**Proposal to change the language of the current WUSPBA solo grading bylaws**

**Proposed by April White**

While Article 14 of the WUSBPA bylaws states that “All new solo competitors applying for membership in the Association shall be referred to the Music Board for a recommended grade,” in practice, a new member registers on R2 and is placed in grade 4 or 5 without option for a higher grade, regardless of musical experience. If that grade is actually beneath their abilities, because not all players begin solo competition right away, that player is stuck in that grade, and limited to once-per-year regrade requests, despite the language in 54.2 that allows for the Executive Committee to regrade any soloist at any time during the contest season.

For reference, the MWPBA and BC Pipers Association both expressly allow for mid-season regrades, and furthermore, the CLASP has specific language allowing for regrade consideration if two independent judges grade a member above or below grade (see below).

In consideration of our Association’s desire to foster and encourage the educational momentum that could result in accelerated upgrades, and our continued need for new and talented musicians, I propose language to further clarify and define our mid-season regrade option:

54.2. Regrading During a Contest Season: The Executive Committee may regrade any soloist at any time during the contest season if such a course of action should be deemed necessary, or in the event two different judges recommend a higher/lower grade for a member before June 1. In that circumstance, a soloist may apply for regrade no later than June 1 of any competition year for mid-season consideration by the regrade committee. Members who move grades mid-season will not be able to retain the aggregate points of their old grade.

**Supporting Material:**

WUSPBA Bylaws:

Article 14. Solo Grading 54. Policy: The Executive Committee shall, on the recommendation of the Music Board, place all solo competitors into an appropriate competitive grade. 54.1. Use of a Grading Chart: The Executive Committee shall have the power to consider the Solo Registrar’s grading chart when the annual regrading occurs. 54.2. Regrading During a Contest Season: The Executive Committee may regrade any soloist at any time during the contest season if such a course of action should be deemed necessary. A soloist may not apply for regrade outside of the annual regrading period. 55. New Soloists: All new solo competitors applying for membership in the Association shall be referred to the Music Board for a recommended grade. The Music Board shall send this recommendation to the Executive Committee for approval. 55.1. Readmission: When a solo competitor applies for readmission to the Association, he or she shall be placed in his or her former grade. 55.2. Appeal: Upon readmission, a solo competitor may appeal the assigned grade within thirty (30) days. The competitor must submit a written appeal along with a recent video recording to the Music Board for an appropriate grade recommendation.

MWPBA rules:

∙ The Music Board will review solo competitors after the last Games of the MWPBA outdoor season. Any soloist may be re-graded if appropriate. The Music Board may re-grade, either up or down, any soloist at any time during the year to correct what the Music Board determines is a serious grading disparity.

BC Pipers Association rules:

4.2 Grading 4.2.1 Competitors shall compete in the grade appropriate for their ability, as determined by the Association. A list of competitors promoted to each grade shall be published by the Association in September of each year. 4.2.2 A competitor may play in a grade of higher ability at a competition outside the Association's sanctioning jurisdiction if the competitor's grade is not offered in the external jurisdiction. 4.2.3 The Association shall have the authority to re-grade a competitor at any time.

CLASP

**1st - 14th November** - A final window for members to appeal their CLASP grade. Please note that anyone who appealed in the July appeal window should not reapply at this time. The only exception to this rule will apply to a member who receives two recommendations from two different judges, with regards to their standard being above/below the grade they are currently competing in. If this situation occurs, the CLASP Grading Committee will meet to discuss whether the member should be regraded. However, other than this scenario, CLASP will not accept any regrading requests out with the July or November window dates.

**End of November** - Pipers who have appealed within the November time window will receive notification on whether their appeal is successful or not. Please note that members who move grades midseason, will not be able to retain the points they have accumulated in their old grade. Also, this will not affect other CLASP Members points who may have competed against any regraded members