

AGM Proposals 2008 **with action taken in red**

Organization

1. Proposal re. Certification of pipers and drummers

Put an educational program in place to offer information in preparation for existing written and playing proficiency exams for pipers and drummers.

Rationale: These examinations could potentially be used to augment the upgrade process.

Southwest Branch

Sent to Music Board

Adjudication

2. Proposal re. Judge Emeriti

If a Games committee has trouble procuring judges for whatever reason, including economics, availability, health, etc. they should be allowed on a case by case basis to hire a judge emeritus to assure the Games continuity and sanctioning. This would not only help the Games but also allow the competitors to reap the benefits of our experienced judge emeriti.

Rationale: Better guidelines for conditions for replacing a judge at the last minute or on Games day needs to be spelled out in specifics. What are the contingency plans for replacing an ensemble judge or drumming judge? The role of Judge Emeritus needs to be clearly defined. What purpose does it serve to have them if they are not utilized especially in exigent circumstances? People who have gone into or will go into this category have decades upon decades of experience to draw on and if they are willing to judge to help out in a pinch then they should be utilized.

Metro Branch

Sent to Executive Committee – need to clarify wording and follow up to ensure that this title is used properly and these judges are recognized

3. Proposal to increase the number of qualified bass and tenor judges

Organize an effort at the highest levels to promote increasing the ranks of qualified bass and tenor judges. One suggestion might be to educate snare drumming judges to judge novice and amateur levels of bass and tenor drumming.

Rationale: This change could offer more competition opportunities for lower level bass and tenor soloists; hopefully, it will “trickle up”, producing more, higher level competitors and potential future judges.

Southwest Branch

Sent to Music Board

Bands

4. Proposal to Institute small MSR contest instead of QMM in Grade 4

Do away with the Quick March Medley selection in Grade 4 and institute a mini March Strathspey and Reel selection that would be of a Grade 3 caliber. The Music Board could

determine a list of acceptable tunes that the bands must use. Each tune must be 4 parts and the first 2 parts of each tune would then be used. 2 parts of a March, 2 parts of a Strathspey and 2 parts of a Reel.

Rationale: The QMM is redundant for Grade 4 and does not aid in the preparation for a Grade 4 band trying to make the jump to Grade 3. The object of having to work on playing an MSR of sorts gets the potential band prepared for the upcoming challenge in Grade 3 and also makes it easier for the band to add parts 3 and 4 of the MSR to have a viable set ready for the Grade 3 if and when they are ready to make that jump.

Metro Branch

Killed

5. Proposal for a separate juvenile band classification

Reconsider how the juvenile grades are classified – classify them as juvenile bands first, and then if no juvenile competition is available a juvenile band would be equivalent to Grade 3. Novice juvenile bands would be equivalent to Grade 4.

Rationale: This is how it is handled in the RSPBA, and adopting their standard of head to head competition amongst juvenile bands would benefit our bands by increasing their level of play.

Southwest Branch

Sent to Music Board

Current Rule 2008: An additional classification has been created for Juvenile Bands. Qualification to be classified Juvenile: all members age 18 or under, except may have one adult piper, one adult snare drummer, and one adult midsection drummer. Bands who meet these qualifications can apply for additional classification as juvenile. If a band meets the qualifications of a juvenile band and is grade 4 or grade 5, they will be a Novice Juvenile band. If a band meets the qualifications of a juvenile band and is grade 3 or higher, they will be a Juvenile band. This will be only for contests that offer a separate Juvenile grade competition. Regular EUSPBA grade and roster rules will apply to any other contests.

6. Proposal regarding Grade 5 band tune selections

Add the option of using the RSPBA Map Tunes and/or the EUSPBA 4/4 tune list both for Grade 5 bands.

Rationale: For a Grade 5 band to travel to Scotland as 4B, it requires one set of music for the USA and one for Scotland, this should not be necessary. Why have different requirements for Grade 5 here and Grade 4B there which are essentially the same grade?

Metro Branch

Note: This is under discussion now between the Music Board and the Executive Committee, and bands have been notified that the rule will be finalized by December 7. Since this will not increase difficulty in playing requirements, it may be put in place for 2009.

Withdrawn – already being dealt with by Music Board

7. Proposal for change in the band Medley competition

Beginning in 2010, a change in format is proposed for the Medley competition: Time limit stays the same, but the competition would no longer require a start of 2 three-pace rolls, nor a circle formation. Bands would start at the line and move into a formation that the P/M deems as most advantageous visually and aurally. Time-keeping would begin whenever the first musical note played, either by pipe or drum. This applies to the Medley competition only; the MSR

competition would remain unchanged. The format change would apply to all grades playing in a Medley competition. No penalty would occur for bands choosing to use the current, traditional format.

Rationale: This change could make the contest more appealing to non-piping audiences, open avenues of creativity and could enhance the presentation, overall.

Southwest Branch

Sent to Music Board

Solos

8. Proposal to alternate 2/4 and 6/8 marches for Grade 4 solos

For Grade 4 solos, swap off 2/4 and 6/8 march requirements on even and odd days.

Rationale: 6/8 march playing is rarely offered in the lower grades and would help to make a more well rounded player by having different time signatures to compete in and facilitate more beat conscious playing thus preparing the player for 6/8 march playing in the upper solo grades. This applies to both junior and senior contests.

Metro Branch

Sent to Music Board

9. Proposal to limit solo tuning time

Tuning time limit for solos is being abused by some competitors. Time limits should be enforced by stewards and judges.

Rationale: There are rules in place for tuning time limits. Who is responsible for observing the rules, the steward or the judge? When competitors are allowed to go past the set time for tuning they make the contest run late and inconvenience competitors who may be competing in multiple events and can't be in 2 places at once.

Note from Recording Secretary: There are, in fact, no set rules about the amount of time a player may take to tune. Time is theoretically built into the schedule by the games for each player to tune, and total times are suggested in the sanctioning package, but the EUSPBA does not specify a required tuning time or limit.

Withdrawn

Metro Branch

10. Proposal for sanctioned strathspey/reel event in Grade 4

A 2-parted Strathspey/Reel event sanctioned in Grade 4 and offered at the discretion of the piping contest organizers.

Rationale: This is a natural step in a piper's progression as a player and throughout the grades. Introducing this at Grade 4 could vastly improve the overall quality of the Grade 3 S/R event by familiarizing players with the idiom by playing simpler two-parted versions of these tunes. Placement in the 2 parted Strathspey/Reel event could also be used as an additional indicator of a piper's readiness to move into Grade 3. The unsanctioned S/R event offered at solo competitions in the Southwest Branch over the past two years has been extraordinarily well-received, encouraging players to expand their repertoire and range of musical expression.

Southwest Branch

Sent to Executive Committee for discussion and possible addition to sanctioning pkg

Proposal for addition to Rulebook regarding bagpipe size

All competitors must compete on the Great Highland Bagpipe; that is, a GHB of full size, not parlor, 3/4 or any other type of pipe.

Rationale: This already exists in practice, but not in written form in the rules. Clarifying this rule will reduce confusion regarding which types of bagpipes are eligible for competition.

Southwest Branch

Sent to Executive Committee to add to rulebook