

Recommendations for an
Adjudicator Certification and Professional Development Program for the
Alliance of North American Pipe Band Associations
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Introduction

It is estimated that over 60,000 piping, drumming and pipe band adjudication critique sheets are written each year at Highland Games across North America. Most of these critique sheets are examined by the competitors to obtain bits of information on their performance and ways that they can improve their playing. The source for this information is the adjudicator who, in the span of a few minutes, must capture the essential elements of the performance, note some items for improvement, and rank the performance within its group.

While competitors practise and prepare their performances, receive regular guidance from their instructors or band leaders, and work their way through the competitive grading ladder, the same cannot be generally said of most adjudicators across the continent. Most pipe band associations focus significant efforts on grading and events for competitors yet do not spend similar resources on qualifying, advancing and re-qualifying the members of their adjudicator panels. Orderly, fair and well-adjudicated competitions are the primary activity and motivation behind pipe band associations. It is therefore incumbent on pipe band associations to provide panels of highly qualified adjudicators to provide an instructive, fair and positive experience for all competitors.

Goal

The ultimate goal of the ANAPBA recommendations for an Adjudicator Certification and Professional Development Program is to provide guidelines for pipe band associations and their adjudicators to improve the quality of adjudication, through qualification, training, apprenticing, testing, and continuing education. It should also serve as a vehicle to bring the various Associations closer to common criteria for adjudicator classification, certification, and continuing education activities. While maintaining the autonomy of each Association's program, it would assist in the recognition of the highest level adjudicator certifications by all Associations across the continent.

The suggested ANAPBA recommendation for an Adjudicator Certification and Professional Development Program consists of the following elements:

- Pre-qualification of potential adjudicators in musical discipline (piping, drumming) and specialty (light music, piobaireachd, band, ensemble, etc.) by knowledge of the musical discipline (by examination) and competitive success.
- Qualification of apprentice adjudicators by training, examination and in-competition apprentice judging.
- Required continuing education for certified adjudicators.
- Periodic assessment of certified adjudicators.

For many of the associations, reaching this goal will be a significant, multi-year effort. Thus, interim goals may be required, to be set by each association to provide competitors and Highland Games in those jurisdictions with increasing confidence in the quality of adjudication.

Musical Disciplines

Adjudicators would be certified in the following musical disciplines and specialties.

Solo Events:

- Piping – Light Music
- Piping – Piobaireachd
- Side Drumming
- Tenor & Bass Drumming
- Drum Majoring

Band Events:

- Piping
- Drumming
- Ensemble

Certifications

There are two different approaches to qualification levels by the various North American associations: single-level and double-level panels. With some minor exceptions, adjudicators qualified on single-level panels are authorized to adjudicate all grades of a particular discipline and specialty. For two-level panels, adjudicators qualified at the top level are authorized to adjudicate all grades of a particular discipline and specialty, while adjudicators qualified at the second level are authorized to adjudicate all grades except the top two grades of a particular discipline and specialty.

Our goal for judging in North America is that each association would eventually adhere to the same set of criteria for establishing a panel of A-level judges. Recognizing the different geographic challenges that each association faces in achieving this goal, it is recommended that the following certifications be granted for A and B levels judges:

For Solo Events

- "A" Certificate: Adjudicator is qualified to adjudicate all grade levels.
- "B" Certificate: Adjudicator is qualified to adjudicate only grade levels up to and including Grade 1

For Tenor & Bass Drumming adjudicators and Drum Majoring adjudicators, only the "A" Certificate would be granted.

For Band Events

- "A" Certificate: Adjudicator is qualified to adjudicate all grade levels.
- "B" Certificate: Adjudicator is qualified to adjudicate only grade levels up to and including Grade 3

For Ensemble, only the "A" certificate would be granted.

Knowledge of Musical Discipline

This section defines the body of theoretical and practical knowledge expected of an adjudicator. It is recommended that internationally recognized standards for certification should be used. Currently, the recognized certification program is the Piping and Drumming Qualification Board (www.pdqb.org).

Playing Experience

This section defines the years and levels of playing experience required. An association's music board may exercise its option to promote to the "A" level a "B" certified adjudicator who has achieved significant adjudication experience yet does not meet all of the requirements of the "A" level. A second apprenticeship in the higher grades is mandatory.

