



2025 Solo and Party Competition Contest Guidelines and Information

The following guidelines are in accordance and consistent with provisions of the SABA Constitution and By-Laws (except wherever expressly indicated to the contrary) and are to be observed by all parties entering the Solo and Party events.

1. All music shall be “own choice”.
2. Any person who is currently registered with a SABA affiliated band is eligible to compete in the Solo and Party Competition.
3. Any person who is currently registered with an interstate or overseas band that is affiliated with a band association recognised by the NBCA is eligible to compete in the Solo and Party Competition.
4. A registered Musical Director/Conductor competing in the Solo and Party Competition must participate under the banner of the band for which they are a registered player. Such a band may be a SABA affiliated band or interstate or overseas band that is affiliated with a band association recognised by the NBCA. If the Musical Director/Conductor is not registered as a playing member with such a band then they may compete under the banner of the band they conduct.
5. Each entrant must state on the entry form the name of the band with which they are registered and, where relevant, their age.
6. Junior competitors are permitted to enter both the Junior and Open sections.
7. Entrants who qualify for Novice sections may also elect to compete in the Open sections.
8. The Novice Solo section is restricted to players who have never won a first placing in Solo Competitions under the control or patronage of the National Band Council of Australia, the SABA or the other state governing bodies.
9. Junior Novice Solo entrants shall satisfy the above criteria and additionally not yet be nineteen (19) years of age on the day of the contest.
10. A competitor in any Novice section must achieve a score of 80 points or more to be declared the winner of that section. This includes the instance where there is only one entrant in that section.

11. A Junior Novice who wins a Junior Novice Solo section must, in any subsequent Novice section, compete in a higher age Novice section than that which he or she won. An entrant in both the Junior Open instrumental and the Junior Novice sections must, on the day of the competition, not yet have attained the age below which applies for that section i.e. a competitor in the Under 13 Novice section must, on the day of the competition, not yet be thirteen (13) years of age. In accordance with National Band Council of Australia Regulation 1.2, a junior is a person who at the date of competition is not yet nineteen (19) years of age.
12. All brass and concert band instrumental sections will be offered but, should there be less than two entries in a section, the SABA may cancel the section or merge separate sections where appropriate.
13. A soloist may only perform the instrument specified for the section entered. In the Tenor Trombone section, an entrant may not use a Bass Trombone or vice versa. In accordance with National Band Council of Australia Regulation 9.7, a Bass Trombone is defined as a trombone with a bore size not less than .562 inches (14.2mm). Where individual sections have been merged to increase competitor numbers, it is expected competitors will perform the instrument which they originally entered on.
14. Competitors will perform in order of a draw. The draw will be conducted by the SABA Contest Convener, and competitors will be advised of the order at least one week prior to the event.
15. Both the Junior and Senior competitions will be “screened adjudications”.
16. The adjudicator(s) will be appointed by the SABA on the recommendation of the Music Advisory Board. The adjudicator(s) will be required to allot points such that there is no tie for first place.
17. Competitors who have been coached by the adjudicator of a section in the six months prior to the day of competition cannot enter that section.
18. The maximum number of points awarded in Solo and Party events is 100.
19. Competitors in all Solo and Party competitions must wear the uniform of the band with which they are registered and appear in full uniform for the acceptance of any awards. This does not include the Champion of Champions event, where competitors are permitted to wear formal concert attire.
20. Competitors, tutors and accompanists are permitted free entry to this event.
21. All solos composed with accompaniment must be performed with accompaniment. Competitors may use piano. However, a backing track, or a brass instrumental group of between a quartet and octet are also acceptable. For the Ballad section the use of solo guitar accompaniment is also acceptable.
22. There will be no official accompanist provided. Competitors are required to make their own arrangements for accompaniment, considering and taking steps to remedy any potential scheduling clashes caused by their accompanist’s other commitments.
23. No person is to be on stage during the performance of the solo other than the competitor, accompanist and the accompanist’s assistant.

24. Tuning of instruments is restricted to 30 seconds for all events.
25. Any withdrawal from a section on the day of the contest can only be made by the competitor. Non-appearance of the competitor at the allocated sign-in time is an automatic cancellation of entry.
26. Competitors are expected to perform from original music. It will be acceptable for a competitor to perform from music photocopied lawfully for rehearsal purposes provided that they also have with them the original music.
27. A legible, separate copy of music for each section must be provided for the adjudicator and must be handed to the Contest Convener at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the section. Failure to do so is an automatic disqualification. All bars must be numbered consecutively, and any alteration clearly marked. The copy must contain no marks that would identify the entrant or their band. All such copied material will be destroyed at the conclusion of the competition by the SABA.
28. An entrant competing in more than one solo section must play a different piece of music in each section. The only exception being an entrant eligible for a Novice section may choose to play a given piece in both a Novice and Open section.
- 28.1 Competitors may enter as many Open sections as they wish to, with a restriction that they can enter either the Novice or Ballad sections but not both.

