

# Rules of the Royal National Mod

Company Limited by Guarantee No 322420

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It is imperative that all competitors read and adhere to the following rules.

## Most Recent Updates

- Rule 91: Competitors must sit their Gaelic Assessment before entering the Royal National Mòd
- Rules 62, 68-72 (Choral Rules) have been updated. Please visit page 4 for updates.

## Entry

1. An Comunn reserves the right to refuse entry.
2. 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, to An Comunn Gàidhealach, Balnain House, 40 Huntly Street, Inverness, IV3 5HR.
3. All paper entries **and** own choice music submissions must be received by An Comunn Gàidhealach by **31<sup>st</sup> May 2018**. All online entries **and** own choice music must be submitted online by **2nd July 2018**.
4. Any entries received in any other form will not be accepted. **Entries will not be accepted by E-mail.**
5. 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 are void.
6. First prizewinners from Provincial Mods which take place after the Royal National Mòd deadline may enter competitions after the closing date within two weeks of the Provincial Mòd. The full entry fee must be included with the official entry form. Names of these competitors **may** not appear in the Mod programme.
7. Competitors should note unless there are a minimum of three entries in competitions, the competition **may** be suspended for that year. This does not apply to Literary competitions. The final decision is at the discretion of An Comunn.
8. Parents and teachers **must** consider limiting the number of competitions in which any one child takes part.
9. To avoid disappointment, any child entered for a number of competitions should have a movement programme worked out, and doorkeepers and stewards should be advised on arrival at each venue.

## Competitions (General)

10. No accompanist is allowed except in the Kennedy-Fraser competition.
11. No competitor may sing the same song in more than one competition.
12. Competitors are limited to the performance of a maximum of 28 lines, including chorus, or as determined by the Mòd Committee. This does not apply to Traditional competitions.
13. Prescribed pieces should be sung in a key to suit the voice.
14. The following Medals can only be won once:-
  - Gold Medal**
  - Traditional Gold Medal**
  - Oban Times Medal Silver**
  - Pendant**
  - Glasgow Skye Association Gold Medal**
  - Comp A248 (Traditional Learners)**
  - James C. MacPhee Medal**

15. Competitors should appear in the order balloted in the Mòd Programme.
16. If competitors 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 reasonable discretion of the **Mod Office**.
17. If a competitor is delayed for any other reason (e.g. traffic hold-up) he/she should telephone the Mòd Office on 01463 709 705, from where the call will be transferred or an alternative number will be given. **Please refer to the An Comunn Gàidhealach website for details of an alternative number.** [www.ancomunn.co.uk](http://www.ancomunn.co.uk)
18. Choirs who fail to appear at their allocated time may be subject to penalty.
19. 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.
20. 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.**
21. Competitors must notify the Mod Office as soon as possible if they withdraw from a competition.

### **Own Choice Music**

22. All offline (paper) own choice pieces must be submitted by **31 May 2018**. All online own choice pieces must be submitted by **2 July 2018**. **Please note that this rule will be strictly adhered to.** Failure to submit Own Choice music by the due date may result in 3 marks being deducted by An Comunn from the competitor's total mark in each relevant competition.
23. Receipt of Own Choice music will be acknowledged through our online entry system. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that own choices have been received so please contact Mod Office if your entry is not shown as 'complete'.
24. No Junior competitor may sing, as their own choice, any song prescribed in the Junior Syllabus for the current Mod.
25. No Senior competitor may sing, as their own choice, any song prescribed in the Senior Syllabus for the current Mod.
26. Permission must be obtained prior to photocopying of any sheet music which is copyright of An Comunn.
27. **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 31<sup>st</sup> May (paper entries) or 2nd July (online entries)**
28. Those entering solo, duet, quartet and Folk Group competitions via paper entry must submit **one** paper copy of words (as a poem), music for each song and an English translation. Those entering online must upload a copy of words (as a poem), music for each song and an English translation in Word or pdf format.
29. Those entering traditional song competitions, (A230, A231, TS232, A233 and A248) via paper entry must submit **one** copy of the words of each song. Those entering online must upload a copy of the words of each song in Word or pdf format.
30. Those entering the M Kennedy Fraser competition, must submit **one** copy of the words (as a poem) and music, plus translation. Those entering online must upload a copy of the words of each song in Word or pdf format.
31. For ALL (those entering online and those via paper entry) Senior choral competitions, **five** copies of words (as a poem), music for each song and an English translation, must be submitted by post.
32. For ALL (those entering online and those via paper entry) Junior choral competitions, **three** copies of words (as a poem), music for each song and an English translation, must be submitted by post.
33. **In every case (online and paper entries)**, each copy of words and music **must** be clearly marked with the competitor's name and competition number.

**34. No changes of Own Choice pieces will be accepted. This rule will be strictly adhered to.**

### **Fluency**

35. If a child is being educated through the medium of Gaelic, and will be in Primary 4, or above, at the time of the National Mod, he/she must be entered into Fluent competitions.
36. Fluent speakers must not be entered into Learner competitions. However learners may take part in fluent competitions in certain cases. (E.g. Duets, etc.)
37. Pupils **educated through the Medium of Gaelic** in P4 to P7 **at the time of the Royal National Mod**, who are entered in Learners' competitions will be transferred by An Comunn to the equivalent Fluent competition. (This will not apply to Learners' Choral competitions, as long as no more than 50% of the choir are in GM education).

