

**NBC/ FIFTH EDITION
2011**

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE EVENTS

NATIONAL BAND CONTEST

**CONDITIONS OF ENTRY AND RULES OF THE
COMPETITION**

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GENERAL RULES COVERING ALL EVENTS

1. Rule one

All cadets taking part in any of the competitions, which require any form of qualification or charge certificate, will need to show the appropriate documentation to a member of Area Staff (ARO for example or the nominated representative). This is to be carried out before submitting the required Entry Form to the SRO and therefore in advance of being allowed to participate in the competition.

The Commanding/Divisional Officer and Troop Commanders upon signing the CADETS'S HEALTH CERTIFICATE AND PARENTS CONSENT FORM SCC T1 & T1 Medical, also certifies that the cadet has obtained the required qualification.

The ARO upon signing the required Entry Form certifies that the cadet has the appropriate qualification.

The principle being applied is that the cadet must be qualified and he/she must prove to Area Staff that they are.

2. Rule two

The cadets are required to bring a FORM SCC T1 & T1 (MED) (If required) - CADET'S HEALTH CERTIFICATE AND PARENT'S CONSENT FORM, duly completed.

Failure to bring and show the correct scc t1 & t1 (med) completed and signed by the unit and a parent/guardian, for whatever reason, will result in the cadet not being allowed to participate in the competition.

The principle being applied is that the cadet must obtain their parent/guardian and unit consent and approval before leaving home to participate in the competition.

3. Rule three

When official accommodation (i.e. camp, school or unit) is being supplied, it is for the benefit of ALL competitors. ALL competitors are therefore required to live-in the official accommodation for the duration of the event.

Failure to live-in the accommodation, for whatever reason, will result in the cadet not being allowed to participate in the competition.

In the case of split accommodation (i.e. a number of SCC units) this rule will also apply.

The principle being applied, is that all cadets must experience the same standard of comfort (good or not so good) as everyone else, to ensure that no one cadet has an advantage over the rest.

GENERAL RULES COVERING ALL EVENTS

4. Rule four

When cadet/s are sent home/withdrawn from the event for disciplinary reasons, no substitute/s will be permitted (if it is impossible, for any reason, to send the cadet/s home the cadet/s is/are then withdrawn).

The principle being applied is that the local Area is most likely to be able to provide substitutes and the other Areas would be disadvantaged. Also, a sense of team spirit should be engendered and those who misbehave must understand that they are liable to let the whole team down.

5. Team managers will also be expected to live in the accommodation and be available to attend to the needs of their cadets, if required to do so by the accommodation staff.

The principle being applied is that you may be required to attend to the needs of one of your cadets on an urgent basis.

6. When the Area Team (or part thereof) is transported by road transport (private, unit or hired vehicle) a team manager or other member of the team may be required to be available, at any time throughout the event weekend, to act as a duty area driver in the case of an emergency.

The principle being applied is that you may be required to take a cadet to hospital.

7. All adult staff are reminded that when they are self-driving cadets by any form of road transport, care must be taken to ensure that they take the required rest periods throughout the journey and at the event.

The routine which has been applied over the past few years is that you will not be given an on-watch accommodation duty if you attend the event as a member of the Area team.

The principle being applied is that you are required to take the necessary rest periods, before or during driving, to ensure that the cadets are not at risk.

**WE ARE ON TRUST BY THE CADETS PARENTS AND THEREFORE
HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY**

8. Other general rules which apply to any event, will be promulgated within the appropriate memorandum, which will be issued before the event. This would normally be not less than six weeks before the event.

PART ONE – GENERAL RULES FOR BAND COMPETITIONS

1. Entry of band/s

Each Area may enter band/s as laid down in the current Band Contest Memo. All band/s and band management will be deemed to have read and fully accepted the current Conditions of Entry, Rules of the Competition and the Event Memorandum.

2. Introduction

These Conditions of Entry, Rules of the Competition are intended to govern the conduct of both Area and National Band competitions, and suitable variations are included to cover Area Competitions only. Area Recreation Officers, District Officers, Commanding Officers, Officers in Charge and Bandmasters should ensure that they have an up-to-date copy of these Rules and that they are fully conversant with them before entering any SCC Band Competition.

