

Rules of An Comunn Gàidhealach

Hereinafter referred to as “An Comunn”

Company Limited by Guarantee No 322920

Registered in Scotland as a Charity No 001282

- It is imperative that all competitors read and adhere to the following rules.
- No accompanist is allowed except in the Kennedy-Fraser competition.
- An Comunn reserves the right to refuse any entry.

Entries

- All entries must be on the correct official entry form and must be received, either online or by post, accompanied by the correct entry fee, by An Comunn Gàidhealach, 109 Church Street, Inverness by 31 May.
- Any entries received in any other form will not be accepted. Faxed entries cannot be accepted.
- First prizewinners from Provincial Mods may enter competitions after the closing date, provided the secretary of the Mod sends the entry, on the official entry form and accompanied by the correct entry fee, within one week of the Provincial Mod. This only applies if there are sufficient numbers entered into the competition in question.
- Competitors should note unless there are a minimum of three entries in solo and duet competitions, the competition will be suspended for that year. N.B. This does not apply to Literary competitions. The final decision is at the discretion of An Comunn.

Fluency

- If a child is being educated through the medium of Gaelic, he/she will be entered in Fluent competitions from the start of Primary 4 of given National Mòd year.
- Fluent speakers must not be entered into Learner competitions. However learners may take part in fluent competitions in certain cases. (E.g. Duets, etc.)
- Pupils attending P4 to P7 Gaelic Medium classes who are entered in Learners' competitions will be transferred by An Comunn to the equivalent Fluent competition.

Age Limit

- Competitors in the Junior Section must be within the prescribed age group on the first day of October of the year in which the Mod is held. Any competitor under 18 is not eligible for Senior Competitions - this excludes Choral Competitions.
- A Competitor should not compete in both Junior and Senior competitions in any one year (excluding Choral Competitions).
- Competitors aged 18 years may compete either in Junior Competitions or Senior Competitions.

Competitions (in general)

- Competitors are balloted by HQ and listed in the Mòd Programme.
- Competitors should appear in the order balloted. If they are delayed at another competition or venue they must advise the Chief Steward who will relay this information to the Mòd Office and to the competition venue affected. Every effort will be made to hold a competition open, but the length of time is at the Chairperson's discretion.
- If a competitor is delayed for any other reason (e.g. traffic hold-up) he/she should telephone the Mòd Office on the usual number, from where the call will be transferred.

- The Chairperson should ensure that a Competition is not unnecessarily delayed by the non-appearance of competitors; this may mean taking competitors out of turn if necessary.
- A competition will be closed by the Chairperson as soon as all competitors have had fair opportunity to appear, and no communication has been received regarding any delayed competitors. The Chairperson's decision in closure of a competition is final.
- In order to avoid disappointment, parents of children entered in more than 5 competitions should work out a movement programme, and advise the Steward at each Hall on arrival.
- No Junior competitor may sing, as their own choice, any song prescribed in the Junior Syllabus for the current Mod.
- No Senior competitor may sing, as their own choice, any song prescribed in the Senior Syllabus for the current Mod.
- No competitor may sing the same song in more than one competition.
- Puirt a beul must be sung to strict Highland Dance measure.
- The following Medals can only be won once:- 1) Gold Medal 2) Traditional Gold Medal 3) Oban Times Medal 4) Silver Pendant 5) Glasgow Skye Association Gold Medal 6) Comp A248 Màiri Mhòr Silver Kilt Pin.
- All efforts will be made to avoid ties in competitions. In the event of a tie the Gaelic mark will be used to determine places.
- Competitors who forget words or make a mistake should be given one chance to start again but two marks should be deducted. However, if the song is not completed an automatic mark of 81 should be given to children, and 0 to adults. Any adult competitor who walks off stage will be disqualified from the competition.
- Competitors must notify the Office as soon as possible if they withdraw from a competition.

Literary Competitions

- For Competitions C46, C46A, C53, C53A, C98, C105, C147, C153 (Junior Section), and Competitions L402 to L410 (Senior Section) each entry must be accompanied by a separate entry form.
- Pen-names must be supplied, and must be marked on each page of written work.
- All work in Senior Section must be typewritten or produced on computer.
- All entries by 31st May as in all other Competitions.

Instrumental Competitions

- Competitors may refer to music during performance.
- A competitor may not play in more than one group in the same competition.
- Fiddle groups must consist of a minimum of three fiddles and may be accompanied by up to six instruments, choosing from the following: Fiddle, viola or cello, double bass, guitar, piano, accordion, melodeon, clàrsach, keyboard or flute. Groups must not exceed more than eleven players.
- All piping competitions will be open to all grades of pipers.
- Competing in any of the piping competitions will automatically exclude a competitor from taking part in the Chanter competition (C85)
- Competitors should ensure that their Slow Air is of Gaelic origin.

Folk Groups

- Groups must consist of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 players. A basic PA system will be provided by An Comunn.
- A maximum time of 5 minutes will be allowed for setting up.