### **Age Limit**

38. 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.
39. A Competitor should not compete in both Junior and Senior competitions in any one year (excluding Choral Competitions).
40. Competitors aged 18 years may compete **either** in Junior Competitions **or** Senior Competitions.

### **Instrumental Competitions**

41. Competitors may refer to music during performance.
42. A competitor may not play in more than one group in the same competition.
43. 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.
44. All piping competitions will be open to all grades of pipers.
45. Competing in any of the piping competitions will automatically exclude a competitor from taking part in the Chanter competition (C85)
46. Competitors should ensure that their Slow Air is of Gaelic origin. Where music is required to be "of Gaelic origin" this will mean that it should be **the melody of a Gaelic song, or a dance tune or slow air from the Gaelic tradition.**

### **Folk Groups / Cèilidh Groups**

47. Groups must consist of a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 players. A basic PA system will be provided by An Comunn.
48. A maximum time of 5 minutes will be allowed for setting up.
49. A competitor may not sing or play in more than one group in the same competition.
50. Members of Folk/Cèilidh groups may not refer to words or music during performance.

### **Duets and Quartets**

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

## Junior Choral

52. Choirs must consist of a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 26 voices.
53. A competitor may not sing in more than one choir in the same competition.
54. All choirs may sing prescribed pieces in their own chosen key.
55. Conductors must not sing with their choirs.
56. All choirs must learn "Suas Leis a' Ghàidhlig" and "Oidhche Mhath Leibh".
57. Neither Choir members nor Choir Conductors may consult words or music whilst competing.
58. Competitors are limited to **3 minutes** per song.
59. 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 before 2nd July. **Alterations will not be accepted after this date.**
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. Ladies and Male Voice Choirs must consist of a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 30 voices.
62. **The maximum number of choristers allowed to compete in the Lovat & Tullibardine Shield competition and the Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy competition is 35.**
63. Rural Choirs will be made up from non-urban areas.
64. Mixed Choirs must consist of a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 30 voices.
65. Conductors must not sing with their choirs.
66. All choirs may sing prescribed pieces in their own chosen key.
67. 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 by **2 July**.
68. **The percentage rule in choral competitions (Lovat & Tullibardine Shield (L&T); Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy (MD); Lorn Shield (LS) and Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Quaich (SM)) has been replaced by a points system. This points system is to be reviewed annually.**
69. **In 2018: 10 points be awarded for each gold card held; 6 points be awarded for each silver card held and 3 points be awarded for each bronze card held.**
70. **Each choir must submit a card summary sheet containing names and card details of those who will sing with the choir at the Royal National Mòd to An Comunn Gàidhealach by the 30th of September each year. It must be understood that submissions will be audited and that non-compliance with the rules may result in disqualification.**
71. **The following thresholds shall apply in 2018:**
  - Lorn Shield – 2018 minimum threshold = 87 points (including 6 gold cards)
  - Lovat & Tullibardine Shield – 2018 minimum threshold = 87 points (including 7 gold cards)
  - Margrat Duncan Memorial Trophy – 2018 minimum threshold = 43 points & maximum threshold = 86 points
  - Sheriff MacMaster Campbell Memorial Quaich – 2018 no thresholds applied**The above thresholds will be reviewed annually.**
72. **At the 2018 Royal National Mòd each choir will be allowed to remain in the same Choral Competitions that they entered in 2017 unless they comply with the new thresholds and wish to change competitions. Thereafter, the thresholds agreed each year will define which competition a choir should enter.**
73. All choirs must learn "Suas Leis a' Ghàidhlig" and "Oidhche Mhath Leibh" and the first verse of Psalm 65, to the tune "French".

74. A competitor may not sing in more than one choir in the same competition.
75. Neither Choir members nor Choir Conductors may consult words or music whilst competing.
76. 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 organization, take responsibility; for example if the choir is performing in a venue where alcohol is available.

### **Literary Competitions**

77. All submissions must be the entrant's original, uncorrected work.
78. For Competitions C12, C46, C46A, C53, C53A, C98, C105, C153 (Junior Section), and Competitions L402 to L410 (Senior Section) each paper entry must be accompanied by a separate entry form.
79. Pen-names must be supplied, and must be marked clearly on each page of written work.
80. All work in Junior and Senior Sections must be typewritten and should be submitted in Microsoft Word format.
81. All paper entries must be in by 31 May and all online entries must be in by 2 July as in all other Competitions.

### **Adjudication**

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

### **First Prize-winners**

85. First prizewinners of selected competitions may be required by the BBC for filming.

### **Trophies**

86. All trophies must be returned, cleaned and engraved, to An Comunn Gàidhealach's office at Balnain House, 40 Huntly Street, Inverness, IV3 5HR by **31 July** of the following year.
87. **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).**
88. An Comunn Gaidhealach must be informed of any damage or work required to any trophies as early as possible.

## **Gaelic Assessment**

89. Competitors who enter the **An Comunn Gàidhealach Gold Medal and Traditional Gold senior competitions** must have their fluency levels reassessed every 3 years. This is to ensure fluency standards at these competitions are maintained at a high level.

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

*NB. 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 and a Silver Card before entry to the Silver Pendant qualifying competitions.*

91. **Competitors must sit their Gaelic Assessment before entering the Royal National Mòd - Contact An Comunn for details.**

Please refer to the Gaelic Assessment section of the website [http://www.acgmod.org/nationalmod/gaelic- assessment](http://www.acgmod.org/nationalmod/gaelic-assessment) for full information.