



Contest Rules

Alliance of North American Pipe Band Associations Major Contest and Championships

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Written by the LVIC Music Board

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PART I: BAND CONTEST RULES

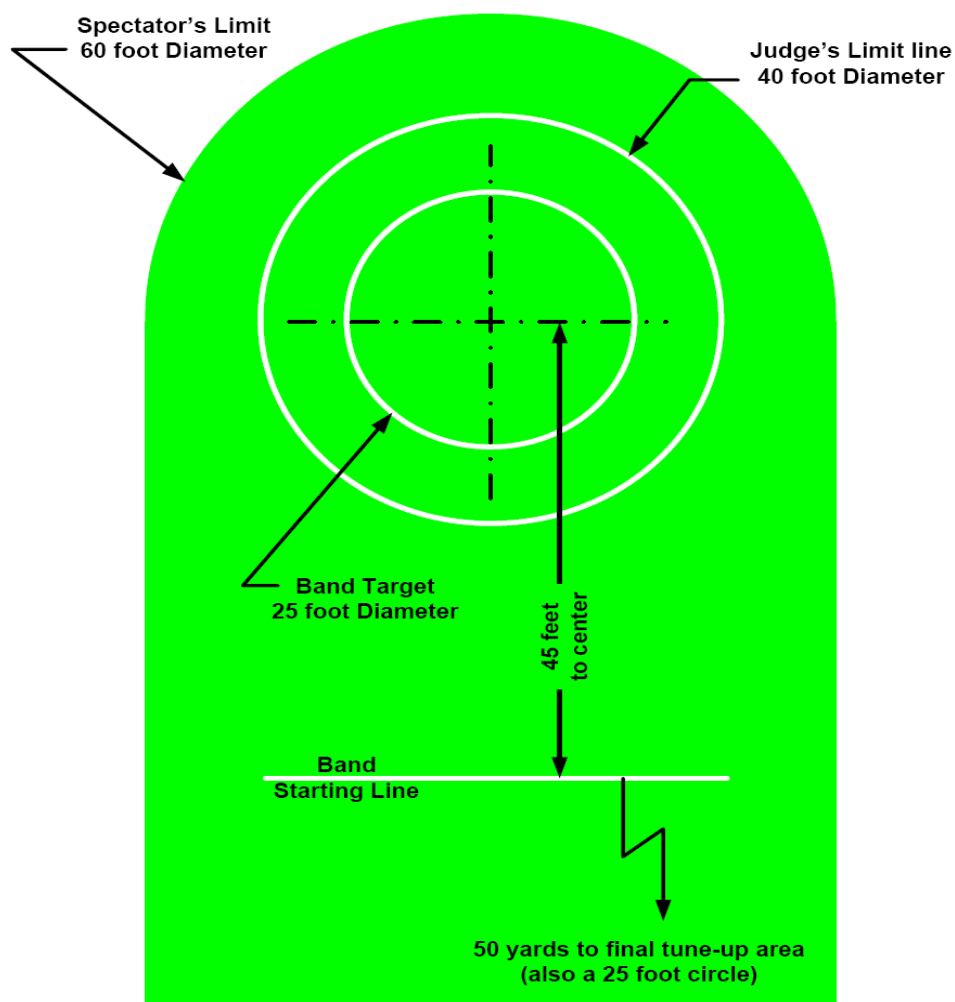
1. All North American bands must be members of an ANAPBA-affiliated piping/pipe band association to be eligible to participate in the Las Vegas Invitational Championships.
2. All bands that are invited to compete at the Las Vegas Invitational Championships must follow membership policies that are non-discriminatory based on race, color, national origin, religion, gender, or sexual orientation.
3. The Las Vegas Invitational Championships will be conducted under the following rules:
 - a) Order of Play:
 - i) The order of play shall be determined one week prior to the contest and each competing band shall be notified via e-mail what the order of play shall be for each event. The time and order of play will be posted online at the Games website and at the Games itself at the competition events headquarters. An official clock shall be on display to reflect the official time as well as to record the length of band events. These clocks shall be furnished and maintained by the Western United States Pipe Band Association (WUSPBA).

