



**NATIONAL MINeworkERS'  
OPEN BRASS BAND  
FESTIVAL**

**RULES**

**These Rules replace all rules previously issued and are effective  
from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2008, until further notice**

# MINeworkERS' NATIONAL OPEN BRASS BAND FESTIVAL

## RULES AND CONDITIONS

### INTRODUCTION

1. The Event shall be organised by the Butlins Mineworkers National Open Brass Band Festival Committee (hereinafter referred to as 'the Organisation') whose decision on matters arising under these rules and conditions or otherwise shall be final.
2. The contest/s will use the 'Registry', which means the British Brass Band Registry and the Accredited Registries of Scotland and Wales. All competing players must be registered.

### ELIGIBILITY

**The Contest is now open to all bands**, but priority of entry will be afforded to bands with a mining connection.

3. For the purpose of contests held under these Rules, the playing membership of a band shall be deemed to be those band members registered on the 'Player Information Form'.

By accepting these rules, the organisation will expect that a band secretary will have made certain that his band's players are fully aware of all the rules.

**N.B. The use of a Player Information Form is essential to enable the organisation to successfully operate and control a system of borrowed/ guest players.**

### INSTRUMENTATION

4. The Contest is open to Brass Bands only, consisting of a maximum of 25 brass players plus percussion as required. Brass instrumentalists shall be from the following list:-

Eb Soprano Cornet, Bb Cornet, Bb Flugel Horn, Eb Tenor Horn, Bb Baritone,  
Bb Euphonium, Slide Trombones, Eb and EEb Bass, Bb and BBb Bass,  
(Eb Trumpets are not permitted).

Any deviation from the above instrumentation to be used in the entertainment contest must have the prior consent of the contest organisation.

### GRADING OF BANDS

5. National Gradings will be used.

### PRE-CONTEST PROCEDURE

6. The Organisation shall be responsible for the appointment of Adjudicators and for The selection of Test Pieces.
7. A band shall complete and return to the organisation an official entry form, along with the required entry fee before the advertised closing date for entries to the contest.

8. When an entry form has been accepted, the organisers will send the band a 'Player Information Form', allowing for forty members to be entered. The band secretary must ensure that the player details are entered on the form and returned to the organisers, by the date specified at the bottom of the form, **OR RISK DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE CONTEST.**

**N.B.** Band Secretaries are further reminded that whilst waiting to receive new registration/ transfer details from the Brass band Registry (i.e. Player Registration Numbers), any such details can be added to the form on their behalf by the Contest Registrar, any time up to the day of the contest, and they are therefore discouraged from telephoning/ contacting the registry unnecessarily.

On the day of the contest, the band will select twenty-five instrumentalists, and percussion as required, who will then produce their registration card and signature at the registration point.

9. When the player information forms have been returned by the closing date, any alterations, additions or deletions to the nominated contest band members shall be permitted, by contacting the registrar, who will make the necessary adjustments to the forms in his possession. These provisions are put in place to facilitate the use of borrowed/guest players, and furthermore, to cover the situation where a band sustains the loss of a contest band member by death, accident, illness or other serious cause beyond his/her control, and satisfactory documentary evidence thereof is submitted to the organisation, and they are satisfied that the application is genuine. The band drawn immediately before the band making the application must supply the relevant deputy player. If the band making the application is drawn first, the band drawn last must supply the deputy player. It is the responsibility of the lending band's delegate to ensure that the deputy player fulfils this commitment.
10. A band may borrow up to **FOUR** players from a band of the same National Grading or lower in respect of the Championship, First, Second or Third Sections, and from the Fourth and Third Sections regarding the Fourth Section. Any such players must be entered in **red ink** on the Player Information Sheet.

In extenuating circumstances, a further borrowed/guest player may be allowed subject to the organisers approval.

## **CONTEST PROCEDURE**

11. The order in which the bands of each section will play at the contest shall be decided by a ballot made on **or** before the day of the contest, under the supervision of officials appointed by the organisation.
12. Each band shall appoint a representative who **may** attend the draw, which shall take place at a time and place announced by the organisation.
13. Any queries or problems regarding the contest must be raised and dealt with before the day of the contest.
14. At the Registration Table each band member shall submit his/her Registration Card for scrutiny and endorsement, and will sign the 'Player Information Form' in the appropriate place.

