

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association – Music Board



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Music Board

Reference Information on Competition Format Part 2 – World Solo Drumming

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2 Amendment History

Date	Version	Update Made
21/06/2021	Draft 0.1	Initial Version compiled from previous MB documents
20/04/2022	Draft 0.2	Comments from World Solo Drumming Group
21/08/2022	Draft 0.3	Response to comment ready for final review and approval
23/08/2022	Draft 0.4	Updates from WSD Group, prior to MB Meeting
01/09/2022	Draft 0.5	Update to Adult Hornpipe and Jig
01/09/2022	Draft 0.6	Transition in Hornpipe and Jig
8/10/2022	Version 1.0	Document agreed for issue.
18/10/2022	Version 2.0	Removal of World qualifiers and publish on Web

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3 Introduction

This document has been compiled from previously approved documents issued by the Music Board used as a reference for the World Solo Drumming Championships, and to expand on information contained within the Articles of Association and Standing Orders and Rules of the Association.

4 General

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band association organises “The World Solo Drumming Championships” that takes place in October each year. The championship covers two Pipe Band disciplines, Snare Drumming and Tenor Drumming, for both Adult and Juvenile entrants. No flash photography or recordings are permitted without prior written approval by the RSPBA.

All competitors must be registered members of an RSPBA pipe band or Overseas Pipe Band association that is registered with the RSPBA.

All competitors must wear band uniform.

An entrants’ competitive section will be determined by his/her age as of the **1st NOVEMBER** prior to the Championship.

4.1 Entries

Application to enter the Championship must be made by the Registered Band Secretary completing the published entry form to enter. The event covers: -

1. World Juvenile Solo Snare Drumming
2. World Adult Solo Snare Drumming
3. World Juvenile Solo Tenor Drumming
4. World Adult Solo Tenor Drumming

The entry form should be returned (with attachments) to headquarters, along with the appropriate fee no later than the closing date published on the entry form.

**RSPBA HEADQUARTERS
45 WASHINGTON STREET
GLASGOW
G3 8AZ**

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All correspondence will be sent to the RSPBA registered Band Secretary only and payment is made to the RSPBA.

Entry Fees will only be refunded if the event is cancelled.

4.2 Championship Draw

A draw for the order of play will be made in advance of the Championship generally in the week following the closing date of entries.

Full draw details will be available via the RSPBA website, www.rspb.org. details will also be sent to the Registered Band Secretary.

It is intended that all Juvenile Sections and Adult Heats will be held in the morning.

The Adult Semi-Finals and Adult Final will be held in the afternoon, although this may change depending on the format and/or number of entrants.

There will be no pre-defined sequence or allocation of entries within any heat, semi-final or final.

4.2.1 The draw procedure.

The entries received in each section will be subject to the allocation of a random player number at the start of the draw. This is to avoid entrants on the same entry form being allocated sequential playing numbers.

The order of play will be then randomly drawn in the conventional way, player number drawn against order of play number.

Should the entry need to be split into heats / semi-final the drawn list from above will be split. For example, if there are to be three heats the first 1/3rd will be assigned to heat 1, the second 3rd to heat 2 and the remainder to heat 3.

In the Adult sections heats will be implemented where the number of entries exceeds 18. In the Juvenile sections the number of entries will be used to determine if heats are to be implemented.

The order of play of the semi-final and final will be subject to a random draw following the principles set out above, sequence number drawn against order of play number.

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In the case of the Adult Semi Final, there will be a combination of competitor names (those who have qualified through an RSPBA Solo Drumming Championship events and the logical qualifier from a Heat (H1 Q1 etc).

4.2.2 Seeding

There will be no Seeding in any section, heat, semi-final or final, as there is a push to ensure the championship operates using a random draw for all the events.

4.2.3 World Adult Solo Snare Drumming

At the Board of Directors meeting on Saturday 24th July 2021 the Board ratified the Music Board proposals to award Championship titles to the Adult World Solo Drumming Championship pre-qualification events for 2022 and beyond.

Following extensive consultation over several years with the Adult Competitors, Adjudicators, Directors and Sponsors, the event has grown and developed. Positive submissions and assistance by all involved worldwide has enabled the RSPBA World Solo Drumming Championships to positively evolve to its current form.

This next stage of evolution is to create a competition circuit for qualification to the World Solo Drumming Championship. It is hoped that the qualification circuit will continue to evolve and be extended to further events in the coming years both in the U.K. and Internationally.

From 2023 the World Solo Drumming Championship will be two semi-finals followed by a final of 12. There will no longer be morning adult qualifier events held on the day of the Championship.

The semi-finalists in the World Adult Snare event must pre-qualify from one of the Championship titled qualifying events.