29. Time limits are NOT to exceed those indicated in the following table:

Junior Novice	6 minutes
Senior Novice	8 minutes
Junior Open	10 minutes
Senior Open	12 minutes
Senior Ballad	5 minutes

These timings include accompaniment introductions and interludes. Introductions may be shortened, but it must be clearly marked on the adjudicator's copy of the music.

30. The adjudicator will cease assessment once the time limit has been reached and, in the interest of time and running the contest to schedule, the timekeeper may ask the competitor to stop playing.
31. The timekeeper for any section will be appointed by the SABA and it is their duty to inform the adjudicator when a competitor has reached the end of the permitted time. Times will be taken from the first note played by either the soloist or the accompanist, not including tuning notes.
32. Competitors are responsible for the collection of their adjudication report, after the results have been given for the competitors section, at a nominated time and place.
33. A Soloist winning a competition shall not, after a period of twenty-eight (28) days, play the same music at any Contest unless chosen as a Test Piece until after the expiration of two (2) years after the commencing date of the said Contest or two (2) National Contests whichever is the greater.

34. Competitors in Party competitions shall consist only of the registered members of the same Band, except in the case of the Junior and Senior “free ensemble” events where competitors may consist of registered members of any SABA band (guideline 35 still applies to open ensemble sections).
35. Percussionists may perform in Party competitions but, for numerical limit purposes, shall be counted as members of the Party.
36. Competitors in the Junior and Senior Solo, Duet and Trio sections shall not be allowed the services of a conductor during the performance but competitors in Quartets and other Party sections shall be allowed the services of their own conductor or a registered member of their own Band.
37. A badge and certificate may be awarded to up to three placegetters.
38. Payment for entry to Solo and Party sections must be received by the SABA Treasurer by the dates specified in the entry forms and “Important Dates” documentation. Failure to do so may result in that band’s entrants being disqualified.
39. Protests will only be accepted from competitors in the same section and/or their tutor. Protests must be in writing and presented no later than 15 minutes after announcements of the results for that section and must be accompanied by a ten-dollar (\$10.00) fee. If the protest is upheld the fee will be refunded.
40. The winner of each championship solo section, provided a minimum of 80 points has been awarded, shall be invited to compete in the respective Open or Junior, Brass or Woodwind, Champion of Champions event, but entry is not compulsory. If a minimum of 80 points is not achieved the competitor will be awarded first place in the competition but will not be eligible to compete in the Champion of Champions event.
41. Should a player win multiple sections with a sufficient score to be eligible for the Champion of Champions then they must nominate no more than one instrument (per classification registration) to compete with in each Champion of Champions event for which they are eligible (Junior Brass, Junior Woodwind, Open Brass, Open Woodwind).
42. Championship solo sections are those Open and Junior Brass and Woodwind instrumental sections as conducted on the day of competition, whether or not merged under guideline 12.
43. The Junior and Open Champion of Champions event(s) will be held at a time and place notified by the SABA where sufficient eligible soloists are available to participate.

43.1 There is no Junior or Open Percussion Champion of Champions section. Instead, the player gaining the highest aggregate score across all percussion sections will be awarded Percussion Champion of Champion. A minimum score of 80 points will apply for all percussion sections entered to be eligible to be counted towards the aggregate.
44. The music for the Champion of Champions event shall be own choice. Competitors in the Champion of Champions event may play their winning solo if they choose, but any other musical choice is subject to the twenty-eight (28) day and two (2) year restriction.
45. In the Champion of Champions there will be no time limit, however, competitors must notify the SABA contest secretary of title of music and approximate timing on or before the

nominated date.

46. There will be no official accompanists for the Champion of Champions. Competitors are required to make their own arrangements for accompaniment.
47. Competitors in the Champion of Champions are expected to perform from original music. It will be acceptable for a competitor to perform from music photocopied lawfully for rehearsal purposes provided that they also have with them the original music.
48. The adjudicator(s) of the Champion of Champions event shall not allocate points to any competitor and shall not award any placing other than first place.
49. The winner of the senior Brass Champion of Champions will be eligible to represent South Australia at the Ern Keller International Soloist of the Year event should it be held.
50. Neither the SABA nor any of its officers or staff shall be held liable for any loss or damage to music, property or any inconvenience caused to any contestant, coach or accompanist for any reason whatsoever.
51. No competitor or his or her agent shall approach either the adjudicator or writer, at either the Solo and Party contest or Champion of Champions, to discuss or query any performance or decision during the course of the contest until 24 hours from completion of that competition.
52. Behaviour by any competitor, tutor or the general public considered to be detrimental to the good name of the SABA and its general wellbeing will be dealt with at Executive level and penalties may be imposed. This includes breaches of dress code by competitors.
53. All competitors entering SABA contests do so in a spirit of friendly competition. Entries are accepted on the condition that no result shall become the subject of an appeal at law.