



Rules of The Royal National Mòd®

Updated: January 2025



ENTRY

1. An Comunn Gàidhealach reserves the right to refuse entry.
2. All entries must be submitted and paid by **31st May 2025** using the online entry system at – **enter.ancomunn.co.uk**.
3. All own choice music must be submitted online by **31st May 2025**. Any entries received in any other form will not be accepted. **Entries will not be accepted by e-mail.**
4. All Senior solo competitors must be members of An Comunn Gàidhealach. Senior Choirs, Groups, Quartets and Duets must be affiliated or all be individual members. Failure to renew membership will mean that entries for that year may be void.
5. Competitors should note that unless there are a minimum of three entries in competitions, the competition **may** be suspended for that year. This will depend on the type of competition and the requirements of the competition. The final decision is at the discretion of An Comunn Gàidhealach.
6. Parents / carers / teachers entering their child(ren) into multiple competitions should ensure that the logistics of getting to their respective competitions are planned out for their child(ren) to fulfil the commitment of taking part in multiple competitions. This is to avoid entering too many competitions and being late / unable to attend. It is important that parents / carers / teachers keep the Mòd office and stewards informed of any delays.

COMPETITIONS (GENERAL)

7. Additional information and rules about specific competitions can be found in the syllabus.
8. No accompanist is allowed unless specifically mentioned in the competition information.
9. No competitor may sing the same song in more than one competition.
10. Prescribed pieces may be sung in any key.
11. Competitors may not refer to music or words during performance. This includes tutors or parents mouthing lyrics and/or gesturing tempo and dynamics.
12. The version of the melody provided on prescribed sheet music should be sung as written but the rhythms of the notes can be sung taking account of Gaelic stresses and local dialect variations, where these do not affect the intended rhyme scheme.
13. The following Medals can only be won once:
Gold Medals – S104(F), S104(M)
Traditional Gold Medals – S107(F), S107(M)
Oban Times Gold Medal – S108
Learners Silver Pendants – S114(F), S114(M)
Glasgow Skye Association Gold Medals – BA100, BA101
James C. MacPhee Memorial Medals (Junior) – S15(G), S15(B)
An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Pendant (Junior) – S09(G)
An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Kilt Pin (Junior) – S09(B)
An Comunn Gàidhealach Traditional Silver Pendant (Junior) – S23(G)
An Comunn Gàidhealach Traditional Kilt Pin (Junior) – S23(B)
Provost of Falkirk Medal (Junior) – S27
14. Competitors should appear in the order balloted in the Mòd Programme. The Chairperson should ensure that a competition is not unnecessarily delayed by the non-appearance of competitors; however, this may mean taking competitors out of turn if necessary.



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15. If competitors are delayed at another competition or venue they must advise the Mòd office or the Chief Steward at the competition. Every effort will be made to hold a competition open, but the length of time is at the reasonable discretion of An Comunn Gàidhealach.
16. Competitors should notify An Comunn Gàidhealach as soon as possible if they withdraw from a competition.
17. No Junior choir may sing, as their own choice, any song prescribed in the Junior Syllabus for the current Mòd.
18. No Senior choir may sing, as their own choice, any song prescribed in the Senior Syllabus for the current Mòd.

OWN CHOICE MUSIC

19. All online own choice pieces must be submitted by **31st May 2025**. **Please note that this rule should be strictly adhered to.**
20. Receipt of own choice music will be acknowledged through our online entry system. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that own choice pieces have been submitted and complete. **Please contact An Comunn Gàidhealach if your entry is not shown as 'complete'.**
21. Permission **must** be obtained prior to photocopying of any sheet music which is copyright of An Comunn Gàidhealach. This rule does not apply if the tutor's pack or choral pack has been bought.
22. For all competitions requiring own choice music, a copy of the song lyrics (in Gaelic), a copy of the sheet music and a translation of the song lyrics **must** be provided. This is also a requirement for the premier competition finals. These three documents should be uploaded to the online system before **31st May 2025**.
 - English Translation-Own Choice Submission. Words or Lyrics as text, Microsoft Word Document or OpenDocument text.
 - Music-Own Choice Submission. Music notated appropriately for the instrument / form delivered as: PDF, Microsoft Word Document, OpenDocument text, Sibelius file or a scanned image (TIFF, JPEG, BMP etc).
 - Words (Gaelic)-Own Choice Submission. Words or Lyrics as text, Microsoft Word Document or OpenDocument text.

