Speech and Drama Rules

All participants in the Maryborough Eisteddfod do so in a spirit of friendly competition and enhancement of performance abilities in a forum where stage experience can be gained and learned. The event is staged with mutual respect amongst organisers, adjudicators, competitors and supporters, maintaining the spirit and integrity of the eisteddfod tradition.

Please read the following rules and regulations carefully to ensure competitors are not disadvantaged.

TERMINOLOGY:
Session: Three per day (Morning Session, Afternoon Session, Evening Session).
Discipline:
The 5 Disciplines are 1) Vocal & Choral; 2) Speech & Drama; 3) Instrumental; 4) Literary; 5) Dance.
Section: e.g. 199 – Musical Theatre

1. GENERAL RULES FOR ALL DISCIPLINES:

1.1 Entries are received via www.stardom.com.au. This can also be accessed via the Maryborough Eisteddfod website http://www.maryborougheisteddfod.com and under the 'Enter' tab.

1.2 Section numbers and colour codes (for administration purposes) are as follows:

(i) Section numbers starting with 1 (RED) - Vocal & Choral Disciplines

(ii) Section numbers starting with 2 (BLUE) - Speech & Drama Disciplines

(iii) Section numbers starting with 3 (GREEN) - Instrumental Discipline

(iv) Section numbers starting with 4 (YELLOW/ORANGE) - Literary Discipline

(v) Section numbers starting with 5 (PURPLE) - Dance Discipline

1.3 Performances are to be limited to the discipline type unless otherwise stated (for example, no Vocal performance in the Instrumental discipline, unless specifically stated in the section description).

1.4 An accompanist is required for the appropriate sections.

1.5 Recorded backing tracks are only allowed in Vocal sections Modern Ballad and Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM). Please note that the backing track must be without backing vocals.

1.6 Entry dates need to be observed. Only under exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the executive committee will any late entries be accepted.

1.7 Contact the convenor for assistance if required. Contact details are on the Maryborough Eisteddfod website.

1.8 Entry and payment is via the Stardom Competition Online Entry System. Payment is required at time of entry. Secure payment is offered online via credit card. Direct deposit is also available. Entries are not confirmed until payment is received.

1.9 If competitors are entering individually, ensure that duos/trios are only recorded on one entry.

1.10 The section description is to be considered part of the Rules and Regulations.

1.11 The committee reserves the right to refuse an entry.

1.12 All eisteddfod participants do so at their own risk.

1.13 The age section of the eisteddfod is for amateur competitors only. All 'Open' sections may have competitors of any age and ability.

1.14 **Age Rule**

Dance:

Competitors must be within the specified age limits **as at 1 January** in the year of competition.

Vocal & Choral, Speech & Drama, Instrumental, Literary:

Competitors must be within the specified age limits **as at 1 July** in the year of competition.

Competitors in groups may be younger than the age range but must not be older.
The committee reserves the right to request proof of age from competitors.

1.15 All Sections are not gender specific, unless otherwise stated.

Order of performance for competitors will be drawn before the programme is printed and competitors will appear in the order shown. However, the executive committee reserves the right to make any alterations to the programme if it becomes necessary.
There will be minimal change to the program and program order. The executive may:

i) cancel a section
ii) vary the prizes
iii) combine sections
iv) change the running order or timing of Sections and/or competitors

1.16 Refunds of entry fees will only be granted when a section is cancelled by the executive committee.

1.17 A competitor may only enter a section once, except where stated and as qualified in certain sections. e.g. a member of two choirs entered in the same section.

1.18 All competitors must be named (groups of 4 or above are required to provide a collective name and do not need to provide the individual names). "And Partner" may be used on the entry form but a name must be provided to the convenor at least 30 minutes prior to the commencement of the session.

1.19 No competitor may use the same selection in more than one section.

1.20 A competitor may not perform a selection that has previously been awarded first place at the Maryborough Eisteddfod within the last five years.

1.21 It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that repertoire, including Own Choice Pieces are within the guidelines of the section. If a piece is deemed by the adjudicator to be outside of the guidelines the entrant may not be placed.

1.22 Competitors acknowledge that they own an original copy of the sheet music used for their performance. A copy must be available on request.

1.23 Time limits, where stated, should be adhered to. The adjudicator may conclude a performance by ringing the bell if a decision has been made regarding the merit of the performance. At their discretion, the adjudicator may penalise competitors that exceed the time limit.

1.24 Competitors are to be dressed appropriately, i.e. no thongs or revealing clothing. Competition pieces must not contain excessive use of foul or blasphemous language or actions. Consideration should be given to age-appropriateness.

1.25 Use of recording devices of any kind is strictly prohibited in the Auditorium and Federation Room, dressing rooms and backstage. Any person found to be recording video or sound may be ejected from the theatre and further action may be taken (see Code of Conduct 3.2, 3.3 & 3.4) at the discretion of the executive committee. Official photographers and videographers appointed by the eisteddfod committee excepted.

1.26 Competitors must report to the relevant marshal and be in readiness backstage (or as otherwise directed by an official) prior to the commencement of the section in which they are competing.

1.27 Competitors wishing to withdraw are reminded that it is a courtesy to inform the convenor or marshal before commencement of the session and should enter the title of their performance as 'Withdrawn' on Stardom.

1.28 The adjudicator's decision will be final.

1.29 No prize will be awarded in any contest unless there is sufficient merit. All awards in every section will be at the adjudicator's discretion. Certificates and prizes may be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Highly Commended in each Section.