ii) Any band refusing or failing to play according to the draw may be disqualified.

b) Competition Areas:

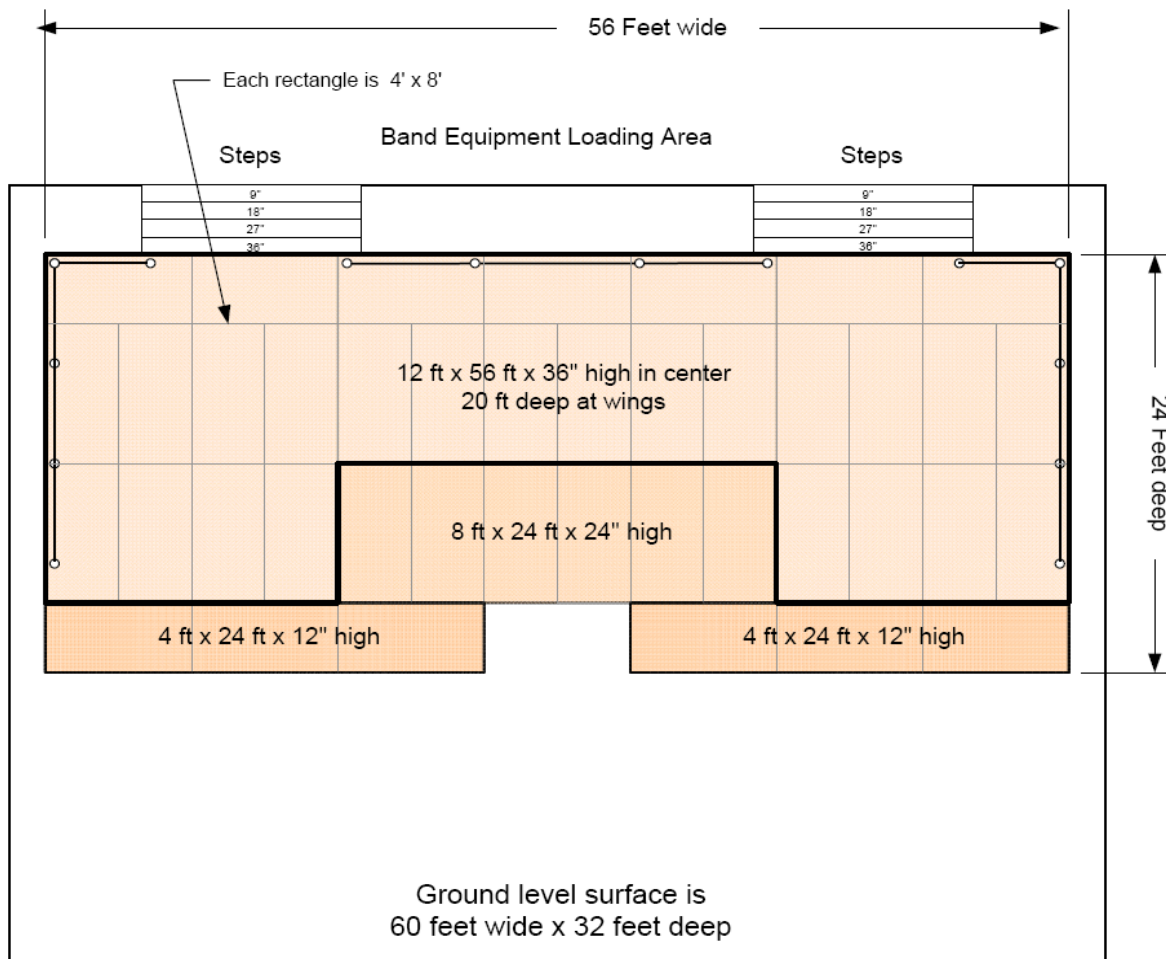
i) The competition circle for the Grade 3 and Grade 4 contests will have the following dimensions: Band Circle – 25 feet diameter; Adjudicators Circle – 40 feet diameter; Spectators Barrier – 60 feet diameter. The starting line will be marked 45 feet from the center of the concentric circles. A Final Tuning Area shall be clearly designated and located approximately 150 feet from the band contest circle. The size of the Final Tuning Area will be at least 25 feet in diameter (diagram below).

