

# THE MACGREGOR MEMORIAL PIOBAIREACHD COMPETITION

## RULES OF THE COMPETITION

*(Amended March 2001, October 2005, November 2008, November 2010, November 2011, February 2021)*

1. The MACGREGOR MEMORIAL PIOBAIREACHD COMPETITION (hereinafter called “the Competition”) was founded in 1982 in memory of John MacGregor, piper to Prince Charles Edward in 1745-46, winner of the third prize in the first piobaireachd competition at Falkirk in 1781, and piper to the Highland society of London from 1783. The competition was founded by Mrs. Audrey Jamieson, a direct descendant of John MacGregor, and is controlled by the Highland Society of London (hereinafter called “the Society”) as trustees. The administration of the competition is currently delegated to the Piping Steward of the Argyllshire Gathering.
2. Subject only to Rule 7 of these Rules the Competition is open to all pipers whether male or female and whether or not resident in Scotland who are under 22 years of age on the day of the Competition in a year in which the piper intends to compete (hereinafter called “the relevant year”).
3. Intending competitors should apply to enter the Competition at any time after 30th September in the year before the relevant year but **NOT LATER THAN 31st March** in the relevant year or by such other date as the Society may decide. Applications should be made via the website of the Argyllshire Gathering at <https://www.pipingcompetition.com> **There is no entry fee.**
4. (a) Competitors will be required to submit a list of **FOUR** tunes of their own choice. The Competition will be held in two parts, both of which will take place on the same day.  
  
(b) The competitors will be divided by a random draw into two sections and will play one of their tunes as chosen by the judges before two judges. The judges in each section will decide upon a list of the four pipers who in their consideration played the best tunes. The final eight will then each play a second tune which will be heard by all four judges. The prizes will be awarded to those three competitors whom the four judges shall have adjudged to have played the best tune in the final list. The judges may at their discretion award a fourth prize if they consider that there is a fourth competitor who merits a prize.  
  
(c) **Competitors who have competed in previous years should not include in**

**their lists of tunes more than two (if any) of the tunes submitted in the previous year.**

5. Competitors are not restricted to the settings of tunes printed in the Piobaireachd Society's Collection and the Kilberry Book of Ceòl Mór. If a competitor intends to play a setting of a tune not contained in either of the above-named collections he or she must notify an Officer of the Society or the Judges of the section of the Competition in which he or she may be playing at any time, and provide the Judges with a copy of the setting, before the first part of the Competition begins. The Judges of the Competition may take into consideration the merits and the authenticity of and the authority for any setting submitted.
6. In the event of there being fewer than three competitors entering in any year the Society may abandon the Competition for that year. In the event of their being only three competitors in any year only one prize will be awarded. In the event of there being at least four competitors but fewer than seven in any year only two prizes will be awarded. In the event of the Competition taking place with FOURTEEN or fewer competitors the competitors will not be divided into two sections and ALL competitors will be required to play TWO tunes.
7. The winner of the first prize in the Competition will not be eligible to enter for the Competition in any subsequent year.
8. All competitors must compete in Highland Dress or in uniform.
9. All competitors must be ready to compete when called upon to do so and any competitor who is not ready to compete when called to the platform may be disqualified unless he or she can give a satisfactory explanation to an Officer of the Society or to the Judges for having been absent. No competitor who arrives after the Judges have risen to consider who should be included in the short list at the end of the first part of the competition in the section in which he or she was listed to compete will be permitted to compete. No competitor who arrives for the second or final part of the Competition after the judges have risen to consider their adjudication will be permitted to take part in the second part of the Competition.
10. In the event of a competitor taking an unreasonably long time to tune his or her pipe after being called on to play the judges may require him or her to begin his or her tune forthwith. If that competitor has not begun his or her tune within one minute after being so required the judges may disqualify that competitor. Tuning time may be restricted by the use of lights or other timing device. Where lights are used the

amber light shall mean that the competitor must start the tune within one minute and the red light shall mean that the competitor must start the tune immediately.

11. All competitors must tune their own pipes.

12. The decision of the judges as to those competitors who will play in the second part of the Competition shall be final. The decision of the judges of the second (final) part as to the winners of prizes in the Competition shall also be final.

13. Any question dispute or disagreement that may arise in relation to the Competition or these Rules shall be determined by an Officer of the Society or by a person delegated by the Society for that purpose whose decision shall be final.

14. Without prejudice to Rule 6 of these Rules the Society may in any year cancel abandon or postpone the Competition or may alter or amend these Rules or may change the place at which the Competition will take place. In such circumstances the Society will give as much notice of such change cancellation or abandonment as is reasonable possible. Any cancellation or postponement of the Competition or alteration of the place at which it will take place will also be advertised in the *Argyllshire Gathering website* or on-line publications such as the *Piping Press*, *Pipes|Drums*, *Bagpipe News* and/or such other publication as the Society may think necessary.

15. Prizes will be presented at the conclusion of the March, Strathspey and Reel competition for Former winners on the Wednesday evening of the Argyllshire Gathering. Any prize-winner who is unable to stay for that event may claim his or her prize after the conclusion of the MacGregor competition. It is the responsibility of prize-winners to collect their prizes and neither the Society nor any Officer of the Society nor the organisers or committees or any person concerned in the promotion or organisation of any piping competition or Highland Games at which the Competition or either part thereof may be held shall be held liable for any prize not collected by the winner thereof.