3. Age qualifications

- a. Cadets members of a competing band must be fully enrolled cadets between the ages of 12 to 18 years, in accordance with Sea Cadet Regulations (SCR's).
- b. The age qualifying date (THE Q DATE) will be the Monday following the National Band Contest weekend (the actual date will be promulgated in HQTM's each year, even when there is no National Event).

4. Composition of bands

- a. Each band must consist entirely of fully enrolled Sea Cadets and Royal Marine Cadets including a maximum of four uniformed Adults, up to age 23 are also allowed to take part, regardless of the size of band.
- b. The minimum size of band is NINE plus one Drum Major. However, a band will not be excluded from the competition, if unexpected circumstances result in the loss of one or two players on the day, as long as that band can still deliver their performance. A Maximum of two cadets from another Unit within the same District may be included in a Unit Band, provided that the donor Unit has no band of its own.
- c. If a small bands' performance is dependent on the inclusion of an adult, who is also the sole adult with the band, then that adult may be allowed to participate regardless of age. It is expected that this allowance will be permitted for one year only for any one band.
- d. If an adult is used as the Drum Major, he/she will NOT be eligible for the Best Drum Major Trophy or Medal.
- e. Bandmasters or their assistants are not to parade with, assist, signal, or in anyway influence, or interfere with their band whilst it is on parade or performing. A conductor is allowed whilst the band is playing at the halt, e.g. for a bugle fanfare or the Finale.
- f. All cadets, including any reserves **must** have been on Parade for the Inspection prior to the competition. Substitutions or replacement of Cadets after the inspection is **not** allowed. All the instruments to

be used **in any part or phase** of the competition must be presented for the Inspection.

5. Best traditional drum and bugle band

This band should only consist of the following Instruments: -

- a. Side Drums
- b. Tenor Drums
- c. Bass Drums
- d. Cymbals
- e. B Flat Bugles

6. Best original composition

This award is for the best original composition, by cadet or adult. This piece for any instrument (and including vocals) can be performed by any number of players from a duo up to a full band. The inclusion of such a composition is allowed, following the submission of a manuscript copy to the Chief Adjudicator in advance of the commencement of the Band Competition. Compositions must be of a reasonable standard and length; the adjudicators reserve the right to decide if it reaches the standard required and can be performed. Original compositions must be in keeping with the style of music within the Sea Cadet Corps and the dignity of the occasion, but innovation and originality are encouraged.

Original compositions may only be presented at one Area Band contest and one National Band Contest immediately following. The composition must not be presented again at any subsequent contest in following years.

The Winners of this award at an Area Contest will go on to represent that Area at the National Contest even if they are not members of a band, or soloists that are already included.

7. Cadets solo bugler and cadet solo drummer competitions

Only fully enrolled cadets can enter the Solo Bugler and Solo Drummer Competitions. Adults are not allowed to compete in these two competitions.

8. Instruments

All the usual types of instruments are permitted provided that they are portable. Band Masters are to ensure that ALL instruments being used by their bands are taken to the dress inspection.

9. Drill

Drill is to be in accordance with SCR's and TI's. The single exception is that variations of marching pace may be used during the display to show versatility and enhance presentation, but such variations should not form the bulk of the display. As a guide 75% of the display time spent on the move should be at the regulation slow or quick march times (60 and 116 paces per minute respectively). The band may march in both slow and quick time simultaneously if desired, though obviously in this case the slow march will have to be much slower than the regulation pace if it is to march the quick rate time. Side paces and paces to the rear may be used in moderation.

10. Dress

Bands are to correctly dressed in accordance with SCC Dress Regulations

Drum Majors may wear a Drum Major's ornamental sash, preferably blue edged with yellow or gold and bearing a SCC badge and miniature drumsticks etc. Drum Majors are NOT to wear red sashes crossing with the ornamental sash.

Drum Majors who are members of the Royal Marines Cadets section may wear the Wolsey pattern white RM Helmet, given that permission to do so has been sought from, and granted by the SRMO at SCCHQ.

