



The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association Music Board

Reference Information on Competition Format
Part 2 – RSPBA World Solo Drumming
Incorporating the RSPBA Champion of
Champions and RSPBA World Solo Drumming
Championship Circuit

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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
15/1/2024	Version 3.0	Amendments and Inclusion of WSD Competition Circuit

3. Introduction

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

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 contests for 2022 and beyond.

Following extensive consultation over several years with the Adult Competitors, Adjudicators, Directors and Sponsors, the circuit has now 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 was to create a competition circuit for qualification to the World Solo Drumming Championship. It was hoped that the qualification circuit would continue to evolve both in the U.K. and Internationally.

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

The semi-finalists in the World Adult Snare contest must pre-qualify from one of the Championship titled Circuit Competitions.

4 General

4.1 RSPBA World Solo Drumming Championship Circuit Contests

The Royal Scottish Pipe Band association organises “The RSPBA World Solo Drumming Championships” that usually takes place in October each year. The championship covers two Pipe Band disciplines, Snare Drumming and Tenor Drumming, for both Adult and Juvenile entrants. In October 2023 following a recommendation from the World Solo Drumming Working Group to the RSPBA Music Board the RSPBA Board of Directors approved the establishment of the Adult Solo Drumming Champion of Champions which will be decided by the compilation of results from the 8 contests established as part of the RSPBA World Solo Drumming Championship Circuit on an annual basis commencing in the 2024 season.

The 8 current contests are –

RSPBA Intercontinental Solo Drumming Championship currently hosted by the EUSPBA

RSPBA Scottish Solo Drumming Championship currently hosted by the L&B Branch RSPBA

RSPBA British Solo Drumming Championship currently hosted by the GWoS Branch RSPBA

RSPBA UK Solo Drumming Championship currently hosted by the NI Branch RSPBA

RSPBA European Solo Drumming Championship currently hosted by the DPA Branch RSPBA

RSPBA Oceania Solo Drumming Championship currently hosted by the RNZPBA

RSPBA Pacific Rim Solo Drumming Championship currently hosted by the BCPA

RSPBA World Solo Drumming Championship hosted by the RSPBA

No flash photography or recordings are permitted without prior approval by the host organisation.

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 where issued.

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

The general rules laid out within this document will apply to all contests.

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

4.2 Licensing of Contests

The Championship Circuit Contests may be hosted by any of the RSPBA Branches or Affiliated Associations subject to approval of the RSPBA Board of Directors.

All applications to host future competitions should be submitted in writing to RSPBA H.Q.

Dates for competitions must be approved by the RSPBA, they should not clash with other RSPBA Licensed competitions, and Contest Dates must not be announced till the license is granted in writing by RSPBA HQ.

Licensing is available at the hosts discretion to include all/some sections currently offered at the RSPBA World Solo Drumming Championships and would attract the relevant Championship Title of the following sections.

NB - Age will be that on the 1st day of November of the period to which the registration refers (the RSPBA season commences on the 1st of November of the previous year i.e. for the 2024 Season, this will be 1st November 2023).

SECTION	CRITERIA	PLAYING REQUIREMENTS
Adult Snare	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.	March, Strathspey and Reel, to be played without stopping in between tunes. Minimum of FOUR parts each tune. Two MSRs to be submitted and will be drawn on the line.
1	Aged under 14 years on the 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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.
5	Aged 16 years and over under 18 years on the 1st 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.
Adult Tenor	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.	March, Strathspey and Reel, to be played without stopping in between tunes. Minimum of FOUR parts each tune. Two MSRs to be submitted and will be drawn on the line.
A	Aged under 14 years on the 1st 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 1st 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 1st 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.
D	Aged 14 years and over and under 16 years on the 1st 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 under 18 years on the 1st 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.

4.3 Entry Requirements

Application to enter any desired Championship Contest must be made to the appropriate Contest Secretary by completing the published entry form and paying the required entry fee.

No late entries may be accepted after the published closing date.