15. Any disparity in signature, or any other doubt concerning a player's eligibility, will be reported initially, to the Contest Controller, who will at his/her discretion, notify the secretary/band manager/conductor that should the player/s take the stage, the band is liable to disqualification. Any appeal against the decision of the contest controller, must be lodged by an 'official' of the band and will immediately be put to the 'Contest Organisation'. The decision of the 'Contest Organisation' will then be conveyed to the band secretary and other competing bands in the relevant section as deemed necessary.
16. The interval between performances shall be not more than four minutes. Any band not being ready to play within four minutes of the time announced for the section to commence or of the preceding band leaving the platform will liable to disqualification.
17. No band may rehearse nor individual band member audibly test an instrument on the day of the contest, within sound range of the performing area.
18. No brass player shall play more than one instrument except percussion at a contest.
19. The Adjudicators decisions shall be final on all matters relating to adjudication.
20. In the Championship Section of the Contest, the positions will be derived by the aggregate placing of the Set Test Piece and the Entertainment Contest. In the event of a tie, the placings of the Set Test Piece will take precedence.
21. Any objection concerning any alleged breach of these rules or error in the results must be submitted to the contest management within fourteen days of the contest together with a sum of £50.00 which will be returned if the objection is upheld, but not otherwise.
22. If the Contest Management decides that there has been a breach of these rules or an error in the results, it will revise the list of placings.
23. Any band or performer, members, conductor or other official of a band found guilty of a breach of these rules, or who fails to comply with the conditions set forth in the Entry Form or Player Information Sheet or other schedule' pertaining to the contest, or who commits any act which, in the opinion of the Organisation, is prejudicial to the proper conduct or reputation of the contest, may be subject to disqualification and/or forfeiture of prizes, and/or suspension from entering other contests held under these rules for such a time as may be decided upon by the organisation.
24. If a situation arises for which there is no existing ruling, the organisers have the right to act and give judgement as though a rule existed for that situation.

**PLEASE NOTE:-** For clarification of any problems or queries relating to the Contest. Please contact :- Brian Eggleshaw, The Contest Administrator, Tel: 01623 478454. Mob: 07976521080. e-mail: [bj-egg@ntlworld.com](mailto:bj-egg@ntlworld.com). Peter Pimperton, The Contest Registrar, Tel: 01777 709191. Mob: 07792513969. e-mail: [ppimperton@yahoo.com](mailto:ppimperton@yahoo.com).

# CHAMPIONSHIP SECTION - ENTERTAINMENT RULES

1. These rules are in addition to the Mineworkers' National Open Brass Band Festival Rules and Conditions.
2. The bands appearing in the contest will be Championship Section Bands.
3. The order of play will be drawn for on the eve of the contest under the supervision of the Contest Management.
4. All bands will forward to the Contest Management, not less than **SEVEN DAYS** prior to the contest, a list of items from which their final programme will be selected, along with their programme notes for the use of the Contest Comper.
5. **TWO** Conductor's copies of each item to be played together with the running order, suitably enveloped, should be handed in to the Contest Control Room not less than **24 HOURS** prior to the contest.  
Immediately after the contest, these copies will be available to be collected from the Contest Control Room. If not collected they will be destroyed.
6. Bands should be ready and available to play **20 MINUTES** before the estimated time of performance. Bands will be allowed **10 MINUTES** from the stage being cleared by the previous band to the start of their performance.
7. Each band's performance should be designed to provide a well-balanced and entertaining programme.
8. Applause will be allowed after each item, and a professional compere will be Present to introduce the bands and to announce the item played or to be played. Each band will decide where it wants the announcements to be made, and details should be in the hands of Contest Management as described in rule 4 above.
9. There will be TWO adjudicators for QUALITY OF PERFORMANCE and RANGE OF PROGRAMME. They will also nominate the winning soloist.
10. A separate adjudication will be given for PRESENTATION and ENTERTAINMENT VALUE, and a separate award will be made for this.
11. Bands may feature more than one soloist, and they will ALL be considered for the Award. Duets and ensembles will not count nor will vocal solos.
12. The total playing time (excluding announcements and applause) should not be More than **23 MINUTES**. However, at the organisers discretion a further 60 seconds will be allowed for unseen circumstances, but any excess over 24 MINUTES will result in the loss of a place, AND WILL ALSO prevent the said band from being considered for the most entertaining programme award.
13. Music Stands and Stand Banners will be provided.
14. Each band should have a representative ready to approach the stage for the awards ceremony.