11. Order of playing at the National Band Contest

- a. A series of draws will take place, at the annual ARO's Meeting in December to determine the order of appearance in the competitions.
- b. Penalty Points will be imposed if a band is late on parade without reasonable cause, up to a maximum of ten (10) points.

12. Protests

Any band or soloist that feels they have a justifiable protest or complaint, specific to the conduct of the competition or element of the competition, must address the issue to the Director of Music (or Area Staff Officer at Area events) and NOT to the adjudication team directly.

Protests or complaints may only be lodged by the relevant bandmaster and / or team manager. Representations from anyone else will not be accepted.

Any such complaint must be lodged at the earliest opportunity and the decision of the adjudicators and Director of Music in dealing with it is final in all cases.

Any complaint not specific to the competition itself e.g. accommodation, victualling, travelling etc, should be addressed only to the Staff Recreation Officer. Again only issues from Bandmasters or Team Managers will be accepted.

13 Adjudicators and Officials

- a. The adjudicators of the National Band Contest will be undertaken by representatives of the Royal Marine Band Service or by the Director of Music, Sea Cadet Corps, assisted by an Officer and / or SNCO. Other professional judges will be requested and appointed by the DoM (SCC) / SRO and SCC HQ.
- b. The adjudication of Area Band contests will be undertaken whenever possible by the Director of Music of the Corps or by an Officer or SNCO from one of the three service music organisations, as available.
- c. Adjudicators will be asked to provide written comments and, where necessary, constructive criticism. These will be forwarded to Areas for onward transmission to the band concerned.
- d. Marks obtained by the bands will be shown but not those of other bands, nor will any order of merit or placing be shown other than the first three places. Areas will be informed of the placing of bands in their Area.

- e. Bandmasters or other representatives should NOT approach the Adjudicators asking for their Bands placing in the competition. Such information should be requested from the Area office when written comments have been distributed.

14. Marking system and contest rules

The system of marking is standard to both Area and National Band Contests. Similarly, the rules are applicable to all contests whether Area or National. Marking Sheets will be issued by Areas for the Area Band Contest and SRO for the National Band Contest.

15. Misconduct

Misconduct, at any time during the event weekend, will not be tolerated.

Any person committing any sort of misconduct will not be allowed to take part or further part in the competitions. Also see GENERAL RULE FOUR on page three.

16. National competition

- a. The National Band Competition will comprise of two separate classes of entry; Premier and the Contest Class.
- b. The Premier Class will be composed of winning bands from each Area Competition (or a band nominated by Area Officers / ARO's where no Area Contest has taken place).
- c. The Contest Class will include Runner-up and one other band from each Area Contest (or bands selected by Area Officers / ARO's where no Area Contest has taken place).
- d. Area Officers / ARO's should, before nominating bands to compete, be reasonably sure that their nominations are of a high enough standard to compete in the class for which they are selected.
- e. In order to preserve and encourage the 'Traditional' Drum and Bugle Band (one of the oldest forms of martial music), the Area Officer / ARO's and Area Band Contest adjudicator will consider the selection of such bands to go forward to the National Band Contest – even if the band does not win in an Area Band Contest. This should ensure that some of the smaller bands, who may not possess the modern style of instrumental ensemble, get a fair chance to compete and show their skills.

17. Area competitions

- a. Area Band Competitions should, where the number of bands justifies it consist of two classes, Championship and Contest. The band which wins the Contest Class for two successive years must prevent itself for the Championship Class in the third year, unless there are very good reasons why this cannot be done (e.g. serious depletion in numbers).
- b. If for any reason, the winner of the Contest Class for two successive years does not wish to compete in the higher class, that band should not compete in the third year. This will allow a fair chance to other bands to achieve success in the lower class.
- c. Requests for exemption from this ruling (for reasons such as shown in sub paragraph 'a' above are to be addressed to the band's respective Area

Officer / ARO well in advance of the Area Band Contest, stating the reasons for the request.

The Area Officer / ARO will decide whether the reasons given are valid and will have the options of allowing that band to continue in the Contest Class, or withdrawing from the Contest for that year.