Diagram 1: Grade 3 and 4 Competition Circle



- ii) The Grade 1 and 2 performance stage shall be 56' wide and 24' deep, consisting of 3 levels of risers that are 12" higher than the next from the lowest to the highest riser. The riser arrangement from front to back is: one 4' x 24' riser on the right and left sides of the stage; one centered 8' x 24' riser; a U-shaped riser running along the back of the stage and 20' deep along the sides (diagram below). The adjudicators will be seated at tables located off of, but at the front of, the stage at a minimum of 15 feet from the front of the stage and at a level low enough to accommodate the viewing audience.

Diagram: Grade 1 and 2 Performance Stage Layout and Dimensions



c) Sets:

All tunes in the Set Contests will be performed on the Highland Bagpipe, the snare drum, tenor drum, and bass drum.

- i) Each Grade 1 band will submit two March, Strathspey & Reel (MSR) sets consisting of tunes that are all at least four (4) parts in length. One set will be chosen prior to the performance and the band will perform that set on stage in concert formation. The

set will commence with the standard three-beat rolls after the band is in concert formation.

- ii) Each Grade 2 band will submit two MSR sets consisting of tunes that are all at least four (4) parts in length. One set will be chosen prior to the performance and the band will perform that set in concert formation. The set will commence with the standard three-beat rolls after the band is in concert formation.
- iii) Each Grade 3 band will submit one MSR set consisting of tunes that are all at least four (4) parts in length. The band will march into a competition circle commencing the set at the starting line with the standard three-beat rolls.
- iv) Each Grade 4 band will submit a 2 minutes 45 seconds to 4 minutes 30 seconds Quick March Set. Tunes will be standard quick marches of any time signature(s). All tunes are the band's choice, but must be different from those played in the timed medley. The band will march into a competition circle, commencing the set at the starting line with the standard three-beat rolls. Failure to meet both the minimum and maximum time requirements will result in a band's disqualification.

d) Timed Medleys:

All tunes in the Timed Medley Contests will be performed on the Highland Bagpipe, the snare drum, tenor drum, and bass drum. Failure to meet the minimum and maximum time requirements will result in a band's disqualification.

- i) Each Grade 1 band will submit a 5 to 7 minute medley consisting of tunes of the band's choice. The band will perform the medley in concert formation, and the performance will commence at the Pipe Major's signal once the band is onstage and in formation.
- ii) Each Grade 2 band will submit a 4 to 6 minute medley consisting of tunes of the band's choice. The band will perform the medley in concert formation, and the performance will commence at the Pipe Major's signal once the band is onstage and in formation.
- iii) Each Grade 3 band will submit a 3 to 5 minute medley consisting of tunes of the band's choice. The band will march into a competition circle, commencing the medley at the starting line with the standard three-beat rolls.
- iv) Each Grade 4 band will submit a 3 to 5 minute medley consisting of tunes of the band's choice, but these must be tunes other than those submitted for the Quick March Set. The band will march into a competition circle, commencing the medley at the starting line with the standard three-beat rolls.

e) Grade 1 Concert Event:

Grade 1 bands will perform a 12 to 15 minute Free Form Medley. This event will be performed on stage in a concert format and will commence once the band is positioned on stage. This event can be started in a manner of the band's choosing. Players may start and stop their instruments at any time and more than one time during the performance. Bands are free to construct the Free Form Medley for this special event in any manner the band considers musically pleasing while maintaining a predominantly Celtic Idiom. Bands may also incorporate instruments other than traditional pipes and drums, but such instruments can be played only by pipers and drummers registered with the band.