The Championship titled qualification events may be hosted by any of the RSPBA Branches or affiliated organisations. All applications to host future events should be submitted in writing to RSPBA H.Q.

4.2.3.1 *The RSPBA Solo Drumming Championships*

The titles and the current host branches are listed below.

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, Scottish Solo Drumming Championship Current host; *Lothian & Borders Branch.*

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The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, British Solo Drumming Championship Current host; Glasgow & West of Scotland Branch.

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, United Kingdom Solo Drumming Championship Current host; Northern Ireland Branch.

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, European Solo Drumming Championship Current host Dundee Perth & Angus Branch/ Kingdom Thistle.

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, Intercontinental Solo Drumming Championship Current host; Metro Cup, New York.

4.2.3.2 Qualification from The RSPBA Solo Drumming Championships

The RSPBA Solo Drumming Championships (previously the regional qualifying events) have seen a significant increase in entry numbers, some more than doubled in entry numbers from the previous year. To continue to further promote and increase in entry numbers, it is vital that the dates and venues for all qualification events is confirmed as early as possible.

Contests to be approved by the RSPBA.

Contests is to be adjudicated by RSPBA approved drumming adjudicators.

Competitors must Submit two March, Strathspey and Reel sets, each tune minimum of four parts.

The set to be played will be drawn on the line by the RSPBA Director responsible for the event.

Places will be awarded at these qualifying events to the highest placed competitors who have not already pre-qualified for World Solo Drumming semi-final.

The contest must follow the principles laid out in this document:

The general rules laid out within this document will apply to the contest.

The Entry fee for the RSPBA Solo Drumming Championship is non-refundable.

An entry fee is payable for World Solo Drumming Event when the competitor completes their entry indicating they have pre-qualified by being placed at a Solo Drumming Championship.

5 Morning Briefings

There will be a briefing for the Officials (Directors, Compilers, Stewards, Adjudicators and

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Judges etc) prior to the start of the Championships. There will be a second briefing for those Officials who are not on duty until latter in the day, to accommodate travel arrangements.

The briefing will ensure the necessary information for the operation of the championship is available to all, and will consider:

- The championship draw, allocated venues for each section, tuning rooms and notification of withdrawals.
- All contests, except the Adult events, are the entrant's own choice, ask the competitor to announce to the adjudicator what they are playing.
- Adult Events: In their Qualifying Heat and the Semi Final a draw will take place just prior to the competitor's performance to determine the MSR to be played from the two submitted.
 - The Player submits their form to the director. The form must be complete with two MSR sets and details of the Hornpipes and Jigs to be played.
 - The Director draws the set to be played, in the room and marks this on the form.
 - The Director announces the set to be played.
 - In the semi-final, the **Director retains the form.** The forms is to be returned to compiling with the summary sheets.
- Qualifiers from heats will be announced in the room where the heat takes place immediately following the completion of the heat.
- The qualifier form is to be used to record the qualifiers and the form is to be returned to compiling with the critique and summary sheets.
- Qualifiers from semi-finals will be announced in the room where the semi-final takes place immediately following the completion of the semi-final.
- The qualifier form is to be used to record the six semi-final qualifiers and the form is to be returned to compiling with the critique and summary sheets.
- There will be no critique sheets issued for the Adult Semi-Final and Final.
- Summary sheets for the non-qualifiers will be handed out at an agreed time from Registration Desk.
- Both legs of the Adult Final may be being Streamed Live across the globe, hence there is a need to there is a smooth flow of competitors to venue.

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- all players regardless of grade, must be allowed to play to their allotted time slot in the draw unless they chose to move forward even if there are several withdrawals on the day in a particular heat/event.

6 Breaking Ties

The process for breaking ties.

6.1 Heats, Semi Finals & Juvenile Final:

- 1st Preference: Highest number of highest places awarded throughout all Adjudicator placings.
- 2nd Preference: By Adjudicator preference of all Adjudicators involved, original placings shall remain unchanged throughout consultation.

6.2 Adult Final:

This preference sequence will be applied during compiling to resolve ties and determine the winner in the World Solo Drumming Final.

- 1st Preference: Highest number of highest places awarded throughout all Adjudicator placings.
- 2nd Preference: Highest number of highest places awarded in the MSR performance.
- 3rd Preference: In a competition involving multiple performances, any tie in the overall result will be decided on MSR preference.
- 4th Preference: By Adjudicator preference of all Adjudicators involved, original placings shall remain unchanged throughout consultation.

7 Critique and Summary Sheets

Critique sheets / feedback will be provided in all sections except for the Adult Snare Drumming Semi-final and Final.