- d. Area Competitions may include a NOVICE CLASS in which bands may parade up to four Junior (10 to 12 years) Entries but only two adults. Whatever the result of the competition, no band containing Juniors may proceed to the National Competition.

18. National Band Contest – personal awards

Each member (cadets and adults) of the BEST ALL ROUND BAND in each class will receive GOLD MEDALS; the RUNNER-UP will receive SILVER MEDALS.

The BEST CADET SOLO BUGLER, BEST CADET SOLO DRUMMER and BEST CADET DRUM MAJOR will receive GOLD MEDALS; the Runner-up will receive SILVER MEDALS.

19. National Band Contest – class winners

The winners of each of the ten classes will be awarded a Class Trophy, together with the Runner-up to the Best All Round Bands (Contest and Premier Classes):

BEST SOLO BUGLER.....THE SILVER BUGLE TROPHY
BEST SOLO DRUMMER.....THE ALAN WAIN BRASS DRUM TROPHY
BEST DRESSED BAND – both C & P.....THE CITY OF PLYMOUTH CUP
BEST TRADITIONAL DRUM & BUGLE BAND.....THE PETER SUMNER CUP
BEST ORIGINAL COMPOSITION.....THE PETER HARVEY CUP
BEST CADET DRUM MAJOR.....THE DIRECTORS AWARD
BEST ARENA DISPLAY – Contest.....THE PERCUSSION SECTION TROPHY
BEST ARENA DISPLAY – Premier.....THE DISPLAY TROPHY
RUNNERS-UP TO BEST ROUND BAND–Contest.....THE BUGLE SECTION
RUNNERS-UP TO BEST ROUND BAND – Premier Class.....THE RUNNER-UP
BEST ALL ROUND BAND – Contest Class..... THE PETER SUMNER TROPHY
BEST ALL ROUND BAND – Premier Class..... THE EASTON-BASSETT CUP

PART TWO – DRESS INSPECTION – MARKING FORMS

1. Formula guidance

- a. Marking should be **positive** – i.e. marks are awarded out of a possible maximum, as shown on the marking sheet.
- b. If the marking system used is **negative** – i.e. where marks are deducted for each fault found, then the marks deducted should be subtracted from the possible maximum and the resultant figure awarded on the sheet. For example if one mark is deducted for a slightly dirty instrument, the mark awarded for the 'instrument should be $3 - 1 = 2$.
- c. To calculate the overall percentage for each band, the total of all the marks awarded is divided by the number of the players paraded (including the Drum Major) and then multiplied by 10, the result being shown as **XX** (each Dress Judge should add the Instrumental Judges total marks to his/her own total before calculating the %)

d. Example for a band of 29 players

1. Total Marks achieved by band	205 marks
2. Average Marks for 29 Players (Total marks divided by 29)	7.06 marks
3. Total percentage score for band (Average mark multiplied by 10)	70.6%

This formula gives an accurate average for each band regardless of band numbers.

- e. Where maximum available marks are limited – such as only three for the instrument, it is inevitable that half marks will sometimes be appropriate. It will make calculation quicker and easier if half marks are shown as decimals – i.e. 2.5.

2. Marking / recording forms

a. Marking Forms

BAND DRESS INSPECTION	FORM SCC BD13
SOLO BUGLER COMPETITION	FORM SCC BD14
SOLO DRUMMER COMPETITION	FORM SCC BD15
ARENA DISPLAY	FORM SCC BD16

b. Recording Forms

DRESS INSPECTION	FORM SCC BD19
SOLO BUGLER	FORM SCC BD20
SOLO DRUMMER	FORM SCC BD21
CONTEST CLASS ARENA DISPLAY	FORM SCC BD22
PREMIER CLASS ARENA DISPLAY	FORM SCC BD23
TRADITIONAL BAND & ORIGINAL COMP	FORM SCC BD24
DRUM MAJOR	FORM SCC BD25
CONTEST CLASS BEST ALL - ROUND BAND	FORM SCC BD26
PREMIER CLASS BEST ALL-ROUND BAND	FORM SCC BD27
OVERALL & PETER RILEY	FORM SCC BD28
ACTUAL FORMATION OF BAND	FORM SCC BD06
MEDALS AND TROPHIES	FORM SCC BD29

PART THREE – FULL DETAILS OF THE BAND COMPETITIONS

1. General outline of the National Band Contest

a. Phase One – Dress inspection

Inspection of dress, instruments and equipment will normally take place on a continuous basis. Circulated within the Event Memoranda, normally issued six weeks prior to the competition.

b. Phase Two – Solo and Section Competitions.

