

Solo Piping Contest Grades, Proposed by EC (Contest Rules)

1. Piping

- 1.1. 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 4

A competitor may have different grade designations for Light Music and Piobaireachd.

~~Grade 5~~ 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 ~~Grade 5~~ 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.

Grade	Competition Event	Number of Tunes to be Submitted
Open Piping	March, Strathspey and Reel (MSR)	Submit four (4) tunes of each type, play one (1) of each.
	Hornpipe and Jig	Submit three (3) of each type, play one (1) of each.
	2/4 March	Submit four (4) tunes.
	6/8 March	Submit three (3) tunes, play two (2).
	Strathspey and Reel	Submit four (4) tunes of each type, play one (1) of each.
	Jig	Submit four (4) jigs and play one (1) tune (it may be required that the tune be played twice through at the choice of the person responsible for scheduling).
Grade 1	March, Strathspey and Reel (MSR)	Submit two (2) of each type, play one (1) of each.
	Hornpipe and Jig	Submit two (2) of each type, play one (1) of each.
	2/4 March	Submit two (2) tunes.
	6/8 March	Submit two (2) tunes.

	Strathspey and Reel	Submit two (2) of each type, play one (1) of each.
	Jig	Submit two (2) tunes and play one (1) tune (It may be required that the tune be played twice through at the choice of the person responsible for scheduling).
Grade 2	March, Strathspey and Reel (MSR)	Submit two (2) Marches, one (1) Strathspey and one (1) Reel. Play one (1) of each.
	Hornpipe and Jig	Submit one (1) set.
	2/4 March	Submit two (2) tunes.
	6/8 March	Submit one (1) tune.
	Strathspey and Reel	Submit one (1) set.
	Jig	Submit two (2) tunes.
Grade 3	2/4 March	Submit one (1) tune.
	Strathspey and Reel	Submit one (1) set.
	Hornpipe	Submit one (1) tune.
	Jig	Submit one (1) tune.
	6/8 March	Submit one (1) tune.
Grade 4	2/4 March	Submit one (1) tune.
	Slow March	Submit one (1) tune with a minimum of thirty-two (32) bars of music.
	<u>Strathspey and Reel</u>	<u>Submit one (1) 2 parted strathspey and one (1) 2 parted reel</u>
	6/8 March	Submit one (1) tune.
<u>Grade 5</u>	<u>2/4 March</u>	<u>Submit one (1) 2 parted march</u>
	<u>Slow March</u>	<u>Submit one (1) 2 tune with a minimum of thirty-two (32) bars of music.</u>

Rationale:

Most associations have already moved Practice Chanter and Pad out of grade 5.

Most associations have only a grade 5, "2 parted march" only. We would add slow aire/slow march removing it from grade 4 and placing it in grade 5.

A thoughtful stepwise progression working on building up to an MSR in Grade 2 would be more likely achieved if we start incorporating the dance idiom earlier in the development of MSR playing. Jumping from a slow aire, 2/4 and 6/8 march to a strath/reel us a fairly large hurdle especially from such a wide varied grade 4 group. So the proposal would be to add a 2 parted strathspey and 2 parted reel to grade 4 and then it is a simple stepwise progression to go to a full strathspey/reel in grade 3.

The piobaireachd would remain the same in grade 4 although B.C. does add the 2nd variation to their piob in grade 4 and we wouldn't object to that as a friendly amendment.