

# **MWPBA Adjudicators Code of Conduct**

## **General**

The quality, objectivity, and impartiality of adjudication are crucial to the success of the competitive system and to the reputation of the Midwest Pipe Band Association. When the MWPBA accepts an adjudicator as part of its panel and when an adjudicator accepts the responsibility of such membership, it is expected that he/she will exhibit the highest standards of knowledge, character, and behavior.

Wherever a MWPBA Adjudicators Panel member travels in piping, drumming, or pipe band circles, and for whatever purpose, he/she represents both his/her fellow adjudicators and the MWPBA as a whole. The Adjudicator has serious responsibilities to the competitors, event organizers or sponsors, and to his/her fellow adjudicators.

Adjudicators are in a position of leadership, influence, and trust within the piping, drumming, and pipe band community. In this role, it is their responsibility to foster relationships and communications which are open, respectful, and non-abusive.

## **Responsibility to Competitors**

Adjudicators are responsible for the highest level of knowledge, a knowledge which must go beyond that of a performer to include familiarity with alternative settings and playing styles, and an awareness of the most recent developments in the music and the idiom.

Adjudicators must attempt impartiality on both a personal and a musical level, as far as is humanly possible, and focus on the performance of the moment so that all competitors receive a fair hearing relative only to the competition on that day.

Adjudicators must write critique sheets clearly and constructively, using appropriate musical terminology. Written criticism should endeavor wherever appropriate to serve the twin functions of documenting the reasons for the placing of the performance and assisting the competitor in attaining a higher standard of performance.

It is important for Adjudicators to be approachable, so that competitors may seek clarification and initiate discussions in a non-threatening environment.

## **Responsibility to Organizers**

Adjudicators must be reliable, prompt, and appropriately equipped to complete their duties. As well, they must be turned out in proper Highland Dress, subject to climate and weather conditions.

Adjudicators must seek actively to familiarize themselves with the rules of the jurisdiction in which they are adjudicating, and apply these rules with good judgment.

All required procedures for marking, placing, and assessing competitors should be strictly adhered to.

Adjudicators are hired to judge the competitions and must do so without ties in the top six places for solo contests and no ties at all in band contests.

Adjudicators must portray a serious and impartial demeanor to lend the weight of their position to the event in which they are participating.

Adjudicators must not release results prior to formal prize-giving, without specific permission from the organizer or sponsor.

## **Responsibility to Colleagues**

The adjudicator must respect the confidentiality of a "bench" (two or more judges acting in concert), supporting collective decisions and retaining in confidence any deliberations leading to those decisions.

The adjudicator must be seen to lend support to their colleagues, to the decisions of their colleagues, to the policies of the organizers, and generally to the MWPBA and the MWPBA rules.

Adjudicators must refrain from attempting to influence the judgment of their colleagues. In "bench" situations, discussions should be reserved for the privacy of the period following the competition.

## **Sanctions**

As a member of the MWPBA Adjudicators Panel, any conduct which contravenes this **Adjudicators Code of Conduct** or the **MWPBA Code of Conduct** may result in a verbal sanction, a written sanction, supervision by the Music Board, or temporary or permanent removal from the panel. Such sanctions will be administered by the MWPBA Advisory Board on the recommendation of the Music Board.