

The National Accordion Organisation of the United Kingdom

Registered Charity No. 1051419

www.accordions.com/nao

FESTIVAL RULES 2005-2006

inc NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

1. QUALIFICATION

- (a) All competitors must be UK citizens or residents.
- (b) The AGE solos and all GRADED sections (solos, duets, groups & orchestral) are for amateur players only
- (c) All other sections are for amateur or professional players. (See guidance note No.1)

2. RESTRICTED ENTRIES AT THE UK CHAMPIONSHIPS

Competitors may enter one recital solo section, one age group solo section, one graded solo section, one polka solo section, one musette solo section, one traditional solo section, one duet section, one group section, one level of graded orchestral section, with the exceptions as defined in Rules 8 & 9, the Frosini solo, Virtuoso Entertainment Solo, Entertainment, Showband, Mixed ability & Club band.

3. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY.

- (a) Competitors must be of the required age on 30th April 2006
- (b) In the UK Championships, all entries are restricted to those having competed in the same section in an area festival during the current season. (Except the recital solo sections) To qualify they must perform the complete piece. However, UK Championship Age solo winners (SB1 – SB6) may defend their title in the following festival season without entry in the current area festival section if still eligible by age

4. OWN CHOICE MUSIC. (See guidance note 9)

- (a) Any competitor placed first, second or third at the UK Championships is not allowed to play the same own choice music/ programme (or any part thereof) at the following two UK Championships (unless listed as a test piece). With the exception of the recital solos.
- (b) No solo/duet competitor may play the same piece in a different section at the same festival.

5. GRADED SOLO SECTIONS AT THE UK CHAMPIONSHIPS.

- (a) In Graded solo sections where there is a separate Test Piece section and Own choice Piece section in Area Festivals; competitors may ONLY qualify to compete at the UK Championships by competing in the TEST Piece section.
- (b) Any competitor placed first in any graded solo section having five competitors or more may not compete again in the same or lower graded section in subsequent years.
- (c) Any competitor placed second or third in any graded solo section having five or more competitors may not compete in lower grade sections in subsequent years.
- (d) Competitors may only enter the Introductory Grade Solo (SC8) twice.
- (e) The Own Choice Piece must appear in the compiled list for the corresponding grade as from the syllabi of the Associated Board, British College of Accordionists, Guildhall School of Music or Victoria College of Music or Scottish Qualification Authority list - Syllabi operational since 1990.

A competitor playing an incorrect piece will be placed LAST in the section.

A compiled list is available on the Internet

6. DUET SECTIONS AT THE UK CHAMPIONSHIPS.

- (a) Accordion Duets consist of two persons each playing an accordion.
- (b) Any duet partnership placed first in any graded duet section having FIVE or more competing entries may not compete in the same or a lower graded section in subsequent years.
- (c) Any duet partnership placed second or third in any graded duet section having FIVE or more competing entries may not compete in a lower graded section in subsequent years.
- (d) That both duet members have to be NAO members to qualify for the reduced entry fee.

7. VIRTUOSO ENTERTAINMENT SOLO, ENTERTAINMENT & SHOWBAND

These sections are for entertainers.

VIRTUOSO ENTERTAINMENT SOLO - Each entry must feature one entertainer playing the accordion

ENTERTAINMENT - Each entry must feature at least one entertainer playing the accordion - with a maximum of six accordionists – other artists may be featured

SHOWBAND - Each entry must feature at least seven accordionists at all times playing an accordion – other artists may be featured. See guidance note 6

8. GROUP SECTIONS

- (a) Groups consist of 3-6 members each playing an accordion, except for the BASS member who may play ANY Bass instrument, electronic or otherwise.
- (b) 50% of the Group must be NAO members to qualify for the reduced entry fee.
- (c) Groups may not be conducted.

9. ORCHESTRAL SECTIONS

- (a) Orchestras must consist of at least SEVEN Accordionists, each playing an accordion, in addition to which THREE other Instruments and percussion may be added. A setting up time of 8 minutes inclusive of a 30 second sound check/warm up is allowed. See guidance notes No 7 and 8
- (b) Players of Bass instruments / Electronium may compete in orchestras of adjacent grades. Players of percussion may compete in more than one orchestra but not in the same section.
- (c) Orchestras competing in graded Own Choice sections at the NAO Area Festivals or the UK Championships must select their Own Choice music from the NAO Accordion Orchestra Graded Music list and may only compete in the own choice section appropriate to the grade of the music selected. Accordion Orchestras who enter a graded test Piece section in addition to a graded own choice section must enter the graded test piece section appropriate to the graded Own Choice section. A compiled list is available on the Internet.

10. ENTRIES

- (a) Official entry forms must be used, which must reach the Festival Organiser by the advertised closing date, accompanied by the appropriate FEES.
- (b) Reduced entry fee concessions apply only to fully paid up NAO members provided they enclose their membership cards with the entry form.
- (c) All orchestras entered in the UK Championship and Area Festivals must have 50% membership of the NAO to qualify for the reduced entry fee.

11. AMPLIFIED ACCORDIONS may not be used in any solo or duet section but may be used in the Virtuoso Solo Entertainment, Entertainment & any Ensemble sections only. NO AUTOMATIC devices eg: midi files etc may be used.