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

4.4 Championship Draw

Closing date for Contest must be agreed with the RSPBA via the licensing agreement.

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

Full draw details will be available via the host organisation's social media as well as the RSPBA website, www.rspba.org.

For the World Solo Drumming Championship it is intended that all Juvenile Sections and Adult Tenor will be held in the morning.

For the RSPBA World Solo Drumming Championship competitions, Adult Semi-Finals and Adult Final will generally 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 at any contest.

4.5 The Draw Procedure.

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

At all contests the individual named entries received in each section including the RSPBA Adults Solo Snare Drumming Semi Final will be subject to a fully randomised draw by placing individual printed names in a container, the player's name then to be drawn against order of play number.

In the Adult Circuit Competitions, where the number of competitors exceeds 18, heats will normally be implemented. However, in certain circumstances this may be varied on the direction of the RSPBA

Board of Directors. In the case of the RSPBA Adults Solo Snare Drumming Semi Finalists will be determined by an agreed ratio of qualification places as advised by the RSPBA Music Board Format Group.

In the Juvenile sections the number of entries will be used to determine if heats are to be implemented on the direction of the RSPBA Board of Directors.

Should the entry need to be split into heats the playing order 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.

If desired by the host organization, the draw may be conducted live on social media.

4.6 The RSPBA Solo Drumming Championship Circuit

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

All contests to be approved/Licensed by the RSPBA.

All contests must be adjudicated by RSPBA approved drumming adjudicators.

All circuit contests must be adjudicated by 2 RSPBA approved drumming adjudicators.

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

All Performances will be assessed using the RSPBA placing system follow all current rules contained in Reference Information on Competition Format Part 2 – RSPBA World Solo Drumming Incorporating the RSPBA Champion of Champions title and RSPBA World Solo Drumming Championship Circuit.

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 competition. For circuit contests this may be via a digital platform immediately prior to each individual performance.

In an Adult 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 Adult World Solo Snare Drumming Final only, the competitor will play the submitted Hornpipes and Jigs.

In the Adults Solo Snare Drumming places will be awarded at these circuit competitions to the highest placed competitors who have not already pre-qualified for World Solo Drumming semi-final, as agreed by the Board of Directors prior to the contest.

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

A further entry fee is payable by the entrant for RSPBA World Solo Drumming Championship when the

competitor completes their entry indicating they have pre-qualified by being placed at a RSPBA Adult Solo Snare Drumming Championship Circuit contest.

5. Pre-Contest Briefing

There will be a briefing for the Officials (Directors, Compilers, Stewards, Adjudicators and Judges etc) prior to the start of the contests. There may be a second briefing for those Officials who are not on duty until later in the day, to accommodate travel arrangements.

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

- Review of the contest draw, allocated venues for each section, tuning rooms and notification of withdrawals.
- All contests, except the adult competitions, are the entrant's own choice, ask the competitor to announce to the adjudicator what they are playing.
- **Adult Contests only: In the Circuit Competitions and World Solo Drumming Semi Final**
a draw will take place immediately prior to the competitor's performance by the RSPBA Director to determine the MSR Set to be played from the two submitted on the **Set Notification Sheet**.
 - The Player submits their Set Notification Sheet to the RSPBA Director or Representative. The sheet must be complete with two MSR sets, and in the case of only the Adult World Solo Snare Drumming details of the Hornpipes and Jigs to be played.
 - The Director draws the set to be played, in the room or via an agreed online platform and ensure this is marked clearly on the set notification sheet.
 - The Director or Representative announces the set to be played.
 - The **Director or Representative retains the Set Notification Sheet.**
 - The completed Set Notification Sheets must then be returned to RSPBA Headquarters with the compiling summary sheets immediately following the Competition.
- In any semi-final/heats, Qualifiers will be announced in the room where the semi-final/heat takes place immediately following the completion of the competition.
- In the World Solo Snare Drumming Semi-finals, the result summary sheet is to be used to record the six qualifiers for the Final and the sheet is to be returned to compiling with the critique sheets.
- There will be no critique sheets issued for the Adult Snare Drumming Final.
- For all other Adult and Juvenile competitions critique sheets will be issued to competitors
- Critique sheets for the non-qualifiers will be handed out at an agreed time by contest organisers.
- All competitions may be Streamed Live with prior agreement of the RSPBA Board of Directors.
- All players regardless of grade, must be allowed to play to their allotted time slot in the draw

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unless they chose to move forward even if there are several withdrawals on the day in a particular competition.

