



# JUDGE'S GUIDELINES

## PIANO

Competitive Divisions:

Classical, Pop, Championship, Jazz, Standard, Duets/Ensembles, Open

1. Each division should start at the scheduled time. Divisions should not begin early. Please make every effort to keep on schedule. Competitive divisions are in recital format with audience members present.
2. The room captain will take attendance and announce each student, along with the name of the piece.
3. Occasionally, a student within a division will need to request that they play out of order if there is a time conflict with another division. This should be allowed as long as the student performs during the scheduled time for the particular division. Please adjust your score sheets accordingly so that you do not write your evaluation on the wrong sheet.
4. Contestants are allowed a brief warm up, but this should not include their performance piece.
5. In order to remain on schedule, please begin your written evaluation while the student is performing.
6. Please use pencil only (these are provided for you) and any changes to final score must be initialed by you.
7. You are encouraged to write as many comments as you can within the allotted time. **We ask that you be constructive and encouraging in your comments, but at the same time you can be stern.** You are also allowed to write or mark areas in the score, either positive or areas that need attention. Please refrain from writing anything personal such as "this piece is not right for this student" etc.
8. Please do not talk to contestants or their parents under any circumstances. Do not discuss scores or ratings with your room captain. If there is an issue please have your room captain contact a board member.
9. All solos must be memorized (excluding duets and ensembles).
10. After all contestants have performed within a division, that division is officially "closed" and you are responsible to decide the winners based on your scores. Please write 1<sup>st</sup> place/2<sup>nd</sup> place/3<sup>rd</sup> place on the winning score sheets. **Please do not write any place past 3<sup>rd</sup>, but do give each performer a score.** Place the scoresheets back in the envelope and close it. These will be picked up throughout the day.
11. A contestant must receive at least a 91% to be awarded a 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy. You may name only 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies if you feel that no one deserves 1<sup>st</sup> place. **Please only decide this in extreme cases, such as if the Piece could not be performed or completed.**
12. Scoring and deductions:  
All contestants should be given a score as follows:

<b>SUPERIOR</b>	94-100
<b>EXCELLENT</b>	90-93
<b>GOOD</b>	80-89
<b>FAIR</b>	75-79

Deductions are as follows:

<b>NO MUSICAL SCORE PROVIDED</b>	-5
<b>MEASURES NOT NUMBERED</b>	-5
<b>MUSIC NOT MEMORIZED</b>	-10

13. In the Standard divisions, the contestants play a piece from a prescribed list of pieces. Please double check that the piece being performed is on the Standard List. If there is a conflict, please tell the room captain to contact a board member.
14. The Classical division requires that the piece be an original work. If you determine that the piece the student is using is a transcription or an arrangement, please evaluate the performance but do not award the student as winner.
15. The "OPEN" divisions are the most advanced students of the weekend. Two adjudicators judge these divisions. The 1<sup>st</sup> place winners will perform at the awards ceremony and receive cash awards.
16. The Jazz division pieces can consist of Ragtime, Blues, Swing, and Jazz arrangements of pieces. Improvisation is allowed on repeat.
17. The Pop division will no longer allow jazz, blue, or ragtime. Improvisation is allowed on repeat.
18. The Championship division should consist of pieces such as new age, marches, patriotic, inspirational, or any piece that is not considered pop, jazz, or classical.
19. Music purchased on the internet must have proof of purchase page and a signed download form.
20. Remember that there are different schools of thought in vocal and piano pedagogy. Please avoid placing too much emphasis on subjective areas such as posture, hand position, fingering, using repeats, etc., unless you feel that any of these is significantly impeding the students' performance.