12. PLAYING TIME

- (a) This commences from the moment that an official or adjudicator requests the competitor to commence playing the OWN Choice Programme. Timing is "PLAYING TIME" of the Own Choice Programme. (This includes the Test Piece of sections SB1-SB6)
- (b) Playing UNDER TIME in the own choice programme will result in 2% of total marks possible being deducted from the adjudicators award.
- (c) Playing OVER TIME in the own choice programme will result in the competitor(s) being "belled" at which time the competitor(s) must stop playing immediately in which case the adjudicators mark will stand. (No marks will be deducted if the bell is sounded).
- (d) All dot repeats may be ignored unless essential to the form of the music.

13. ADJUDICATION See *Guidance Note No 11*

- (a) The adjudicator's decision shall be FINAL
- (b) No joint placing is allowed for prize-winning positions.

14. PROTESTS connected with any NAO Festival must be made in writing and handed to the organiser before the end of the festival. In an event of the dispute not being resolved during a festival, a formal written protest may be sent within one month to the NAO Secretariat, who will refer the matter to the Executive Committee for arbitration. Their decision will be final. Where the complaint refers to adjudication, the executive committee will send a copy of the complaint to the adjudicator(s) concerned.

15. FAILURE TO TAKE PART in a festival or to be present by the stipulated time, or to comply with these festival rules, shall render the competitor(s) liable to be disqualified and the entry fee FORFEITED.

Any competitor being PREVENTED from competing for a reason proved to be the fault of the organiser or the NAO shall have the entry fee refunded.

16. TAPE/VIDEO RECORDING and **PHOTOGRAPHY** is NOT ALLOWED without written permission from the executive committee.

17. The organisers shall have the right to REFUSE ANY ENTRY subject to the approval of the executive committee.

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE 2005 - 2006

1. The term professional refers to a person who a) claims to be professional and/or b) has playing and/or teaching as his or her sole occupation or business, on which he/she is financially dependent for a living and/or c) examines or adjudicates as an accordion specialist.
2. The term OPEN refers to professional and amateur players.
3. The festival season commences in September and concludes in May.
4. VIRTUOSO Championship Solo. The highest placed competitor, being a UK citizen and aged 30 years or under may be invited to represent the UK at a forthcoming CIA World Championship (Coupe Mondiale). The Virtuoso Champion will be awarded a grant of £250 to be spent on the Cultural Advancement of the player. They will be required to provide a report on its use. Entries to all other CIA sections will be approved by the International Representatives in conjunction with the Executive Committee based on their support / success in NAO Festivals and the appropriateness of their programme. The application must be made by 30th June.
5. CONCERT STYLE dress is suggested in all sections, except the Virtuoso Solo Entertainment, Entertainment & Showband. ie. No leisure type apparel to be worn.

6. VIRTUOSO SOLO ENTERTAINMENT, ENTERTAINMENT & SHOWBAND - Competitors must present themselves as ARTISTES to an audience; PRESENTATION, SHOWMANSHIP, DRESS, PERSONALITY and STAGECRAFT are all IMPORTANT.

Instruments used may be standard, amplified or electronic.

7. ORCHESTRA SECTIONS

- (a) Conductors of orchestras may be professional or amateur and may conduct more than one orchestra.
- (b) Where there is a separate Test Piece section and Own Choice section listed orchestras/bands can qualify in one or both of the sections at the appropriate grade, and can compete in either or both sections at the UK Championships.
8. The term OTHER INSTRUMENTS refers to any instrument not written into the original score.

9. OWN CHOICE MUSIC

- (a) Where appropriate, competitors are ADVISED to select an own choice piece / programme which is in a contrasting style to any Test piece they may be playing.
- (b) Any competitor playing a Theme with Variations, or cyclical work, will, in subsequent years be allowed to repeat the theme, but different variations or movements will be required.
- (c) Credit will be given for playing from memory and the adjudicators so advised.
- (d) At the UK Championships - Entrants are requested to submit Own Choice scores at the commencement of the section or prior to performance. These should be collected thereafter from the Clerk of the section.
- (e) STAGE MANAGERS will note the names of competitors performing on stage without an ORIGINAL copy of the Music - This information will then be passed onto the relevant publishing houses.
10. MUSIC SUBMITTED for the adjudicators use must comply with the current CODE OF FAIR PRACTICE as published by the Performing Rights Society.

11. ADJUDICATION

- (a) At the UK Championships, a specialist adjudicator shall not judge for more than TWO consecutive years, unless he/she has adjudicated for less than three hours.
- (b) Adjudication will NOT be in camera.
12. In the event of a Section starting behind time, the organisers shall have the right to reduce the playing time allocated to each competitor, announcing any such alteration publicly at the commencement of the section concerned.
13. Practising within the vicinity of any of the competition halls is strictly prohibited.
14. CHALLENGE TROPHIES. Winners accept challenge trophies on the understanding that they are financially responsible for that trophy. They are advised to insure it for its replacement value, and to agree to return the trophy on or before the date requested by the NAO. The winner is allowed to have the trophy engraved with their name and year of award, provided that such engraving is in a manner in keeping with the style of the trophy.
15. AREA FESTIVAL Entry Forms, fees, music, correspondence etc., are all to be sent to the appropriate Area Festival Organiser, to whom all remittances must be made payable.
16. UK CHAMPIONSHIPS Entry Forms, fees, correspondence etc., are to be sent to the NAO Secretariat by February 28th 2006 whose address appears below. All REMITTANCES to be made payable to the NAO.

The National Accordion Organisation of the United Kingdom
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