- Any changes to playing order must be exceptional circumstances, and must be approved by RSPBA Director allocated to contest.

6 Breaking Ties

The agreed process for breaking ties is described below.

6.1 Heats, Semi Finals & All Juvenile Finals:

- 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, and recorded on summary sheet as **AP**.

6.2 Adult Drumming Final:

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

- 1st Preference: Highest number of highest places awarded throughout all Adjudicator placings across all competitions. Recorded on summary sheet as **HP in Final Position Column**.
- 2nd Preference: Highest number of highest places awarded in the MSR performance. recorded on summary sheet as **HP MSR in Final Position Column**.
- 3rd Preference: In a competition involving multiple performances, any tie in the overall result will be decided on MSR preference, recorded on summary sheet as **MSR in Final Position Column**.
- 4th Preference: By Adjudicator preference of all Adjudicators involved, original placings shall remain unchanged throughout consultation, and recorded on summary sheet as **AP in Final Position Column**.

7 Critique and Summary Sheets

Critique sheets / feedback will be provided in all sections except for the RSPBA World Adult Snare Drumming Final.

The full summary sheet will be provided to competitors in all sections (Adult and Juvenile) and published on Social Media at the earliest opportunity by both the Host Association and RSPBA.

8 Accompaniment

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.

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

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

9 Eligability

9.1 In Circuit Juvenile Snare Drumming classes including World Solo Drumming

Competitors are confined to ONE section 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) dependent on their age.

Once a competitor has entered the MSR (sections) they cannot revert to the March (sections 1 or 2) in any future Circuit Snare Drumming and World Solo Snare Drumming championships.

9.2 Juvenile Solo Snare Drumming Sections

The sections for the Juvenile Solo Snare Drumming Circuit classes including World Solo Drumming 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.
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. 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 one of the RSPBA Solo Drumming Championships Circuit contests.

To facilitate the numbers of qualifiers from each competition, this will be recommended annually by the Music Board and approved by the RSPBA Board of Directors.

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

Those securing qualification to the Adult World Solo Drumming Championship, will require to enter the Semi-Final via the RSPBA World Solo Drumming via the RSPBA Website when published.

10.1 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

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.

11.1 Juvenile Solo Tenor Drumming

Competitors are confined to ONE section 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) dependent on their age.

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

In the Juvenile sections the number of entries will be used to determine if heats are to be implemented on the direction of the RSPBA Board of Directors.

11.2 Juvenile Solo Tenor Drumming Sections

The sections for the 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.
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.

12 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.

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.

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

In the Adult Circuit Competitions, where the number of competitors exceeds 18, heats will normally be implemented. However, in certain circumstances this may be varied on the direction of the RSPBA Board of Directors.

If required 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.

13. RSPBA Champion of Champions Solo Snare Drumming Championship

Commencing from the 2024 Season, for Adult Snare Drumming, a Champion of Champions will be awarded at the RSPBA World Solo Drumming Competition.

The recipient of this award shall be the Adult Snare Drummer with the highest points total over the Championship competitions approved by the RSPBA Board of Directors.

Points will be maintained on a league table, with points available from 1st to 6th at all Circuit contests, for example 6 points for 1st Place, 5 points for 2nd place etc.

The agreed process for deciding a tie -

The 1st Preference will be the player with the most 1st places at any circuit competitions.

The 2nd Preference will be the highest placing at the World Solo Drumming.