (1) Reel. Each tune shall have a minimum of four (4) parts. In grades that require the submission of two sets, a random draw will determine which set will be played. The random draw shall be conducted at the line prior to each band's performance.

. 7.4.2. Time Limit Medley (TLM): A TLM shall consist of any tunes in any time signature.

. 7.4.3. RSPBA Approved MMSSRR: Four parts march tempo - This can be one 4 Parted March or two 2 parted Marches, bands can also choose to play parts 1 and 2 of a 4 parted March if they so choose for 1 of the two 2 parted Marches, two of the 2 parted Strathspeys and two of the 2 parted Reels from the RSPBA Prescribed Tune List.

<http://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes.php>

. 7.4.4. RSPBA Approved QMM: Four 2 parted Marches from the RSPBA

Prescribed Tune List. Bands may choose Parts 1 and 2 of any of the 4 parted Marches also offered on the list to make up one of the 4 two parted Marches. <http://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes.php>

- . 7.4.5. March, Slow March, March (MSM): An MSM shall consist of two (2) to four (4) parts of march in any time signature, one (1) Slow March in any time signature, and another two (2) to four (4) parts of march in any time signature. The marches may be reused between this medley and the QMM. Bands must march into a circle using a traditional three (3) pace roll off.
- . 7.4.6. Set Composition: Tunes in any set may not be used in another set during a contest.
- . 7.4.7. Musical Instruments: Sets shall be restricted to the Highland Bagpipes, Snare Drum, Tenor Drum, and Bass Drum instrumentation only.
- . 7.4.8. Grade Event Requirements: Event requirements are outlined in table 6.

	<b>MSR</b>	<b>TLM</b>	<b>RSPBA Approved MMSSRR</b>	<b>RSPBA Approved QMM</b>	<b>MSM</b>
Grade 1	Submit two (2)	5 - 7 minutes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 2	Submit two (2)	4 - 6 minutes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 3	Submit one (1)	3 - 5 minutes	N/A	N/A	N/A
Grade 4 A	N/A	3 - 5 minutes	Submit one (1)	N/A	N/A
Grade 4 B	N/A	N/A	N/A	Submit one (1)	Submit one (1)

**Table 6. Grade Event Requirements**

Grade 4A

TLM ( Timed Limit Medley ) - 3 - 5 minutes.

RSPBA Approved MMSSRR ( March, March, Strathspey, Strathspey, Reel, Reel ) - Tunes are to be selected from the RSPBA Prescribed Tune List. Select one 4 parted March or two 2 parted Marches, 2 two parted Strathspeys & 2 two

parted Reels.

\* <http://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes.php>

\*\* Sheet music is designed to be a guide for the tune. Alterations can be made, i.e. removing a doubling or adding a doubling, at each band's own discretion.

\*\*\* The same tune can not be played in both sets. No overlapping of tunes.

### Grade 4B

MSM ( March - Slow March - March ) - Submit one set (1).

RSPBA Approved QMM ( Quick March Medley ) - 4 marches selected from the RSPBA Prescribed Tune List. All tunes are 2 parts, no more. 4 tunes only, no more.

\* <http://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes.php>

\*\* Sheet music is designed to be a guide for the tune. Alterations can be made, i.e. removing a doubling or adding a doubling, at each band's own discretion.

\*\*\* The same tune can not be played in both sets. No overlapping of tunes.

## **7.8. Challenging Up:**

### **Existing Text:**

7.8. Challenging Up: A games sponsor may elect to provide the option for bands to play up to the next higher grade, in order to increase participation of bands at higher grades. Bands may play up under the following conditions.

7.8.9. In cases where a Grade 5 Quick March Medley contest is not offered, Grade 5 bands may compete in the Grade 4 Quick March Medley contest. These contests will be treated as combined contests, and are not subject to the other challenge up rules. Aggregate points will be earned for these contests.

7.8.10. If a Grade 5 band wishes to challenge up in a Timed Medley contest, or in a Quick March Medley contest when a Grade 5 contest is offered, all other rules apply.

### **Proposed Text:**

7.8. Challenging Up: A games sponsor may elect to provide the option for

bands to play up to the next higher grade, in order to increase participation of bands at higher grades. Bands may play up under the following conditions.

7.8.9. In cases where a Grade 4B contest is not offered, Grade 4B bands may compete in Grade 4A, but they will need to abide by the requirements for Grade 4A. Aggregate points will be earned for Grade level played. Example: Grade 4B band places 3rd in Grade 4A contest, said Grade 4B band will earn Grade 4A aggregate points.

7.8.10. If a Grade 4B band wishes to challenge up when a Grade 4B contest is offered, all other rules apply.

**7.13. Band Numbers:**

**Existing Text:**

7.13. Band Numbers: Pipe bands taking part in a band contest shall have the minimum number of players. The minimum number of players is shown in table 5. If a bass section contest is held, such section must consist of at least one (1) bass and one (1) tenor.