These will take place on completion of the Dress Inspection and will consist of the following: -

- (1) Solo Bugler Competition
- (2) Solo Drummer Competition

c. Phase Three – The Arena Display

This will take place on a continuous basis after the inspection and will consist of the Arena Display and the judging for the Drum Major Trophy.

During the Arena Display programme the entries in the Best Original Composition will be performed. Draw for appearance order will be made on the day.

2. Inspection

The inspecting team will whenever possible be joined by one of the professional team of musical adjudicators who will inspect all instruments for cleanliness, good maintenance and in the case of wind instruments, hygiene, inside mouthpieces etc)

a. Immediately prior to the inspection, the inspecting team will confer and, having knowledge of the number of cadets likely to be paraded, together with the time available, will allot a fixed time limit for every ten cadets to be inspected. This will ensure that all bands receive equal attention regardless of the size of band.

b. Marks will be awarded to each cadets as follows: -

- (1) Out of three for instrument.
- (2) Out of seven for overall appearance.

The average mark per cadet will then be calculated and the overall performance presented as a percentage for the complete band, see example on page 10 Para. 1d.

3. Solo Bugler Competition (phase two)

- a. To be played on the regulation 'B' flat bugle only.
- b. For the National Contest, this competition is open to a maximum of three contestants from each Area, normally the Winner, runner – up and those placed third in the Area Band Contest. In the event that no Area competition has taken place, three contestants may be nominated by the Area, provided that they are of a high enough level of ability.
- c. The Director of Music will publish a list of bugle calls in advance of the competition and two calls from this list will be selected on the day by the Chief Adjudicator for each contestant to play.
- d. In addition, the director of Music will publish in advance, a list of pieces from which each contestant will choose one to play. This list will include calls for special occasions e.g. Last Post, sunset, fanfares and/or specially composed pieces.

The music for all pieces will be made available well in advance of the competition along with recordings if required.

- e. Marks will be awarded as follows: -

Description	Maximum marks	Maximum marks	Maximum marks
Performance	Set pieces	Chosen pieces	Inspection
Accuracy	10	5	N/A
Musical Awareness	10	5	
Control of Instrument	10	5	
Communication	10	5	
Quality of Sound	10	5	
Presentation			
Personal appearance	N/A	N/A	5
Bearing			5
Instrument appearance			5
Instrument knowledge			5
Knowledge of pitch & tone			5
Total marks available = 100	50	25	25

These Marks DO NOT count towards the aggregate total.

4. Solo Drummer Competition (phase 2)

- a. For the National Contest, this competition is open to a maximum of three contestants from each Area, normally the winner, runner-up and those placed third in the Area Band Contest. In the event that no Area competition has taken place, three contestants may be nominated by that Area provided that they are of a high enough level of ability.
- b. Each contestant will be required to demonstrate an Open to Closed to Open roll lasting from 20 to 30 seconds.

- c. The Director of Music (SCC) will publish in advance, a list of Off Beat routines and each contestant must choose one to play from that list.
- d. The Director of Music (SCC) will set one compulsory piece in advance, which each contestant will be required to play.
- e. Each contestant may play one piece of their own choice lasting no longer than one minute in duration.

Marks will be awarded as follows:

Description	Maximum marks
Closeness and quality of Roll	10
Stick Work (Off Beat routine)	10
Set piece	
Accuracy	10
Nuances	10
Musical awareness	10
Chosen piece	
Rhythmic innovation and accuracy	10
Nuances	10
Musical awareness	10
Presentation	
Overall appearance	5
Bearing	5
Anatomy of Instrument	5
Care & Tuning of Instrument	5
Total marks available	100

These Marks DO NOT count towards the aggregate total.