Summary sheets will be provided for all sections.

The full summary sheet will be provided in all sections (Adult and Juvenile).

8 Snare Drumming

Snare drummers **must** be accompanied by no more than **two** pipers, [one piper is permitted].

Performances must commence with two sets of uniform three pace rolls.

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Performances will be assessed using the RSPBA placing system follow all current rules and recommendations.

9 World Juvenile Snare Drumming

Competitors are confined to ONE section (event) only.

A player from a 'Novice A' or '4 A' Band may select to enter either a March (section 1 or 2) or MSR (section 3, 4 or 5) dependant on their age.

Once a competitor has entered the MSR (sections) they cannot revert to the March (sections) in any future World Juvenile Solo Snare Drumming championship.

9.1 World Juvenile Solo Snare Drumming Sections

The sections for the World Juvenile Solo Snare Drumming Championships are detailed below.

SECTION	CRITERIA	PLAYING REQUIREMENTS
1	Aged under 14 years on the 1 st November and registered with a Band Graded; Novice Juvenile or Grade 4.	8 Parts of Quick March tempo in 2/4 time signature, tunes from the RSPBA Approved List
2	Aged 14 years and over and under 18 years on the 1 st November and registered with a Band Graded; Novice Juvenile or Grade 4.	8 Parts of Quick March tempo in 2/4 time signature, tunes from the RSPBA Approved List
3	Aged under 14 years on the 1 st November and registered with a Band Graded; Novice Juvenile, Grade 4, Juvenile, Grade 3, Grade 2 or Grade 1.	March, Strathspey and Reel, to be played without stopping in between tunes. Minimum of FOUR parts each tune.
4	Aged 14 years and over and under 16 years on the 1 st November and registered with a Band Graded; Novice Juvenile, Grade 4, Juvenile, Grade 3, Grade 2 or Grade 1.	March, Strathspey and Reel, to be played without stopping in between tunes. Minimum of FOUR parts each tune.

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SECTION	CRITERIA	PLAYING REQUIREMENTS
5	Aged 16 years and over under 18 years on the 1 st November and registered with a Band Graded; Novice Juvenile, Grade 4, Juvenile, Grade 3, Grade 2 or Grade 1.	March, Strathspey and Reel, to be played without stopping in between tunes. Minimum of FOUR parts each tune.

10 World Adult Snare Drumming

Open to those Aged 18 years or over on the 1st November and registered with a Band Graded; Grade 4, Grade 3, Grade 2 or Grade 1.

All entrants must pre-qualify via either one of the RSPBA Solo Drumming Championships or one the qualification heats on the day of the championships. To facilitate this the numbers to qualify from each event will be as follows: -

- 5 RSPBA Solo Drumming Championships - 4 qualifiers from each (total of 20)
- Up to 3 qualification heats on the day of the championships - Maximum 4 qualifying from each heat.

This gives a maximum of 32 qualifying for the semi-final, split into 2 semi-finals with 6 qualifying from each of the semi-finals to make a final of 12.

The prequalifying entries to the Adult World Solo Drumming Championship, will automatically be entered into the semi-final stage of the competition.

All adult competitors should complete the entry form.

The MSR Section and Hornpipe & Jig Section of the Adult Final have the same weighting factor.

10.1 Contest Operation

Adjudicator panels for the final where possible are to be positioned in the middle of the hall rather than at the front.

Forms for each section will be provided to the competitors for the tunes to be written down so they can be announced / checked throughout the championships.

In their Qualifying Heat and the Semi Final a draw will take place just prior to the competitor's performance to determine the MSR to be played from the two submitted.

The draw in the Qualifying Heat is to align the criteria to the same conditions used by those who qualified from one of the RSPBA Solo Drumming Championships.

The draw will take place just prior to the competitor's performance to determine the MSR to be played from the two submitted.

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- The Player submits their form to the director. The form must be complete with two MSR sets and details of the Hornpipes and Jigs to be played in the Final.
- The Director draws the set to be played, in the room and marks this on the form.
- The Director announces the set to be played.
- In the semi-final, the **Director retains the form.** The forms is to be returned to compiling with the summary sheets.

Finalists will be announced in the room where the semi-final took place, immediately following the completion of the semi-final.

In the Final the competitor will play the MSR not drawn in the semi-final round. The Director checks this against the form marked and retained as part of the semi-final. The Director announces the set to be played.

In the Final the competitor will play the submitted Hornpipes and Jigs.

10.2 World Adult Snare Drumming MSR Section

Every competitor in the MSR Section must Submit two March, Strathspey and Reel sets.

In both of the MSR sets each tune is to have minimum of four parts, and the set is to be played without stopping in between tunes.

