

British Columbia Pipers' Association

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The Honourable
John Fraser

May 19, 2011

To All BCPA Members:

Following several months of development, discussion, consultation with affected parties, and revision, the Board of Directors of the British Columbia Pipers' Association is requesting your feedback on a proposed rule change that seeks to establish criteria for granting Grand Aggregate Awards Status to Highland Games operating in our jurisdiction. The proposed rule change seeks to provide a detailed, merit-based approach to granting Grand Aggregate Awards Status for all Highland Games in our jurisdiction, in order to resolve the continuing concerns surrounding Grand Aggregate Awards Status Competitions, including the matter of Highland Games operating on the same day.

The proponents of this rule change believe that it provides the following advancements.

Sets Clear and Fair, Merit-Based Requirements

- It provides the current Board of Directors, as well as future boards of directors, with a clear, fair and merit-based method to determine whether a Highland Games has earned the privilege of awarding Grand Aggregate points for its events. It places in the hands of a Highland Games seeking Grand Aggregate Awards Status and competitors (both soloists and bands), by their participation, the ability for the particular Highland Games to comply with the requirements.

Protects the Grand Aggregate Awards Status of existing Grand Aggregate Awards Status Highland Games

- It preserves and protects the privilege of existing Grand Aggregate Status Highland Games in the Association's jurisdiction to award Grand Aggregate Awards points at their events.

Strengthens the Association's commitment to preservation and advancement of Grand Aggregate Awards Status Highland Games

- In situations where an existing Grand Aggregate Awards Status Highland Games does not meet the criteria in the proposed rule, it commits the BCPA to work with Highland Games to jointly develop and execute an improvement plan to bring the following year's competition into compliance.

Demonstrates better commitment to fulfilling the BCPA Constitution

- It meets the BCPA's Constitution to "foster and preserve Bagpipe music" by encouraging and rewarding new Highland Games that strive to meet the proposed criteria, while at the same time strengthening the Association's commitment to existing Highland Games, through an active stake in maintaining and increasing the number of youth and adults taking up bagpipes and drums and improving their ability through competition.

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To reach a conclusion, the Board of Directors would like to receive your thoughts on whether and or not you believe the proposed rule will deliver the claimed advancements to piping, drumming and the competition environment across our region and the reasons for your belief.

You are the people who provide Highland Games with the participants and patrons needed for their success. Your voice in this decision is important.

By June 5, 2011 please complete the survey at

www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22CDBYR22QT/

Thank you for taking part in this important decision making process.

The Board of Directors

British Columbia Pipers' Association

Proposed Changes to BCPA Competition Rules

In the Solo Piping Rules and the Solo Side and Tenor Drumming Rules

1. Delete the content from Section 8. "LIST OF HIGHLAND GAMES – GRAND AGGREGATE STATUS" from page 1
2. Create new Section 8 at end of the document titled "Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions"
3. Add the following to new Section 8

8.1 Criteria for Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions

Competitions shall be approved by the Association's Board of Directors as Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions on meeting all the following criteria:

- a. The competition is held within the geographical area indicated in clause 1.2
- b. The competition organizers are current Highland Games Association members of the Association in good standing and have been current members for at least three months before the first Grand Aggregate Awards Competition of the fiscal year occurs. Otherwise, Grand Aggregate Awards Competition status for the competition is suspended until the competition becomes a current member in good standing
- c. The competition organizers have demonstrated that they have run a competition for a minimum of two years
- d. The competition has been run under the Association's competition rules
- e. The competition has used the Association's common music events and their music requirements as defined in clause 5.1
- f. The competition has used the Association's Approved Adjudicators or adjudicators from the approved adjudicators panels of piping/pipe band associations that the Association officially recognizes, as defined in clauses 6.1 and 6.2
- g. The competition has offered all the disciplines (solo piping, solo side drumming, solo tenor drumming, and pipe bands)
- h. The competition has offered in each discipline, each official grade for which the full instrument is played
- i. The competition has offered the appropriate number of events in each official grade across the music disciplines (i.e. minimum 2 events per grade in solo piping and solo side drumming and minimum 1 event per grade in solo tenor drumming and pipe bands)
- j. A minimum of 75 solo competitors must have actually competed in the most recent competition
- k. A minimum of 6 pipe bands must have actually competed in the most recent competition
- l. The competition has been run effectively and efficiently

The Association shall publish a list of the Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions.

A Grand Aggregate Awards Competition shall meet all of the above conditions for their competition, otherwise the Association and the competition's organizers shall jointly develop and execute an improvement plan to bring the following year's competition into compliance. Except in the case of clause 8.1b, an existing Grand Aggregate Awards Competition shall retain its Grand Aggregate Awards Status despite non-compliance.

8.2 Criteria for events to award Grand Aggregate Awards Points at Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions

- a. The particular grade (Grade 5, 4, 3 etc) for the discipline (solo piping, solo side drumming, solo tenor drumming, and pipe bands) must be offered by a minimum of 50% of the Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions; and
 - b. The event must not have a numerical limit on the number of competitors or a geographical restriction on who can enter for the event; and
 - c. For pipe band competitions, the event must be a full band event; and
 - d. For competitions which are more than one day in length, the event may occur on any day of the competition
4. Revise clause 6.7.1 to read "At the end of the competition season, the Association shall award a Grand Aggregate Award in each grade determined by clauses 8.1 and 8.2 to the Association member with the highest accumulated points at the Grand Aggregate Awards Competitions determined by clauses 8.1 and 8.2.

In the Pipe Band Rules

Changes to the Pipe Band Rules are the same as described above for the Solo Piping Rules and the Solo Side and Tenor Drumming Rules with the following changes:

1. Change references to "clause 5.1" to "clause 2.10", "clause 6.1" to "clause 5.1", "clause 6.2" to "clause 5.2", "clause 6.7.1" to "clause 6.5.1", "Section 8" to "Section 9", "clause 8.1" to "clause 9.1", "clause 8.1b" to "clause 9.1b", "clause 8.2" to "clause 9.2".