



Western United States Pipe Band Association 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes Saturday, December 2, 2023

- Stu Baker called the meeting to order at 9:00 am MST
- Quorum established: 1/3 of active bands (21) needed, 35 bands represented
- Welcome by Jeff Mann, President's message posted on website
 - EC members present introduced themselves
- Approval of minutes from 2022 AGM
 - Suzan Karayel suggested that the minutes include a copy of the 2023 budget as passed
 - With above amendment: **minutes approved**
- Elections:
 - President
 - Nominees: Andrew Morrill
 - **Andrew Morrill elected by acclamation**
 - Exec Sec
 - Nominees: Connor Studulski
 - **Connor Studulski elected by acclamation**
 - Treasurer
 - Nominees: Robert Baxter, incumbent
 - **Robert Baxter reelected by acclamation**
 - Band Registrar
 - Nominees: Charlie Butterworth, incumbent
 - **Charlie Butterworth reelected by acclamation**
- **New Business**
 - Circle of Honor Inductees:
 - **Diane Hossack** - presented by Kevin Conquest
 - **Liza McAdam** - presented by Kevin Conquest
 - **Davey McAdam** - presented by Kevin Conquest



- **Martha Hall** - presented by Jeff Mann
- **BJ Gunn** - presented by Jeff Mann

- Music Board Report - **Ryan Murray**, Music Board Chair
 - The process used by the music board for grading and regrading soloists and bands was described
 - The appeal process for grading applications was described
 - Judging panels:
 - The music board is working with new adjudicators
 - The Continuing Accreditation Program (CAP) is ongoing
 - Judging workshops are planned
 - Music board is meeting with ANAPBA to align judging requirements

- Bylaws Amendment Proposals:
 - B-1 Housekeeping - both changes passed as proposed:
 - New wording:
 - 7.5. Publication of Nominees: The names of members who have been nominated and who have accepted the nomination will be ~~printed in the fall issue of the WUSPBA newsletter if the nominations were received by the publication date.~~ Additionally, nominations are posted to the association website if received at least forty (40) days in advance of the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
 - 32.8.1. Powers: Branches shall not have the power to grant contest permits (see Article ~~165~~, but a branch or any of its member bands may promote contests.

 - B-2 Band Contest - passed with amendment
 - New wording:
 - 58.2. Band Contests Under WUSPBA Rules: Any contest located within the Western United States involving pipers and drummers playing in concert together and being judged as a unit, except in street parades, shall be considered a band contest. ~~and shall be held under the rules of the Association.~~

 - B-3 Adjudicator Approval - all changes passed as proposed
 - New wording:
 - 48.3. Exceptions: Games proposing the use of an adjudicator that is from a jurisdiction which does not make their list available, without an adjudicator approval process for the desired discipline, or who is not on the approved



adjudicator list, shall obtain timely approval by the Association Executive Committee prior to the engagement. The Sanctioning Secretary will contact the Executive Committee for approval.

- 58.1.3. Names of Judges: The contest organizer must submit the names of the judges engaged from the approved panel of judges to the ~~Executive Committee~~ Sanctioning Secretary at least four (4) weeks prior to the date of the contest.
- 58.1.4. Outside Judges: Contest organizers wishing to use judges from outside the area of the Association must submit the names of those judges for approval ~~by~~ to the ~~Executive Committee~~ Sanctioning Secretary at least six (6) weeks prior to the date of the contest.
- Contest Rules Amendment Proposals:
 - C-1 ANAPBA Major Contest Rules - passed as proposed with friendly amendment and recommendation to post ANAPBA rules on WUSPBA website
 - New wording:
 - 8.7.7. ANAPBA Championship Rules: In cases where contest sponsors wish to adopt the ANAPBA championship rules for a contest held within WUSPBA jurisdiction and wish the contest to be sanctioned by WUSPBA, the Executive Committee must approve the request. The contest sponsor shall submit a formal request through the Sanctioning Secretary no less than ~~one hundred and eighty~~ forty-five (45) days prior to the requested contest. The Executive Committee shall return the results of the request to the contest sponsor no later than ~~one hundred and twenty~~ thirty (30) days prior to the contest.
 - C-2 Rename Novice Practice Chanter - passed as proposed
 - New wording:
 - 2.1. Grade Designation: Piping competitions shall be organized into the following classes:
 - A: Open (Highest category for light music and Piobaireachd)
 - B: Amateur light music grades-1, 2, 3, 4, and 5
 - C: Amateur Piobaireachd grades-1, 2, 3, and 4A competitor may have different grade designations for Light Music and Piobaireachd. ~~Novice Practice Chanter~~ is restricted to individuals competing only on the practice chanter, and is not open to any individual who plays the bagpipes in other solo or band contests. Competition in ~~Novice Practice Chanter~~ is unsanctioned and does not require solo membership in the WUSPBA.