10.3 World Adult Snare Drumming Hornpipe and Jig Section

For the Hornpipe & Jig Section the competitor must submit two Hornpipes and two Jigs.

Each tune is to have minimum of four parts, and is to be played without stopping in between tunes (A tune cannot comprise of two x 2 parted tunes).

The player should demonstrate knowledge of both the Dot / Cut and Open rhythm (/idioms) within their performance of the hornpipes.

The Hornpipes are to be played in sequence with the Dot / Cut first followed by the Open rhythm.

Any transitions within the hornpipes and jigs performance must limited to be a maximum of 4 bars.

11 Tenor Drumming

Tenor drummers **must** be accompanied by no more than **one** snare drummer and **two** pipers, [one piper is permitted],

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Performances must commence with two sets of uniform beats played in time with the snare drummers three pace rolls,

Performances will be assessed using the RSPBA placing system and feedback will be provided using the following parameters:

- The quality and precision of the Introduction, ○ Tempo and phrasing to melodic accompaniment,
- The quality of execution and technique, [including visual embellishments where appropriate],
- Integration and Interpretation of melodic structure/theme,
 - Rhythmic and expressive qualities, ○ Dynamic effect and musical balance, ○ Tonal quality and blend with bagpipe and snare.

12 World Juvenile Solo Tenor Drumming

Competitors are confined to ONE section (event) only.

A player from a 'Novice A' or '4 A' Band may select to enter either a March (section 1 or 2) or MSR (section 3, 4 or 5) dependant on their age.

Once a competitor has entered the MSR (sections) they cannot revert to the March (sections) in any future World Juvenile Solo Tenor Drumming championship.

12.1 World Juvenile Solo Tenor Drumming Sections

The sections for the World Juvenile Solo Tenor Drumming Championships are detailed below.

SECTION	CRITERIA	PLAYING REQUIREMENTS
A	Aged under 14 years on the 1 st November and registered with a Band Graded; Novice Juvenile or Grade 4.	8 Parts of Quick March tempo in 2/4 time signature, tunes from the RSPBA Approved List
B	Aged 14 years and over and under 18 years on the 1 st November and registered with a Band Graded; Novice Juvenile or Grade 4.	8 Parts of Quick March tempo in 2/4 time signature, tunes from the RSPBA Approved List
C	Aged under 14 years on the 1 st November and registered with a Band Graded; Novice Juvenile, Grade 4, Juvenile, Grade 3, Grade 2 or Grade 1.	March, Strathspey, and Reel, to be played without stopping in between tunes. Minimum of FOUR parts each tune.

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D	Aged 14 years and over and under 16 years on the 1 st November and registered with a Band Graded; Novice Juvenile, Grade 4, Juvenile, Grade 3, Grade 2 or Grade 1.	March, Strathspey, and Reel, to be played without stopping in between tunes. Minimum of FOUR parts each tune.
E	Aged 16 years and over and under 18 years on the 1 st November 2016 and registered with a Band Graded; Novice Juvenile, Grade 4, Juvenile, Grade 3, Grade 2 or Grade 1.	March, Strathspey, and Reel, to be played without stopping in between tunes. Minimum of FOUR parts each tune.

13 World Adult Tenor Drumming

Open to those Aged 18 years or over on the 1st November and registered with a Band Graded; Grade 4, Grade 3, Grade 2 or Grade 1.

The Tenor drumming solo Judging panel(s) are to be positioned appropriately.

13.1 World Adult Tenor Drumming Sections

Each competitor must Submit two March, Strathspey and Reel sets, each tune minimum of four parts.

In the MSR each tune is to have minimum of four parts, and the set is to be played without stopping in between tunes.

Forms will be provided to the competitors for the tunes to be written down so they can be announced / checked throughout the championships.

A draw will take place just prior to the competitor's performance to determine the MSR to be played from the two submitted.

- The Player submits their form to the director. The form must be complete with two MSR sets.
- The Director draws the set to be played, in the room and marks this on the form.
- The Director announces the set to be played.
- The **Director retains the form.**
- The forms is to be returned to compiling with the summary sheets.

If the number of competitors exceeds 18 there will be a need for a semi-final followed by a final. In the semi-final the competitor will play the MSR drawn on the line, should the competitor reach the final they will play their other MSR.

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Finalists will be announced in the room where the semi-final took place, immediately following the completion of the semi-final.

If the number of entries is below 19 (18 and under) the event will be a straight through Final, the competitor will play the MSR drawn on the line.

In the Final the competitor will play the MSR not drawn in the semi-final round. The Director checks this against the form marked and retained as part of the semi-final. The Director announces the set to be played.