f) Grade 3 and 4 Leets and Timed Medley Final Event:

Grades 3 and 4 will have two Leets for each of their two events. The top 12 bands will be determined by the top 6 aggregate scores from each of the two Leet events. These top 12 bands in each grade will proceed to the Final Event in which they will perform the Timed Medley.

g) Timing:

- i) There will be 10 minutes maximum between the start of one performance and the beginning of the next performance in the Sets and Timed Medley events for all grades. There will be 25 minutes maximum from the start of one performance to the start of the next performance in the Grade I Concert Event. This time period includes the time required for one band to exit at the finish of their performance and the next band to set up on the concert stage ready to perform.
- ii) It is the responsibility of each competing band to be ready to play at their allotted time. The first band to compete will be advised at the draw as to the time it must be at the starting point in the contest arena; thereafter, it is the duty of each succeeding band to move forward as directed by the stewards. For the Sets and Timed Medleys, to reduce the gap between final tuning and competing to the lowest possible margin, there will be a five (5) minute MAXIMUM time period from the conclusion of one band's performance or from the posted time of play, whichever is later, to the appearance of the following band (in the same contest) at the starting position ready to play, or face disqualification.
- iii) In the event of a delay in the contest for any reason the Games stewards will inform the bands of the adjustment in times. It will be each band's responsibility to adjust their starting time accordingly and be ready to play at the adjusted time. In case of a gap caused by a band's inability to compete, there will be a 5-minute maximum time period from the conclusion of one band's performance or from the posted time of play, whichever is later, for the next band in the order of play to be ready to play.
- iv) The officials shall mark off final tuning areas in the closest possible proximity to the contest arenas, and bands should move forward to these areas upon request. Stewards may be provided as an aid to bands, but they carry no responsibility for the attendance

of any band in the playing area. The final responsibility rests with each band to be at the starting point as and when required, and any band failing to do so and not complying with official instructions is subject to immediate disqualification.

h) Band Numbers:

Grade 1, 2 and 3 bands taking part in a pipe band contest shall comprise not less than ten (10) players: six (6) pipers, two (2) side drummers, one (1) bass drummer, and one (1) tenor drummer. Grade 4 bands taking part in a pipe band contest shall comprise not less than nine (9) players: six (6) pipers, two (2) side drummers, and one (1) bass drummer.

i) Dress:

All bands will wear a traditional highland dress uniform, or Celtic uniform designated by the Pipe Major.

j) Registration:

- i) Each competing band shall furnish to the Games Registrar at least 30 days prior to the commencement of Las Vegas Invitational Championships an official roster of the band's members. With the exception of registered instructors and dual musicians, a person may not be a registered member of more than one band anywhere in the world (i.e., no guest players). No transfers will be allowed after the registration period. The list must be signed by the Pipe Major or Band Manager and must show each individual's name, address, phone number and role in the band. The Games Registrar shall return to the Pipe Major or Band Manager a signed, validated copy of the list which must be carried by the Pipe Major or by his or her deputy at the contest and shall be available for inspection by the Invitational Championships representative(s).
- ii) No person shall be allowed to play with a band in the Las Vegas Invitational Championships who is not shown as a registered member on the roster validated by the Games Registrar for that band.
- iii) Registered Instructor Policy: Any ANAPBA affiliated band may register, for this competition, one piping instructor and/or one drumming instructor who are also registered with another, higher-graded band. Upon registering a player as instructor, a band shall provide documentation of the instructor's primary band membership and contact information for the instructor. Instructors of Grade 2 bands shall not be permitted to compete with the instructed band at this competition. Registered instructors of Grade 3 or Grade 4 bands may compete with the band, and may act as the band's pipe major or lead drummer. However, the instructor(s) shall not be permitted to make up the minimum number of pipers or drummers required for competition within the grade of the band registering the instructor(s) as such. A player may register as an instructor for only one band per grade. The draw will not be changed in order to accommodate time conflicts for these playing instructors.