All other grades are sanctioned and the competition requirements are outlined in Tables 1 and 2. Game sponsors do not have to offer all of the events in each grade. However, when events are offered, individual competitors shall submit the number of tunes according to grade and type of competition.

When an event requires the submission of multiple tunes, the competitor does not have the privilege of organizing the tunes into sets. For example, in the case of Open MSR, the competitor submits four (4) Marches, four (4) Strathspeys, and four (4) Reels and may be required to play any one of the Marches with any one of the Strathspeys and any one of the Reels.

- C-3 Rename Novice Practice Pad - passed as proposed
 - New wording:
 - 3.1. Grade Designation: Snare drumming competitions are organized into six (6) grades each denoting a specific expectation of ability and experience. The grades are from 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, and Open ranging from introductory to advanced. Novice Practice Pad is restricted to individuals competing only on the practice pad playing rudiments and is not open to any individual who plays the snare drum in other solo or band contests. Competition in Novice Practice Pad is unsanctioned and does not require solo membership in the WUSPBA.
All other grades are sanctioned, and the competition requirements are outlined in Table 3. Game sponsors do not have to offer all of the events in each grade. However, when events are offered, individual competitors shall submit the number of tunes according to grade and type of competition.
- C-4 Band Draw - passed as proposed
 - New wording:
 - 9.2. Order of Play: Each band taking part in a contest shall send a representative to draw for order of play. The drawing shall take place on the field not less than two hours before the contest. When a band is not represented at the draw, a member of the Executive Committee may carry out the draw for said band. The order of play will be decided by ~~ballot~~ random draw and the time and order of play will be posted at the association headquarters. An official clock shall be on display to reflect the official time as well as to record the length of band medleys. These clocks shall be furnished by the WUSPBA and maintained and supplied on loan by each branch. Any band refusing or failing to play according to the draw may be disqualified. In case of emergency, contact the onsite WUSPBA Contest Steward or a member of the WUSPBA Executive Committee.
- C-5 Emergency Tenor - passed as proposed



- New wording:
 - 7.2.8 Emergency Tenor or Bass Drummer Substitution: If a band finds itself without their tenor or bass drummer required for minimum numbers as stated in subsection 8.4 within 15 days of a contest due to unforeseen circumstances, and has no other registered tenor or bass drummer available for the contest, any playing member on the current band roster may play ~~bass drum at~~ in that position to make up minimum numbers for that contest. The substitute tenor or bass drummer cannot be registered ~~as a bass drummer on that instrument~~ with any other band in any grade except where allowed by the Juvenile Bands rule 7.2.6. This will not supersede any other roster requirements.

A Band representative shall notify the Band Registrar and the Branch President where the contest will take place as soon as the band becomes aware that a substitution under this rule will be necessary. The substitute bass drummer will have “tenor drummer” or “bass drummer” added as a secondary role on the roster effective immediately. A band representative shall also notify the designated WUSPBA Contest Steward on the day of the contest, no later than one hour before the contest starts. The band representative will be expected to produce a roster validated by the Band Registrar more than 15 days prior to the contest, as well the updated validated roster provided by the Band registrar as a result of the substitution, if one has been provided.

