

Allowance of Instructors in Grade 2 – Submitted by the Irish Pipers of San Francisco

Affected language in the Contest Rules:

7.23.2. Registered Instructor Policy: Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, 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 **Instructors for Grade 2 bands may not act as the Pipe Major or lead drummer**. A higher-grade band may have more than one piper or drummer who serves as instructors of Grade II, 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.

Rationale for the proposed rule change:

This rule change will facilitate the movement of Grade 3 bands into Grade 2.

There are currently only two Grade 1-2 ("higher-grade") bands in WUSPBA. As a result, many Grade 3 bands do not have any members who have experience playing in a higher-grade band anytime recently. It is pretty widely acknowledged that the standard of play for a Grade 2 band is much higher than it is for a Grade 3 band. So for a Grade 3 band, the idea of making this leap without the guidance of any experienced higher-grade band players in the circle is extremely daunting.

In order to promote an increasing standard of musical performance throughout the association, WUSPBA should do whatever it can, within reason, to facilitate the upgrading of bands. This is especially true for the Grade 3 – Grade 2 transition, as there is a particularly noticeable lack of Grade 2 bands in WUSPBA. For Grade 3 bands that may be considering making the leap to Grade 2, this rule change will simply remove one potential obstacle to that upgrade.

It is true that a new Grade 2 band could still seek the guidance of an instructor at band practices without this rule change. However, the assistance of an instructor who also plays in the circle is far more valuable in terms of being able to assess how the band actually performs under the pressures of competition. An instructor in the circle is in a far better position to assist the Pipe Major and Lead Drummer than one standing on the sidelines.

Comparison with other associations:

There are currently 6 Associations within ANAPBA that allow instructors in Grade 2 bands.

- Pipers and Pipe Band Association of Ontario
 - Piping Instructor and Drumming Instructor allowed only as Pipe Major or Lead Drummer
- Eastern United States Pipe Band Association
 - Piping or Drumming Instructor allowed. No requirement to be PM or LD
- Alberta Society of Pipers and Drummers
 - Piping or Drumming Instructor allowed. May not be the PM or LD
- Atlantic Canada Pipe Band Association
 - Instructors allowed in a lower grade band. Must be listed as PM, LD or instructor
- Prairie Pipe Band Association on Manitoba
 - Instructors allowed. 1 piping and 1 drumming instructor on the lower bands nominal roll
- Saskatchewan Pipe Band Association
 - A senior piping or drumming instructor may appear on the nominal roll of a junior band.

EC RECOMMENDED