Competitive Success

This section defines the competitive success required of an adjudicator to ensure that their playing ability (solo and band) is consistently recognized as prize worthy. (The recognition of successful teaching experience is introduced here for "B" Certificates for adjudicating solo events.)

Adjudication Training Courses

Adjudicator candidates who have been determined to meet the requirements of Knowledge of Musical Discipline, Playing Experience and Competitive Success as determined by the home association Music Board enter the Adjudicator Training Courses. This section defines the curriculum for these training courses which is intended to teach the apprentice adjudicators the fundamentals of adjudicating competitions: e.g. how to assess and record the key elements of a performance, how to consider common mistakes that typically occur in the lower grades, how to efficiently write constructive sheets, how to weigh elements for determining the prize list, adjudicating within given time ranges, working with the stewards, mock adjudicating (on performances with pre-defined elements for assessment), etc.

Adjudication Exam

On completion of the Adjudication Training Course, candidates sit a final adjudication exam. This section defines the exam scope which is intended to determine the candidate's understanding of adjudication concepts learning in the Adjudication Training Courses and Apprenticeship Program.

Adjudicator Apprenticeship or Mentoring Program

Adjudicator candidates who have completed the Adjudication Exam proceed to the Adjudicator Apprenticeship or Mentoring Program. This program is intended to allow the apprentice adjudicator to adjudicate alongside a senior adjudicator in events at Highland Games and other piping & drumming contests however apprentice adjudicators score sheets and scores would not count toward the final competition result. This program helps the apprentice adjudicator to develop their skills on performances without pre-defined conditions and where adjudicating within given time ranges is of great importance.

Adjudicators Professional Development

Upon achieving Certified Adjudicator status, adjudicators must complete periodic professional development (continuing education) requirements to maintain their certified status. Continuing education experiences shall be those activities that advance and deepen knowledge and skills in the art, in adjudication practices, and in adjudication processes.

It is acknowledged that professional development could incorporate a variety of different activities, for example, conducting workshops and seminars, preparing for competitions by deepening one's knowledge on the Set Tunes, enhancing repertoire through self-study or through a mentor, adjudication mentoring by a senior adjudicator, improving the adjudicator credentialing process, etc.

It is recommended that each of the Associations in ANAPBA prepare one professional development seminar per year. These seminars can then be provided to each Association or presented in a distance

learning environment. In this way, each Association shares in the on-going preparation of professional development content.

Shown below are tables detailing the various recommended requirements for Certified Adjudication designation across the musical disciplines, specialties, and certificate levels.

	Piping – Light Music	Piping – Piobaireachd	Side Drumming	Tenor & Bass Drumming	Drum Majoring
Grade Levels Qualified to Adjudicate	All	All	All	All	All
Knowledge of Musical Discipline	At least a PDQB Level 5 Certificate in Piping.	At least a PDQB Level 5 Certificate in Piping.	At least a PDQB Level 4 Certificate in Side Drumming.	At least a PDQB Level 4 Certificate in Tenor & Bass Drumming.	
Playing Experience	A minimum of 15 years (minimum 7 years at the Open level) solo light music competitive playing experience.	A minimum of 15 years (minimum 7 years at the Open level) solo piobaireachd competitive playing experience.	A minimum of 15 years (minimum 7 years at the Open level) solo competitive playing experience on the Side Drum.	A minimum of 15 years (minimum 7 years at the Open level) solo competitive playing experience on the Tenor or Bass Drum.	
Competitive Success	Reasonable degree of prize winning success, as interpreted by the home association's Music Board, in Open Light Music	Reasonable degree of prize winning success, as interpreted by the home association's Music Board, in Open Piobaireachd	Reasonable degree of prize winning success, as interpreted by the home association's Music Board, in Open Side Drumming competitions	Reasonable degree of prize winning success, as interpreted by the home association's Music Board, in Open Tenor or Bass Drumming competitions	
Adjudication Training Courses	"A" Certificate Light Music Adjudication Course	"A" Certificate Piobaireachd Adjudication Course	"A" Certificate Side Drumming Adjudication Course	"A" Certificate Tenor & Bass Drumming Adjudication Course	
Adjudication Exam	"A" Certificate Light Music Adjudication Exam	"A" Certificate Piobaireachd Adjudication Exam	"A" Certificate Side Drumming Adjudication Exam	"A" Certificate Tenor & Bass Drumming Adjudication Exam	
Apprentice Adjudications	Minimum 50 competitors in the major light music events (under supervision of "A" certificate adjudicators) across all grade levels covering at least 3 sanctioned contests, with score sheets achieving standards set by each Music Board.	Minimum 30 competitors in piobaireachd events (under supervision of "A" certificate adjudicators) across all grade levels covering at least 3 sanctioned contests, with score sheets achieving standards set by each Music Board.	Minimum 20 competitors in the major side drumming events (under supervision of "A" certificate adjudicators) across all grade levels covering at least 3 sanctioned contests, with score sheets achieving standards set by each Music Board.	Minimum 20 competitors in tenor/bass drumming events (under supervision of "A" certificate adjudicators) across all grade levels covering at least 3 sanctioned contests, with score sheets achieving standards set by each Music Board.	
Adjudication Continuing Education	At least one documented experience or accredited Piping - Light Music continuing education course every 2 years.	At least one documented experience or accredited Piobaireachd continuing education course every 2 years.	At least one documented experience or accredited solo side drumming continuing education course every 2 years.	At least one documented experience or accredited solo tenor or bass drumming continuing education course every 2 years.	