- C-6 Multiple Skill Musicians - failed, but plan to resolve issue by changes to R2 system

- C-7 Overall Winners at Contests - passed with friendly amendment
 - New wording:
 - 1.7. Solo Leets: Where a solo contest will consist of more than approximately twenty (20) entries, the contest should be divided into two or more smaller sections. The contest sponsor determines the players in each section randomly, except in grade four or lower events, where the contest sponsor may elect to determine the sections by age. If determining the sections by age, the contest will be divided into juvenile (under 18) and adult. Any grade four or lower section still exceeding twenty entries will be divided randomly. No playoff is required for split events. Prizes and WUSPBA aggregate points will be awarded for each leet. Each leet within a particular grade should contain the same players for all events. ~~However, if there is an overall trophy for the grade or age division, one of the following methods should be used to determine the aggregate winner.~~



If there is an overall trophy or award for a solo grade, or age division, the contest sponsor shall use an objective, merit-based method to determine the overall aggregate winner for the grade/division. Suggested methods for making this determination are contained in the Contest Manual. Overall aggregate winners and trophies are not tracked by WUSPBA.

~~Method #1: Assignment of aggregate points:~~

~~The aggregate winner for a grade, or age division, should be determined over all events (minimum of two events). The following table details the points to be awarded for each placing. The aggregate winner for a grade, or age division, is the soloist with the highest point total.~~

~~In the event two or more competitors have the same aggregate point total the soloist's~~

~~placings in individual events shall be used to break the tie. The following table details the order events should be used to break a tie.~~

~~If a tie cannot be broken the contest organizer has the option of: 1. awarding the aggregate to more than one soloist, or 2. holding a playoff between the soloists that qualify for the aggregate.~~

~~Method #2: Playoff~~

~~The playoff method should be used for grades that only offer one (1) event, and are split into leets. The top two (2) or three (3) players from each leet will play against each other for the overall grade trophy. Where possible, the playoff adjudicator should not have judged any of the original grade sections. All playoff competitors must be notified of the playoff time and location no later than thirty (30) minutes before the start of the contest playoff.~~

~~Both tables included in Rule 1.7 will also be deleted.~~

- Treasurer's Report - **Robert Baxter**
 - 2024 budget, as approved by EC, was presented
 - **Katie Strausser** spoke to IT budget, including R2 upgrades and new email system
 - Robert explained that the auditor was unable to complete the audit of 2022 in time to present results at this meeting, however the plan is to complete audit for both 2022 and 2023 early in the new year and results will be shared with membership

- Games Organizers Reports:
 - Queen Mary contest will now be delayed until 2025



- Redding Invitational on for 1st weekend of March, grade 1 aggregate will be invited to the Sun Belt Invitational
 - Phoenix games will take place, also on the first weekend of March
 - Pipes and Pubs will take place March 23 in Lodi, including solos and G4 & G5 bands
 - Vegas Games will take place in April 13/14
 - Pipes and Pubs #2 also in April, solos and bands
 - Glendora solo competition 1st weekend in May
 - Grand Valley contest also the first weekend of May
 - Costa Mesa - Memorial weekend as usual
 - Utah Scottish Games on for 3rd weekend of June
 - San Diego Games on for 4th weekend of June
 - Payson Games will be on July 2
 - Flagstaff Games will be in July (2nd or 3rd weekend)
 - New event - Golden State Indoor solo contest on July 27
 - Pleasanton will continue on Labor Day weekend
 - Macleod Ale solo contest will be towards the end of September
 - Seaside Highland games in Ventura on October 12/13, including Angus MacDonald solo invitational
 - Moab will take place 3rd weekend of October
 - Tucson contest will take place 1st weekend of November
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- Office of Strategic Planning for Games Organizers (OSPGO) Report - **Suzan Karayel**
 - Suzan described the work that the committee is doing including updating the contest manual, training stewards, encouraging involvement of games organizers with stewards. “Office hours” will be available to games organizers to ask questions or get help with any problems.
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- Press Secretary Report - **Sue Jacobi**
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- Youth Education Report - **Connor Studulski and Logan Gorsuch**
 - Outgoing YEC chair Connor introduced incoming chair Logan. Together they described successful past season of YEC sponsored activities as well as events planned for the 2024 season



- **Other Business**
 - AGM date
 - After discussion around the merits of getting back to a regularly scheduled, predictable date for future AGMs, and a variety of dates, the 4th weekend of October, going forward, was proposed and passed a general vote. The next AGM will take place on **Saturday, October 26, 2024.**

- The meeting was adjourned at 12:19 MST