

BC Pipers' Association

Changes affecting BCPA sanctioned pipe band competition events and grading beginning in 2016/17 season

July 25, 2016

To all pipe bands competing in BCPA sanctioned pipe band competition events:

Following a year of consultations with pipe band leaders, Highland Games organizations, and other pipe band associations in North America, the BC Pipers' Association is introducing the following changes beginning in the 2016/17 season.

New and Revised Music Requirements for Grades 5 and 4 band events

The following table provides the new and revised music requirements for Grades 5 and 4 bands

Grade	Event Number	Event Name	Music Requirements
5	812	Quick Marches Set	4 x 2 parted Marches from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Associations list of prescribed tunes http://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes.php
4	821	Medley	3 – 5 minutes
4	822	March, Strathspey & Reel	1 x 4 parted or 2 x 2 parted Marches, Strathspeys, Reels from the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Associations list of prescribed tunes http://www.rspba.org/html/prescribedtunes.php

Note: The Quick Marches Set event for Grade 4 has been eliminated.

Webinar on preparing for the New and Revised Music Requirements for Grades 5 and 4

On Saturday, October 1 from 9:00 – 11:00 am, an online webinar will be provided to the pipe band leaders and instructors of BCPA Grade s 5 and 4 bands on preparing for the new and revised music requirements for 2017.

The webinar, led by the BCPA Band Grading Committee, will include a special session on preparing for the new Grade 4 MSR event, given by Midwest Pipe Band Association (MWPBA) President Jim Sim and MWPBA Music Board Chair Tom Weithers.

Jim and Tom prepared and provided their presentation to MWPBA bands for the Grade 4 MSR and it was instrumental in achieving a smooth transition for Grade 4 bands to the increased music requirement. We believe their presentation will be very helpful to BCPA region Grade 4 bands in music selection and preparation for the season and there will be opportunities to ask questions for further guidance.

BCPA is grateful to Jim and Tom for agreeing to provide their presentation to BCPA region bands.

To register for the webinar use the following link:

<https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/1192371258484265218>

Training ID: 232-242-652

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Realignment of BCPA band grades calibres with RSPBA band grades calibres

The following table notes how BCPA band grades calibres are being realigned with RSPBA band grades calibres, effective with the 2016/17 season.

BCPA Band Grade	Juvenile Age Band	Equivalent RSPBA Band Grade
5	Yes	Novice Juvenile "B"
5	No	4B
4	Yes	Novice Juvenile "A"
4	No	4A
3	Yes	Juvenile
3	No	3B or 3A (depending on the band's calibre)
2		2
1		1

For harmonization within North America, BCPA is retaining the numbered grade system however the calibre of those grades will be set equivalent to the corresponding RSPBA band grade calibre.

Regrading of BCPA region bands to the World standard

The performances of all BCPA region bands competing in BCPA sanctioned competitions, and other North American and RSPBA competitions in 2017 will be analysed by the BCPA Band Grading Committee augmented by adjudicators who have judged or who have working knowledge of the calibres of RSPBA grades, in particular Novice Juvenile B & A, Grades 4B & 4A, Grades 3B & 3A.

Bands will be regraded into BCPA grades that align with the RSPBA grades calibre and those regradings will be effective for the start of the 2017/18 season.

Two pipe band events in every grade at BCPA sanctioned competitions

Based on support from pipe bands and highland games associations, two pipe band events will be offered in every grade at BCPA sanctioned competitions, except for Grade 5.

For Grade 5, bands will be automatically permitted to compete in the Medley event of Grade 4 provided they enter their Grade 5 event and the Grade 4 Medley event.

The introduction of two events per grade will be phased in over two seasons to provide some Highland games time to implement these changes.

Please note that bands should not expect prize monies to increase by offering two events; it will be at the discretion of the highland games whether prize monies will be increased and by how much.

Bands can expect that entry fees will increase for some highlands games which will require a complete second panel of adjudicators to implement the second band event within the allocated time.

Questions seeking clarifications or further information should be emailed to secretary@bcpipers.org

René Cusson, Chair, BCPA Band Grading Committee
Rob MacNeil, President, BCPA