	Piping – Light Music	Piping – Piobaireachd	Side Drumming	Tenor & Bass Drumming	Drum Majoring
Grade Levels Qualified to Adjudicate	Grade 1 and below	Grade 1 and below	Grade 1 and below		
Knowledge of Musical Discipline	At least a PDQB Level 5 Certificate in Piping.	At least a PDQB Level 5 Certificate in Piping.	At least a PDQB Level 4 Certificate in Side Drumming.		
Playing Experience	A minimum of 15 years (minimum 7 years at the Grade 1 Amateur level or higher) solo light music competitive playing experience.	A minimum of 15 years (minimum 7 years at the Grade 1 Amateur level or higher) solo piobaireachd competitive playing experience.	A minimum of 15 years (minimum 7 years at the Grade 1 Amateur level or higher) solo competitive playing experience on the Side Drum.		
Competitive Success	Reasonable degree of prize winning success, as interpreted by the home association's Music Board, in at least Grade 1 Amateur Light Music. (Partial credit accepted for prizes won by candidate's students at the Grade 2 Amateur level or higher in light music while under his/her instruction.)	Reasonable degree of prize winning success as interpreted by the home association's Music Board, in at least Grade 1 Amateur Piobaireachd. (Partial credit accepted for prizes won by candidate's students at the Grade 2 Amateur level or higher in Pibroch while under his/her instruction.)	Reasonable degree of prize winning success, as interpreted by the home association's Music Board, in at least Grade 1 Amateur Side Drumming competitions. (Partial credit accepted for prizes won by candidate's students at the Grade 2 Amateur level or higher in side drumming while under his/her instruction.)		
Adjudication Training Courses	"B" Certificate Light Music Adjudication Course	"B" Certificate Piobaireachd Adjudication Course	"B" Certificate Side Drumming Adjudication Course		
Adjudication Exam	"B" Certificate Light Music Adjudication Exam	"B" Certificate Piobaireachd Adjudication Exam	"B" Certificate Side Drumming Adjudication Exam		
Apprentice Adjudications	Minimum 50 competitors in light music events (under supervision of "A" level adjudicators) across all grade levels covering at least 3 sanctioned contests, with score sheets achieving standards set by each Music Board.	Minimum 30 competitors in piobaireachd events (under supervision of "A" level adjudicators) across all grade levels covering at least 3 sanctioned contests, with score sheets achieving standards set by each Music Board.	Minimum 20 competitors in side drumming events (under supervision of "A" certificate adjudicators) across all grade levels covering at least 3 sanctioned contests, with score sheets achieving standards set by each Music Board.		
Adjudication Continuing Education	At least one documented experience or accredited Piping - Light Music continuing education course every two years	At least one documented experience or accredited Piobaireachd continuing education course every two years.	At least one documented experience or accredited solo side drumming continuing education course every two years.		