Please be mindful of copying music directly from published books without seeking permission. For traditional competitions only, please upload one copy of the words of each song. A translation and music are not required for traditional competitions.

23. All copies of words and music **must** be clearly marked with the competitor's name and competition number.
24. Changes to own choice pieces will not be accepted after **31st August 2025**. Changes made after this date may jeopardise the competitor's performance.

FLUENCY

25. If a child is being educated through the medium of Gaelic, and will be in Primary 2, or above, at the time of The Royal National Mòd, he / she must be entered into fluent competitions.
26. Children in GME (Gaelic Medium Education) in P1 should enter learner competitions.
27. However, children from P1 who come from a fluent background (whether in GME school or not) i.e. when at least one parent / carer speaks Gaelic in the home, should be entered into fluent competitions.
28. Please refer to the 'Guidelines for Families, Schools and Tutors' document for more information.



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29. Parents / carers / teachers of a child with additional support needs (or an exceptional circumstance) and looking to enter a child into a competition, should contact An Comunn Gàidhealach. Parents / carers / teachers should use their discretion when entering their child/children into competitions.
30. Fluent speakers must not be entered into Learner competitions. However, learners may take part in fluent competitions in certain cases – e.g. Duet competitions.

AGE LIMIT

31. Within the junior section, for competitions marked with an age and not a class, competitors must be within the prescribed age group on the first day of October of the year in which the Mòd is held. Any competitor under 18 is not eligible for Senior Competitions - this excludes Choral Competitions.
32. A Competitor should not compete in both Junior and Senior competitions in any one year (excluding Choral Competitions).

INSTRUMENTAL COMPETITIONS

33. Competitors may refer to music during performance. Competitors for instrumental competitions are not required to submit music.
34. A competitor may not play in more than one group in the same competition.
35. Fiddle groups must consist of a minimum of three fiddles and may be accompanied by up to six instruments. Groups must not exceed more than eleven players.
36. Competitors in all instrumental competitions should be mindful of the additional information provided on the syllabus about the competition. For example, there may be a requirement to play a piece of music of Gaelic origin.
37. For any queries regarding Clàrsach competitions, please contact the Comunn nan Clàrsach administrator – gaelic@clarsachsociety.co.uk. Competitors for instrumental competitions are not required to submit music in advance but clear copies of own choice music must be given to the adjudicator / chairperson on the day.

PIPING COMPETITIONS

JUNIOR

38. This is a competition open to junior players aged 18yrs and under who have not competed in any adult Bagpipe competition.
39. Competitors must be within the prescribed age group on the first day of October of the year in which the Mod is held.
40. Competitors in events P01 and P02 are not eligible for other events.
41. Competitors in event P03 are not eligible for other events other than P07 subject to age qualification.
42. Competitors entering event P08 cannot also compete in P07.
43. Competitors who have performed a full Piobaireachd in any competition cannot compete in event P07.
44. Competitors may only enter events in their own age group.
45. Competitors must be prepared to present themselves in the order of play as specified in the programme, or as directed by the Stewards. Failure to do so may mean disqualification.

SENIOR

46. Senior Piping Competitions are administered by The Competing Pipers Association. For information, contact: cpa_sec@yahoo.co.uk
47. Junior bands should be a minimum of 3 members but no more than 8 members for any one set.



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COGADH NAN CÒMHLAN (BATTLE OF THE BANDS)

48. For the first heat, bands should perform one Gaelic song or one traditional instrumental set. If the band qualifies for the final, bands should perform two sets which can be made up of instrumental pieces and/or incorporate Gaelic song. Bands can play their qualifying piece in the Final Competition.
49. A PA system will be provided. **Please submit your band's technical specification as part of your online entry.**
50. Competition I11 Under 13 years – The first heat will take place on Monday of Mòd week with the final competition I13 taking place the same evening. Competition I12 Under 19 years – The first heat will take place on Tuesday of Mòd week with the final competition I14 taking place the same evening.
51. A competitor may not sing or play in more than one group in the same competition. Bands (members of bands) may only win this competition once.
52. Members taking part in the Battle of the Bands may not refer to words or music during performance.
53. An Comunn Gàidhealach will notify entrants of this competition with their allocated sound check time. Bands must strictly adhere to their respective times.