5. Arena display (phase 3)

- a. The Arena display is to last for ten minutes. Penalties will be imposed for exceeding or under using the time as follows: -
 - (1) For more that sixty seconds over or under the allotted time two points will be deducted.
 - (2) For more that two full minutes over or under the allotted time five points will be deducted.
- b. Bands will enter the Arena to a drum tap as soon as signalled to move by the Arena Marshall. The band may commence its display from any point in the Arena and the Drum Major is to salute when ready to commence, but should not leave his/her position, or report to the Adjudicator.
- c. The allotted time will start from the first note of the music, and for this reason, bands should not attempt to 'play themselves' into their starting position. The Display will end with the Drum Major saluting in the direction of the visiting Dignitary, Inspecting Officer or the Mast as appropriate. (It is not necessary to leave the band for this salute).
- d. Musical repertoire and display content is at the discretion of the Band master, providing that all is within the SCC Rules and Regulations (subject to Section One paragraph 9 DRILL). On the completion of the display and the Drum Major's salute, every band will march it self

out of the Arena playing the Corps March Past “Ready Aye Ready”. The band will cease playing as the rear rank crosses the arena perimeter, which will be clearly indicated. Marks will be added to the overall total accordingly.

- e. Not more than 20% of the allocated time is to be spent at the HALT. Movements are to include marching, countermarching and manoeuvres in both slow and quick time and the entire display is to be contained within the area designated in the Event Memo produced by the SRO / MS-SC HQ.
- f. The playing of any instrument within earshot of the band performing in the Arena will incur a ten point penalty to the offending band. Any band on the move within earshot of the Arena must do so without drum taps.
- g. As will be seen in Form SCC BD16 (Arena Display Mark Sheet) there are marks available for different sections within the band. The wind section covers all the normal wind instruments used in marching bands, including bugles and non-valved trumpets.

The Percussion section covers all percussion instruments of indefinite pitch, i.e. all drums, tambours, blocs, cymbals etc.

Overall musical effectiveness covers choice and variety of programme; the skill displayed in control of volume and style, and the general entertainment value of the music.

6. Marking for the Arena display

a. Musical performance

Description	Maximum marks
Bugle section	30
Woodwind / brass / mallet section	30
Percussion section	30
Musical awareness	30
Intonation and time quality	20
Nuances	20
Overall musical effectiveness	40
Total marks	200

b. Deportment and Drill

Description	Maximum marks
Slow marching	10
Quick marching	10
Dressing and Covering	10
Wheeling and Counter-marching	10
Instrument discipline	10
Response to Drum Major’s Staff Signals	10
Accuracy of manoeuvres	10
General display effectiveness	30

Total marks available	100
Total marks available for the arena display	300

7. Best all round band and runner - up

Marks awarded to bands for the following sections will be totalled to determine the Best All-Round Band and the Runner-up to the Best All-Round Band:

Description	Maximum marks
Inspection	100
Arena Display (Total of Sections A and B)	300
Total marks available	400

8. Cadet Drum Major Trophy

The Cadet Drum Major will be inspected with his/her band but ability and other qualities will be assessed and marked during the Arena Display. (Phase 3)

Description	Maximum marks
Bearing, marching & deportment	10
Accuracy of Staff work	10
Power of Command & Control	10
Positioning (see note)	10
General impressiveness	10
Total marks available	50

Note: Positioning is regarded as crucial. The Drum Major should be constantly aware of his/her position relative to the band and should be able to adjust it when necessary.

Part Four – The Peter Riley Trophy

1. Four classes – Contest Band, Premier Band, Individual Drummer and Individual Bugler
(Best Drum Major and Best Original Composition are not included in the overall positioning)
Each class is marked according to a judging schedule – equal positions are possible.
Position points seven down to one for the top band from each Area.
In the case of the Individual Drummers and Individual Bugler positions are determined by aggregating the scores of the two best in the each Area (N/NI Extant Rule Removed)
Position points summed to provide overall mark (and Position)
Tiebreak for position
 - a. Total Number of assessment points awarded across all classes
 - b. If still equal Peter Riley points shared.

NOTES

