

# Vocal and Choral 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. A breach of any rule may lead to disqualification.

## 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](http://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. VOCAL AND CHORAL

- 2.1 By entering the eisteddfod the competitor agrees to the Maryborough Eisteddfod rules. The competitor enters at their own risk and will satisfy themselves as to the safety of the competition area to be used. All competitors will follow all directions and rules stated by the competition organiser and waives any claims for liability against any organiser (whether an association or individual), participant, official, steward, judge, visitor, employee or invitee (the “participants”). By entering, the competitor releases the participants from all liability that may arise out of the competition to the competitors. Such liability may include any personal injury, property loss or damage.
- 2.1 Sheet music is required to be uploaded to Stardom for each entry. The file must be in pdf format and named the title of the piece.
- 2.2 Pianos will be tuned at A440.
- 2.3 An accompaniment is to be used unless otherwise stated.
- 2.4 Competitors provide an accompanist at their own expense.
- 2.5 Competitors may have only one accompanist on stage.
- 2.6 For duos, trios and small groups, an individual may only appear once per section.
- 2.7 For large groups, an individual must be a legitimate member of the group they are performing with. School students must be currently enrolled students of the particular school and under the age of 19 years.
- 2.8 A stage plan must be submitted if equipment is required on stage.
- 2.9 Vocal competitors aged over 16 years must sing in original specified key unless otherwise stated.

- 2.10 Own Choice: Any song, any style is allowed. No backing tracks, costumes or microphones.
- 2.11 Vocal Solo: An aria or art song in the classical style. No modern popular or musical theatre.
- 2.12 Sacred Solo: Hymn, sacred song, spiritual song from oratorio or song of praise.
- 2.13 Lieder: An art song in German language, usually based on poetry from the Romantic period. Suggested (but not limited to) composers: Schubert, Schumann, Liszt, Beethoven, Brahms, Mahler, Mendelssohn, Wolf. To be sung in German. Both singer and accompanist are being adjudicated.
- 2.14 Folk Song: A folk song has no known composer. Arrangements are permitted where folk melody and words are authentic. May be sung in English or the original language. A maximum of three verses may be sung.
- 2.15 Jazz and Blues: Song performed in the style of jazz or blues. Improvisation compulsory. Melodic and rhythmic variation and/or scat.
- 2.16 Contemporary Commercial Music (CCM): Encompasses all contemporary music such as pop, rock, country, folk R&B, etc. A contemporary song to be sung with microphone. Songs written after 1970. Backing tracks permitted but must not have backing vocals. Refer to music backing tracks rule 2.21.
- 2.17 Modern Ballad: Contemporary style of delivery may include improvisation. To be sung with a microphone. Songs written after 1970. Backing tracks permitted but must not have backing vocals. Refer to music backing tracks rule 2.21.
- 2.18 Musical Theatre (piece from a stage musical or light opera, with appropriate costume): For competitors aged 15 years and under the piece may be from a movie musical, including animated movies. Backing tracks may not be used.
- 2.19 Vocal duets and trios must be sung in two- and three-part harmony respectively. A partner song is defined as two separate songs, each with distinct lyrics and melody, with the songs being harmonically compatible when sung together.
- 2.20 In all primary school choral contests, part singing should be interpreted as any type of vocal part work.
- 2.21 Music backing tracks are only allowed in CCM and Modern Ballad sections. All backing tracks (electronic music) must have no backing vocals. USBs are allowed. Music must be checked in at front desk a minimum of 30 minutes prior to your section. Music will be played on your behalf by our technician. **Only one track per USB** will be accepted. **All competitors must have backup copies of all music.** Music provided on USBs are to be in mp3 format.
- 2.22 Accepted Music Period Definitions:
- i) Baroque 1600 to 1760
  - ii) Classical 1730 to 1820
  - iii) Romantic 1815 to 1910
  - iv) 20th Century 1900 to 2000
  - v) Contemporary 1970 to present day

### 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.