1.30 To be eligible for a major eisteddfod award, competitors must compete in three or more sections in the relevant discipline, with the exception of the Literary discipline.

1.31 No public protest will be entered into during the sessions. Written protests will be accepted by the convenor or executive within 30 minutes of the protest issue arising, accompanied by a $50.00 fee. Decisions regarding protests will be notified in writing within 7 days of the close of the eisteddfod.

1.32 No person, other than the entrant(s), will be permitted to enter the stage. No parents or friends to be backstage (Exceptions: Accompanist or where the competitor requires physical assistance to get to the stage). Teachers may be permitted backstage in consultation with the convenor. Student/teacher positive reinforcement should be saved for the end of the session. Competitors will be supported by volunteer staff.

1.33 The adjudicator must not be addressed during a session except via an eisteddfod official. All enquiries or requests are to be made to the convenor.

1.34 Prompting by the adjudicator only.

1.35 Entry and exit to the Auditorium or Federation Room during performances is restricted.

1.36 The Brolga Theatre has workplace safety guidelines in place for all stage and backstage activities. If these guidelines are deemed by the theatre to have been breached, perpetrators may be asked to leave the premises. A competitor asked to leave the theatre may be disqualified.

1.37 Group numbers: Small Group – 4 to 12 members; Large Group – 13 members or above.

1.38 Some discretion regarding numbers may be given based on extenuating circumstances, such as illness or injury. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that the convenor is informed immediately of any extenuating circumstances. A decision will be made in consultation with relevant members of the committee and the adjudicator.

1.39 Adjudication sheets will be available after the session has been completed.

1.40 Volunteers and committee members are to be treated with the utmost respect. Abuse of any kind will not be tolerated. Any concerns or complaints must be to the convenor and not any volunteers.

2. SPEECH AND DRAMA

2.1 Set Pieces: Compulsory pieces set by the adjudicator and are displayed on the website www.maryborougheisteddfod.com. If you are unable to access the set pieces, contact the convenor.

Verse speaking solo - 10 years and under
Verse speaking solo - 12 years and under
Verse speaking solo - 15 years and under
Verse speaking solo - 18 years and under
Verse speaking championship - set piece

Bible Reading Solo - 9 years and under
Bible Reading Solo - 12 years and under
Bible Reading Solo - 15 years and under
Bible Reading Solo - 18 years and under
Bible Reading Solo - 19 and over

Choric Speaking Group - Prep and year 1
Choric Speaking Group - Years 2 and 3
Choric Speaking Group - Years 4-6
Choric Speaking Group - Secondary

2.2 Choric Speaking Group - Small Schools (under 200 enrolments) - Primary.

2.3 It is the competitor's responsibility to see that they have the correct set pieces in order to compete.

2.4 The name of the competitor and not a "nom de plume" is to be used at time of entry. All competitors are numbered consecutively in the section.

2.5 No person will be permitted to compete as a substitute for solo performers.

2.6 In all Duet/Duo and Duologue sections, a competitor may perform twice in their own age group, but only with a different partner.

2.7 Individual competitors may perform more than once in all groups but only as part of a different group (with the exception of Group Improvisation). Primary school students may not compete up in Secondary.

2.8 The committee reserves the right to transfer competitors to the section above or below in sections where there are insufficient competitors.

2.9 A copy of the work to be performed, in performance order, labelled with section and competitor numbers and acknowledging the author's name, must be uploaded to Stardom for the adjudicator. Hard copies will not be accepted.

2.10 Own Choice: Marks will be awarded for the quality of the selections. A set piece may not be used as an Own Choice selection. All competitors must upload their Own Choice to Stardom for the adjudicator. Hard copies will not be accepted.

2.11 In sections 230 – 233, Write and Read Own Poem, a copy of the poem must be uploaded to Stardom for the adjudicator. Hard copies will not be accepted. The performance of the poem must be read, not recited from memory.

2.12 Prompting or assistance of any kind shall not be given to any entrant, except by the adjudicator.

2.13 For Drama performance items in sections 'Character Recital' and 'Dramatic Performance,' costumes and props may be used. For all other Drama sections, competitors are to wear theatre blacks.

2.14 Theatre Blacks: consist of black pants (of reasonable leg length) and a shirt. Costume piece/s, for example, a hat, scarf, apron, etc., may be worn with theatre blacks to represent the character.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT

3.1 A copy of the Code of Conduct will be available Backstage and will be enforced by the committee. The Code of Conduct applies to all participants and attendees of the Maryborough Eisteddfod.

3.2 Zero tolerance: The Maryborough Eisteddfod will not tolerate any unacceptable conduct (including, but not limited to, verbal abuse of any person, obscene language, loud or boisterous conduct), which is deemed unacceptable by the committee. This includes all individuals attending at any venue of the Maryborough Eisteddfod.

3.3 Refusal of a directive: Any member of the committee or designated official, may give a directive at any time, to any person to whom this code applies to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the eisteddfod. Any person who refuses to obey such directive may be asked to leave the venue, and failure to do so may result in the committee taking action including the calling of police to ensure the eisteddfod's unimpeded operation.

3.4 Individual behaviour: Any individual behaving in a manner that is unacceptable will be removed if it be deemed appropriate by any member of the committee or designated official. If that individual is a competitor, they may be disqualified from competing in that section and other sections.