DUETS, QUARTETS AND HARMONY SINGING

54. A competitor must not sing in more than one group in the same competition.

JUNIOR CHORAL

55. Choirs must consist of a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 30 voices.
56. A competitor may not sing in more than one choir in the same competition.
57. All choirs may sing prescribed pieces in their own chosen key.
58. Conductors must not sing with their choirs.
59. Neither Choir members nor Choir Conductors may consult words or music whilst competing.
60. Learners' Choirs should have no more than the agreed percentage of Gaelic Medium pupils, which for the current year will be 50%. This percentage will be reviewed on an annual basis.

SENIOR CHORAL

61. The maximum number of choristers allowed to compete in mixed choral competitions is 35 voices. The minimum is 10 voices. This rule applies for area and rural choirs. This rule also applies to ladies and male choir competitions.
62. Rural Choirs will be made up from non-urban areas.
63. Conductors must not sing with their choirs.
64. All choirs may sing prescribed pieces in their own chosen key.
65. For choral prescribed pieces, stresses are marked according to the prescribed rhythm throughout the song. Adjudicators should be aware that choirs may differ in their interpretation and delivery of stresses and rhythms, and allow for flexibility in this regard. Choirs are not now required to submit minor changes which they may make.
66. Taking into consideration the continued impact of COVID-19 on choirs and community singing these past few years, An Comunn Gàidhealach has decided to relax the rules on fluency this year for Mòd 2025, so that choirs with lower fluency levels in Gaelic may compete.



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- 67. A competitor may not sing in more than one choir in the same competition.
- 68. Neither Choir members nor Choir Conductors may consult words or music whilst competing.
- 69. Young people between the ages of 16 and 18 may sing in a senior choir.

MEDIA, ART AND LITERATURE COMPETITIONS

- 70. All submissions must be the entrant's original, uncorrected work.
- 71. Pen-names must be supplied, and must be marked clearly on each page of written/typed work.
- 72. Literature - all work must be typewritten and should be submitted in PDF format.
- 73. Art – all work should be submitted in PDF or JPEG format.
- 74. Radio/Film – all work should be submitted in MP4 format.
- 75. All submissions must be received by **31st May 2025** via the online entry system.

ADJUDICATION

- 76. Adjudication sheets will now be uploaded directly to the participant's online entry account.
Please be aware that adjudication sheets will no longer be available to collect during the week of the Mòd.
- 77. Adjudicators' decisions are final.

FIRST PRIZE-WINNERS

- 78. First prizewinners of selected competitions may be asked to take part in filming for the BBC. The BBC manages and oversees this process.

TROPHIES

- 79. All trophies must be returned, cleaned and engraved (at the expense of the competitor) to An Comunn Gàidhealach's office at 5 Mitchell's Lane, Inverness, IV2 3HQ by **31st July** of the following year. It is the responsibility of the winner of the trophy to return the trophy back to Inverness in-person or via courier. **Trophies must not be left or dropped off in any other location.**
- 80. **Failure to comply with this instruction will result in the levying of a £20 administration fee for each 30 day overdue period (or part thereof).**
- 81. An Comunn Gàidhealach must be informed of any damage or work required to any trophies as early as possible.
- 82. Competitors who enter the **An Comunn Gàidhealach Gold Medal, Traditional Gold Medal and Silver Pendant competitions** must have their fluency levels reassessed **every 2 years**. This is to ensure fluency standards at these competitions are maintained at a high level.



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GAELIC ASSESSMENT

83. An Comunn Gàidhealach reserves the right to refuse entry to competition when no progress in the language is being made.
84. It is expected that learners will make continuous progress in the language with an annual advance through the levels. Competitors must attain a Bronze Card before entry to the Senior Learners' Traditional competition.
85. Competitors must sit their Gaelic Assessment before the **31st August** of the year they are competing at the Mòd. This can be done in-person or online.
86. Please refer to the Gaelic Assessment section of the website:
ancomunn.co.uk/nationalmod/gaelic-assessment for full information.

Any other information on rules or changes to rules will be communicated via the website (www.ancomunn.co.uk) and via social media.

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