	<b>Pipers</b>	<b>Side Drummers</b>	<b>Tenor Drummers</b>	<b>Bass Drummers</b>
<b>Grade 1</b>	6	2	1	1
<b>Grade 2</b>	6	2	1	1
<b>Grade 3</b>	6	2	1	1
<b>Grade 4</b>	6	2	0	1
<b>Grade 5</b>	5	2	0	1
<b>Juvenile</b>	5	2	0	1

**Table 5. Band Numbers**

**Proposed Text:**

7.13. Band Numbers: Pipe bands taking part in a band contest shall have the minimum number of players. The minimum number of players is shown in table 5. If a bass section contest is held, such section must consist of at least one (1) bass and one (1) tenor.

	<b>Pipers</b>	<b>Side Drummers</b>	<b>Tenor Drummers</b>	<b>Bass Drummers</b>
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<b>Grade 1</b>	6	2	1	1
<b>Grade 2</b>	6	2	1	1
<b>Grade 3</b>	6	2	1	1
<b>Grade 4 A</b>	6	2	0	1
<b>Grade 4 B</b>	5	2	0	1
<b>Juvenile</b>	5	2	0	1

**Table 5. Band Numbers**

### **7.23.2. Registered Instructor Policy**

#### **Existing Text:**

7.23.2. Registered Instructor Policy: Registered Instructor Policy: Grade 3, Grade 4, and Grade 5, and Juvenile bands may register, for the competition season, at most one (1) piping instructor and one (1) drumming instructor who is also registered with another, higher-graded band. An instructor is defined as an individual from a higher-graded band who provides piping/drumming instruction on an ongoing basis to the lower-graded band in which the instructor is registered, i.e., an instructor is a registered member who regularly attends that band's practices and provides instruction at those practices. The instructor(s) shall not be permitted to make up the minimum number of pipers or drummers required for competition. A higher-grade band may have more than one piper or drummer who serves as instructors of Grade III, Grade IV, V, and Juvenile bands.

Instructor(s) must be clearly identified on each band's roster.

Members of Grade 5 Juvenile bands may be registered with and compete with a higher graded band as well as their own Grade 5 Juvenile band.

#### **Proposed Text:**

7.23.2. Registered Instructor Policy: Registered Instructor Policy: Grade 3, Grade 4A, Grade 4B, and Juvenile bands may register, for the competition season, at most one (1) piping instructor and one (1) drumming instructor who is also registered with another, higher-graded band. An instructor is defined as an individual from a higher-graded band who provides piping/drumming instruction on an ongoing basis to the lower-graded band in which the instructor is registered, i.e., an instructor is a registered member who regularly attends that band's practices and provides instruction at those practices. The instructor(s)

shall not be permitted to make up the minimum number of pipers or drummers required for competition. A higher-grade band may have more than one piper or drummer who serves as instructors of Grade III, Grade IV A, Grade IV B, and Juvenile bands.

Instructor(s) must be clearly identified on each band's roster.

Members of Grade 4B Juvenile bands may be registered with and compete with a higher graded band as well as their own Grade 4B Juvenile band.

### **Rationale for above changes.**

The RSPBA ( Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association ) is at the heart of the pipe band world. Each year, hundreds and hundreds of bands, travel from all over the world, to compete at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland. " The Worlds " as its commonly referred to, is 1 (one) of 5 (five) Major Championships on the RSPBA calendar. In Grade 4A, the requirement to compete in " The Worlds " is a MMSSRR, and all tunes must be chosen from a list designated by the RSPBA Music Board. Why isn't this same event offered here at home, in WUSPBA? There is also a Grade 4B, and that requirement to compete at " The Worlds " is a QMM, and 4, 2 part marches are chosen from the exact same designated list. This event is offered here at home, but not in the same format as it is at " The Worlds ". Currently there are 42 marches with 25 of those being 4 parted, 21 strathspeys and 17 reels for Grade 4A and 4B bands to choose from, a very healthy amount. From year to year, sometimes the RSPBA adds or removes a tune or two, we WUSPBA, would go along with their changes.

\* <http://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes.php>

The current format of WUSPBA competitions includes 2 days of competition. One of these competition days could be modified to align with the RSPBA Major Championship competition format, while still allowing the other day to remain in its current format (a Timed Medley event for Grade 4A and an M-S-M event for Grade 4B). This change would help lower the barrier for entry to competition in Scotland for Grade 4A and 4B bands, and help them to be more prepared if and when they do choose to compete in Scotland.

If you are unfamiliar with the Grade 4A and Grade 4B terminology, there is no Grade 5 in the RSPBA. I would like to be along the same lines and rid our association of Grade 5, and make the change to Grade 4A and Grade 4B. All current Grade 4 bands will be put into 4A and all current Grade 5 bands will be put into Grade 4B.



It is suggested that these changes be made effective on January 1, 2016. This would allow over a year for band's to prepare for the change, giving ample time for tune selection and practice before the first competitions with the new rules in effect.

\* If bands wish to compete in Scotland and partake in other Highland Games, apart from the World Pipe Band Championships, please check with that Highland Games for entry form requirements. I am more than happy to assist anyone who has questions on the matter. <http://www.rspba.org/html/calendar.php>  
ross.r.naismith@gmail.com

In conclusion, I go back to the link provided multiple times in this proposal, as it really lays it out well what I'd like to do.  
<http://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes.php>

Thanks for your time.

**FAILED**