- iv) Dual Musicians: A musician may play one instrument (pipes, snare drum, tenor drum, bass drum) with one band and a different instrument with another band of a different grade, provided that he or she is registered on each band roster with the appropriate instruments. The draw will not be changed in order to accommodate time conflicts for dual musicians.

k) Band Grade:

Bands which are invited to compete at the Las Vegas Invitational Championships shall compete in the Grade in which they qualified during the previous competition season irrespective of their current Grade. Bands will not be allowed to play up for this contest.

l) Band Officials at Contest:

Only officials and competitors will be allowed inside the designated contest areas. Any information shall be obtained from the band's steward or Contest Committee representative.

m) Protests and Disputes:

- i) The Las Vegas Invitational Championships shall have a Contest Committee which shall have the power to deal with all complaints, disputes, and protests relating to the contest and shall ensure that the rules of the Games are fully complied with.
- ii) Protests: All complaints or protests should be made in writing and be lodged with the Contest Secretary before the distribution of prizes, accompanied by a deposit of \$5.00. Such deposit shall be returnable if the complaint or protest is upheld, but may be forfeited if the complaint or protest is found to be unwarranted. If a complaint or protest by a band is lodged against any other band on the grounds of substituted personnel or other registration irregularities the matter shall be dealt with by the Contest Committee, whose decision shall be binding on all parties concerned. Should the aggrieved party disagree with the findings of the Contest Committee, they shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final. Pending the result of the appeal all parties concerned shall accept the findings of the Contest Committee.
- iii) The Contest Committee, on the day of the contest and before the distribution of prizes, being satisfied that a band has willfully violated any of the rules, shall have power to debar such band from the list, suspend the decision of the adjudicators and award the prizes to the respective bands next in order of merit. The Executive Committee shall have the power to act similarly after the contest if satisfied that a violation of the rules has taken place.

- iv) Any registered member who interferes with, threatens, or uses abusive language towards the adjudicators, officials, stewards or members of the Committee at any contest shall be subject to expulsion from the Games site as well as referral to the appropriate Association for possible suspension from that Association.

4. Adjudication for the Las Vegas Invitational Championships

- a) All adjudicators invited to adjudicate at the Las Vegas Invitational Championships will be “Unattached”. By “Unattached” all of the following conditions apply. Adjudicators will not be active playing members of Grade 1 through Grade 4 bands, nor will they be regular instructors (i.e. an adjudicator who provides a trend of instructional sessions that would be considered to be the most significant influence on the musicality, technique, tone or ensemble of the band's resulting performances) for any band competing in the Las Vegas Invitational Championships. They will not be involved in the manufacture of instruments used by pipe bands. They will not adjudicate a pipe band that contains an immediate relative (i.e., an adjudicator's parents, siblings, children, spouse, or common law partner).
- b) All adjudicators will be accredited by their respective piping/pipe band associations to adjudicate at the highest levels and will be well recognized for their expertise, fairness, and unbiased opinions.
- c) Adjudication Panels:
 - i) For the Sets and Timed Medley contests, each adjudicating panel will consist of 3 piping adjudicators, 2 drumming adjudicators, and 2 ensemble adjudicators. One ensemble adjudicator will have a primarily piping background and one ensemble adjudicator will have a primarily drumming background.
 - ii) For the Grade 1 Concert Event, the adjudicating panel will consist of an odd number of adjudicators, with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 23.
- d) Adjudicators' Duties:
 - i) The adjudication of the Sets and Timed Medleys 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 or timed medley being played.
 - ii) The adjudication of the Grade 1 Concert Event will commence with the start of the performance. As the start may very well be non-traditional, each adjudicator will be responsible for recognizing said start.
 - iii) Each adjudicator will be provided with score sheets suitably printed for the allocation of points and remarks. For the Grade 1 Concert Event, all adjudicators will use a common score sheet specifically designed for the event..