- A competitor may not sing or play in more than one group in the same competition.
- Members of Folk groups may not refer to words or music during performance.

Duets and Quartets

- A competitor may not sing in more than one group in the same competition.

Junior Choral

- Choirs must consist of a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 26 voices.
- A competitor may not sing in more than one choir in the same competition.
- Prescribed pieces may be sung, if necessary, a semi-tone higher or lower than the set key.
- Conductors must not sing with their choirs.
- All choirs must learn "Suas Leis a' Ghàidhlig" and "Oidhche Mhath Leibh".
- Neither Choir members nor Choir Conductors may consult words or music whilst competing.
- Competitors are limited to 20 lines per song.
- Choirs should note that they should conform to the printed music, but any alterations they wish to make should be submitted to An Comunn office.

Senior Choral

- Ladies and Male Voice Choirs must consist of a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 voices.
- Rural Choirs will be made up from areas with a population of less than 2,000.
- Mixed Choirs must consist of a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 30 voices.
- Conductors must not sing with their choirs.
- Prescribed pieces may be sung, if necessary, a semi-tone higher or lower than the set key.
- Choirs should note that they should conform to the printed music, but any alterations they wish to make should be submitted to An Comunn office along with Own Choice pieces.
- Choirs competing in the Lovat and Tullibardine Shield and the Lorn Shield competitions must consist of at least 25% Card holders, of whom one quarter must be beyond Bronze level.
- Names and levels of card holders singing in the current year must be submitted at time of entry, and random checks on card holders will be carried out during competitions.
- Choirs competing in the Margrat Duncan competition must consist of at least 20% Gaelic speakers, i.e. Gold, Silver or Bronze card holders.
- All choirs must learn "Suas Leis a' Ghàidhlig" and "Oidhche Mhath Leibh" and the first verse of Psalm 65, to the tune "French".
- A competitor may not sing in more than one choir in the same competition.
- Neither Choir members nor Choir Conductors may consult words or music whilst competing.
- Youngsters between 16 and 18 may sing in a senior choir. If senior choirs do have youngsters as members then it is essential that they, as an independent organisation take responsibility; for example if the choir is performing in a venue where alcohol is available.

Senior Solo

- Competitors are limited to the performance of a maximum of 28 lines, including chorus, or as determined by the Mòd Committee
- Prescribed pieces should be sung in a key to suit the voice.

Own Choice Music

- All own choice pieces must be submitted by 31 August. Please note that this rule will be strictly adhered to. Failure to submit Own Choice music by the due date will result in 3 marks being deducted by An Comunn from the competitor's total mark in each relevant competition.
- Receipt of Own Choice music will be acknowledged by e-mail or post by mid-September; please contact Office if you have not received an acknowledgement by then.
- Please also note that permission must be obtained prior to photocopying of any sheet music which is copyright of An Comunn.
- All competitors in the Traditional Gold Medal, the Silver Pendant Series and the Gold Medal Series must also submit Own Choice pieces for the Final Competition in each Series by 31st August.
- For solo, duet, quartet and Folk Group competitions, three copies of words (as a poem) and music for each song, plus translation, must be submitted.
- For choral competitions, five copies of words (as a poem) and music for each song, plus translation, must be submitted.
- For traditional song competitions, (A230, A231, TS232, A233 and A248) three copies of the words of each song must be submitted.
- For the M Kennedy Fraser competition, four copies of the words (as a poem) and music, plus translation, must be submitted.
- In every case, each copy of words and music must be clearly marked with the competitor's name and competition number.
- No changes of Own Choice pieces will be accepted.
- Competitors are responsible for the collection of their Own Choice music from the venue at the end of the competition.

Adjudication

- Adjudication sheets will be available from a designated collection point approximately 2 hours after the end of the competition. Full details will be advised at each Mod. Any adjudication sheets not collected will be posted as soon as possible.
- Adjudicators may withhold prizes where a satisfactory standard has not been attained.
- Adjudicators' decisions are final.

Concerts

- First prizewinners of selected competitions must appear at the appropriate Evening Concert. They will be notified if required, and must report to the marshalling area backstage by 7.15pm on the evening.

Trophies

All trophies must be returned, cleaned and engraved, to An Comunn Gàidhealach's office at 109 Church Street, Inverness by 31 August. Failure to comply with this instruction will result in the levying of a £10 administration fee for each 30 day overdue period (or part thereof).

Gaelic Assessment

Seniors

The Senior Assessment is divided into 9 Sections, linked to "Speaking Our Language."

NB. It is expected that learners will make continuous progress in the language with an annual advance through the levels. Competitors must attain Level 4 standard i.e. a Bronze Card before entry to the Silver Pendant and the Senior Learners Traditional.

Assessment will be available in your area during the course of the year, subject to demand - Contact An Comunn for details.

An Comunn reserves the right to refuse entry to competition when no apparent progress in the language is being made.