Band Events

"A" Certificate

	Piping	Drumming	Ensemble
Grade Levels Qualified to Adjudicate	All	All	All
Knowledge of Musical Discipline	At least a PDQB Level 5 Certificate in Piping.	At least a PDQB Level 4 Certificate in Side Drumming.	Must hold a "A" Certificate in Band Piping or Band Drumming AND Must have at least three years of adjudicating experience at "A" Certificate level.
Playing Experience	(1) Minimum 10 years playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe at the Grade 1 or 2 band level; AND (2) Must have competed in a Grade 1 pipe band for 5 years or been Pipe Major or in a position of musical leadership of a Grade 2 band for 5 years.	(1) Minimum of 10 years playing experience on the side drum at the Grade 1 or 2 band level AND (2) Must have competed in a Grade 1 pipe band for 5 years or been Lead Drummer or in a position of musical leadership of a Grade 2 corps for 5 years.	Defined by the "A" Certificate in Band Piping or Band Drumming
Competitive Success	Bands played in must have demonstrated a reasonable degree of prize winning success, as interpreted by the home association's Music Board, in the respective Grade 1 or 2 competitions	Bands played in must have demonstrated a reasonable degree of prize winning success, as interpreted by the home association's Music Board, in the respective Grade 1 or 2 competitions	Defined by the "A" Certificate in Band Piping or Band Drumming
Adjudication Exam	"A" Certificate Pipe Corps Adjudication Exam	"A" Certificate Drum Corps Adjudication Exam	"A" Certificate Ensemble Adjudication Exam
Apprentice Adjudications	Apprentice pipe corps adjudications of at least 6 complete band events (under supervision of "A" certificate adjudicators) across all grade levels covering at least 3 sanctioned Highland Games, with score sheets achieving standards set by each Music Board.	Apprentice drum corps adjudications of at least 6 complete band events (under supervision of "A" certificate adjudicators) across all grade levels covering at least 3 sanctioned Highland Games, with score sheets achieving standards set by each Music Board.	Apprentice ensemble adjudications of at least 6 complete band events (under supervision of "A" certificate adjudicators) across all grade levels covering at least 3 sanctioned Highland Games, with score sheets achieving standards set by each Music Board.
Adjudication Continuing Education	At least one documented experience or accredited Pipe Corps continuing education course every 2 years.	At least one documented experience or accredited Drum Corps continuing education course every 2 years.	At least one documented experience or accredited Ensemble continuing education course every 2 years.

Band Events

"B" Certificate

	Piping	Drumming	Ensemble
Grade Levels Qualified to Adjudicate	Grade 3 and below	Grade 3 and below	
Knowledge of Musical Discipline	At least a PDQB Level 5 Certificate in Piping.	At least a PDQB Level 4 Certificate in Side Drumming.	
Playing Experience	(1) Minimum 10 years playing experience on the Great Highland Bagpipe at the Grade 1, 2, or 3 band level; AND (2) Must have competed in a Grade 1 or 2 pipe band for 5 years or been Pipe Major or in a position of musical leadership of a Grade 3 pipe band for 5 years.	(1) Minimum of 10 years playing experience on the side drum at the Grade 1, 2, or 3 band level AND (2) Must have competed in a Grade 1 or 2 pipe band for 5 years or been Lead Drummer or in a position of musical leadership of a Grade 3 pipe band drum corps for 5 years.	
Competitive Success	Bands played in must have demonstrated a reasonable degree of prize winning success, as interpreted by the home association's Music Board, in the respective Grade 1, 2 or 3 competitions	Bands played in must have demonstrated a reasonable degree of prize winning success, as interpreted by the home association's Music Board, in the respective Grade 1, 2 or 3 competitions	
Adjudication Exam	"B" Certificate Pipe Corps Adjudication Exam	"B" Certificate Drum Corps Adjudication Exam	
Apprentice Adjudications	Apprentice pipe corps adjudications of at least 6 complete band events (under supervision of "A" certificate adjudicators) across all grade levels covering at least 3 sanctioned Highland Games, with score sheets achieving standards set by each Music Board.	Apprentice drum corps adjudications of at least 6 complete band events (under supervision of "A" certificate adjudicators) across all grade levels covering at least 3 sanctioned Highland Games, with score sheets achieving standards set by each Music Board.	
Adjudication Continuing Education	At least one documented experience or accredited Pipe Corps continuing education course every 2 years.	At least one documented experience or accredited Drum Corps continuing education course every 2 years.	