- iv) When adjudicating an event utilizing the competition circle, adjudicators will be in the open, but must not approach nearer than the adjudicator's circle.
- v) All adjudicators will be required to provide for each band's performance, a unique ranking as well as constructive criticism on the band's score sheet. The adjudicator shall assign a ranking of "1" to the band placing first in his/her decision, a ranking of "2" to the band placing second in his/her decision, etc.

e) Tally Committee:

The contest organizer shall form a Tally Committee whose responsibilities will be the verification of adjudicator's scores, and tabulation of the contest results. The Tally Committee should not contain any members of a band that has taken part in the Contest being tabulated. The Tally Committee should include a member of the Las Vegas Invitational Championships Executive Committee who can act as the ANAPBA Representative on the Tally Committee. This person or a designated representative shall supervise, check, and initial the completed summaries of the adjudicators' results.

f) Determination and communication of contest results:

- i) For the Sets and Timed Medley contests, to ensure Piping, Drumming and Ensemble weightings of 50%, 25% and 25% respectively, each band's rankings from all 7 adjudicators shall be added together plus the Average Piping Ranking. The Tally Committee shall use these totals to determine the overall rank of the bands from highest to lowest. The band with the lowest total based on these rankings shall place first in the event, the band with the second lowest total in the event shall place second, etc.
- ii) For the Grade 1 Concert Event, to ensure that it is equally weighted with each of the MSR and Timed Medley events, each band's rankings from all the adjudicators in the Concert Event shall be added together, the resulting value shall be divided by the number of adjudicators in the Concert event, and then multiplied by 8 to produce a Scaled Average Ranking. The Tally Committee shall use the Scaled Average Rankings to determine the overall rank of the bands from highest to lowest. The band with the lowest Scaled Average Ranking shall place first in the Concert event, the band with the second lowest Scaled Average Ranking shall place second in the Concert event, etc.
- iii) In the case of a tie in a Set or Timed Medley event in any grade, preference will be given in the following order:
 - 1. the lowest combined ensemble ranking,
 - 2. the lowest combined piping ranking,
 - 3. the band with the greater number of adjudicators placing them ahead of the other tied bands.
 - 4. If still tied, a conference of the adjudicators will break the tie for that event.

- iv) Participants for the Grade 3 and 4 Final Events will be determined by the aggregate sum of the event totals of the two Leet events. In each grade, the bands with the 6 lowest aggregated event totals in each Leet shall participate in the Final event. In the case of a tie, preference will be given to the MSR in Grade 3 and to the Quick March Set in Grade 4.
- v) In the case of a tie in the Grade 1 Concert Event, the tied band with the greater number of adjudicators placing them ahead of the other tied bands will win. If a tie still remains, a conference of adjudicators will determine the winner of the event.
- vi) Final Placings: The Tally Committee will determine the final placings for Grade 3 and 4 bands based on the event total in the Timed Medley Final Event offered for each Grade. For Grades 3 and 4, the band with the lowest event total will place first in the grade, the band with the second lowest event total will place second in the grade, etc. The Tally Committee will determine the final placings for Grade 2 bands based on the aggregate sum of event totals for the MSR and Timed Medley events in the grade. For Grade 2 bands, the band with the lowest aggregate sum of event totals will place first overall in the grade, the band with the second lowest aggregate sum of event totals will place second overall in the grade, etc. The Tally Committee will determine the final placings for Grade 1 bands based on the Scaled Average Ranking for the Concert event plus the aggregate sum of event totals for the MSR and Timed Medley events in the grade. For Grade 1 bands, the band with the lowest summed value will place first overall in the grade, the band with the second lowest summed value will place second overall in the grade, etc.
- vii) Band Prizes: Band prizes shall be awarded for the first five places in each grade as follows: For Grade 1, the overall placings. For Grade 2, the overall placings. For Grade 3, the placings in the Timed Medley Final. For Grade 4, the placings in the Timed Medley Final.
- viii) In case of a tie in the overall totals in Grades 1 and 2, preference will be given according to the placing in the MSR event.
- ix) Band Points Sheets: The original adjudicators' score sheets shall be given to the bands after the distribution of prizes. The duplicate sheets will remain with the WUSPBA.
- x) Summary Sheets: As soon after a contest as possible, the ANAPBA Representative shall compile a summary of the results and submit a copy to the sponsor for posting.

