

Code of Conduct for Piping and Dancing Association Adjudicators

The provision of competent, accredited adjudicators for Solo Piping and Highland and National Dancing competitions is a core responsibility of the Piping and Dancing Association. As such, Piping and Dancing Association accredited adjudicators are responsible for maintaining the highest personal and professional standards when executing this responsibility on behalf of the Piping and Dancing Association.

1. To enable the execution of this responsibility, an adjudicator must be conversant with, and abide by, all Bylaws of Piping and Dancing Association relating to the judging of competitions. These include:
 - Being a financial member of the Piping and Dancing Association both at the time of appointment and on the date of the competition.
 - For judges of Highland and National Dancing competitions, also being a financial member of the New Zealand Academy of Highland and National Dancing and hold a current Academy Judges qualification.
 - Ensuring that their name is published on the appropriate list of the Association's lists of approved judges.
 - Regularly reviewing the Piping and Dancing Association's Bylaws to ensure that they are aware of any updates and have an in-depth understanding of the rules relating to the judging of competitions.

2. An adjudicator's role is to ensure all competitors are judged on the merits of their performance on all occasions. This requires an adjudicator to:
 - Have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of technique as accepted in practice or described in approved/accepted texts, along with knowledge and understanding of syllabus or other requirements.
 - Maintain and develop his/her adjudicating skills by keeping himself/herself informed on developments in technique, style, and sound adjudicating principles.
 - Judge independently and be consistent and objective in his/her decisions.
 - In addition, an adjudicator should demonstrate:
 - **Neutrality** - An adjudicator should be consistent and unbiased and be seen to be consistent and unbiased. To this end, an adjudicator should avoid situations that could lead to a perception of bias such as judging familial members.
 - **Accountability** - An adjudicator should be accountable for their decisions
 - **Transparency** - It should be clear to both competitors and the audience the performance criteria used in arriving at a judging decision.

3. In accepting a judging appointment, an adjudicator is entering into a contract with an organisation/society. The professional nature of this contract requires an adjudicator to:
 - Communicate promptly and in a business-like manner with the competition organisers.
 - Agree contract terms with the organiser and fulfil any requirements, provided these comply with the Piping and Dancing Association Bylaws.
 - Be conversant with the schedule/programme details and timetabling requirements.
 - Be aware of, and make adequate preparation for, any additional requirements such as written reports, comments from the stage and attendance at award ceremonies.
 - Ensure that personal presentation is appropriate to the role.
 - Focus solely on judging without distractors such as mobile phones and conversations with others.
 - Ensure that conversations with others; fellow judges, spectators, competitors or teachers, during a competition does not refer to the performance of any individual competitor.

The Piping and Dancing Association is committed to supporting its accredited adjudicators in maintaining personal integrity and delivering a professional service.