Band Judge Duties – Submitted by Office of Strategic Planning for Games Organizers (OSPGO)

Existing Text (Contest Rules):

**Part II. Pipe Band Contest Rules**

…

**9. Contest Administration**

…

9.6. Judge Duties: The judging of a pipe band contest will commence with the first beat of the attack or introduction and shall cease on the last note in the last tune in the set being played. Each judge will be provided with score sheets suitably printed for the allocation of points and remarks. The score sheets must be completed in duplicate and passed to the steward at the end of each event. When less than the maximum number of points is awarded, the judge shall be required to provide constructive criticism in the remarks column. Judges shall not condemn a band for the setting of a tune. Judges shall be in the open, but must not approach nearer than two (2) yards to any member of the competing band, nor shall the judges converse with one another during the entire contest.

The minimum number of judges engaged at any band contest shall be three. There shall be one or two piping judges, one drumming judge and one an ensemble judge. In the case of a mini-band contest, only one piping judge and one drumming judge are required.

No judge shall be allowed to judge a contest in which his or her own band is competing.

Proposed Text (Contest Rules):

**Part II. Pipe Band Contest Rules**

…

**9. Contest Administration**

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9.6. Judge Duties: The judging of a pipe band contest will commence with the first beat of the attack or introduction and shall cease on the last note in the last tune in the set being played. Each judge will be provided with score sheets suitably printed for the allocation of ~~points and~~ remarks, which~~. The score sheets~~ must be completed ~~in duplicate~~ and passed to the steward at the end of each event. In the alternative, each judge may be provided with equipment suitable for recording audio remarks. ~~When less than the maximum number of points is awarded, t~~The judge shall be required to provide constructive criticism to each band, ~~in the remarks column~~ and complete a separate summary sheet ranking each band in the contest. Judges shall not condemn a band for the setting of a tune. Judges shall be in the open, but must not approach nearer than two (2) yards to any member of the competing band, nor shall the judges converse with one another during the entire contest.

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Rationale

The judges’ sheets for band contests have not reflected a points-based ranking system in a decade or more, so the references to “points” are out of date. Judges are expected to provide constructive criticism to all of the bands. Additionally, the specific requirement of completing sheets “in duplicate” is no longer necessary. As WUSPBA transitions to sheets that have been pre-printed with competitor and contest information, and digital submission of results (as opposed to mailing in paper copies), carbon copy duplicate sheets are not strictly necessary anymore.

Also, as we look even further to the future, it would be beneficial to expand to allow for the use of audio comments as an alternative to written comments. Audio comments allow the judges to focus more on the band, which in turn allows them to make more and better comments. Bands don’t have to decipher hurried chicken scratch, and instead receive recordings that allow them to hear their own playing with each judge’s comments, so they can hear exactly what the judge is talking about.