PART II: CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct document will form the guiding principles to establish benchmark standards of behavior for all band members and adjudicators who participate in the Las Vegas Invitational Championships. The Code of Conduct is intended to provide broad guidelines to govern the behavior of all players and adjudicators.

□ BAND MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

All band members will be expected to behave in a courteous and respectful manner towards their peers, adjudicators, Games organizers, members of affiliated associations, other competitors, and the public.

Offenses may include, but are not limited to, such actions as public insult, infractions of rules and regulations, property damage, physical assault, and any other behavior generally deemed to be inappropriate and unacceptable.

Responsibility: All band members shall be responsible for their own behavior and actions, whether individually or collectively incurred. In cases where offending behavior of band members can be shown to result from a corporate or collective nature, sanctions shall be directed towards the band as a whole. Failure to adhere to this code of conduct may result in disciplinary actions from the LVIC Organizers including exclusion from further participation in the Games as well as possible disciplinary actions from the appropriate association(s).

□ ADJUDICATORS' CODE OF CONDUCT

The quality, objectivity, and impartiality of adjudicators are crucial to the success of the competitive system and to the reputation of the Las Vegas Invitational Championships. When any accredited adjudicator accepts a position on the LVIC judging panel, that individual accepts the responsibility of such membership. The adjudicator has serious responsibilities to the competitors, to event organizers, and to fellow adjudicators and it is expected that the highest standards of knowledge, of character, and of behavior will be upheld.

Adjudicators must, as far as humanly possible, attempt impartiality on both a personal and musical level, and focus on the performance of the moment so that all competitors receive a fair assessment, relative only to the competition of the day.

Adjudicators must be reliable, prompt, and appropriately equipped to fulfill their duties. They must be attired in proper Highland Dress (subject to climatic and weather conditions).

Adjudicators must actively seek to familiarize themselves with the rules of the LVIC and to apply those rules with good judgment. All required procedures for marking, placing, and assessing competitors' performance should be strictly observed. Adjudicators must not release results prior to formal prize-giving.

Finally, Adjudicators shall not publicly make statements, or engage in any conduct that causes insult, disrespect, or intimidation to any other adjudicator, competitor, Games organizer or official, or any other member of the public.

PART III: MASSED BANDS

Performance at Massed Bands at the end of each of the three contest days is mandatory for all competing bands at the Las Vegas Invitational Championships. Unless there are extenuating circumstances all band members are expected to perform with their respective bands and all participants will be in proper highland dress. Bands must form up 10 minutes prior to the start of Massed Bands and no players will be allowed onto the field after the bands commence the March-In.

All bands will be expected to play the following tunes over the course of the weekend

When the Battle's O'er and Green Hills of Tyrol.
Cornwaith Mill (No Awa' ta Bide Awa')
Barren Rocks of Aden (2 parts)
Highland Laddie (2 parts)
Scotland the Brave (Piper's Delight)
Bonnie Dundee
Amazing Grace

The bands will be under the direction of the Senior Drum Major of the Games and to maintain unison playing of such a large group it will be necessary to follow the tempo the Drum Major sets as closely as possible.

All bands shall maintain proper conduct from the time they take the field for Massed Bands until they leave the field. Military deportment while at attention and at ease is particularly important. Any behavior detrimental to the pageantry of Massed Bands could result in sanctions against the offending individuals or bands including expulsion from the Games and possible loss of travel money. Alcohol on the field is expressly prohibited.