



## **Rules for Band & Drill competitions (October 2024 revision)**

### **1. General rules**

- a. All competitions listed in section 2 are open to members of The Boys' Brigade, Girls' Association, Amicus and The Girls' Brigade within the area covered by the London District of The Boys' Brigade. Joint teams are permitted, including combinations of groups if desired.
- b. Unless otherwise noted, all members taking part in the competitions must be of Boys' Brigade Company or Seniors age (i.e. aged between 12 and 18 on 31st August of the session in which the competitions take place). For Band competitions (those listed in section 2a), members of Boys' Brigade Juniors age (i.e. aged between 9 and 11 on 31st August of the session in which the competitions take place) may also take part. Seniors are members aged between 15 and 18 on 31st August of the session in which the competitions take place.
- c. All competitions listed in section 2 will take place on the same date and at the same venue, which will be announced in advance through a London District communication and the website. Entries for competitions must be made by the deadline given, to the point of contact stated in the communication/website. Entries made after this date may not be allowed to compete.
- d. All members taking part in any of the competitions listed in section 2 should wear current uniform, as described by the organisation's regulations. This will form part of the competition and will be judged accordingly.
- e. For Drill competitions, all movements will be selected from the latest edition of the BB Drill Book. Each entrant will carry out the same movements for the relevant competition. Colour Parties should pay special attention to Chapter 8 (Colours and Flags).
- f. Test papers for the Drill competitions and test pieces for the Band competitions will be made available in advance through the London District website. These should be rehearsed and may be used for Battalion or Zone competitions.
- g. For each competition, the winning entrant will be the one with the highest total number of marks. Any ties will be broken as per the rules for that competition. Each winning entrant will receive the trophy for that competition and will ensure that the winner's details are engraved. It is the responsibility of the winning entrants to ensure that the trophy is returned prior to the start of the following year's competition.
- h. Any disputes should be raised with the London District Band Convenor or Drill Convenor (as appropriate). Their decision shall be final.

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### 2. Competitions held as part of the event

a. Band competitions:	Section of rules:
• Don West Trophy (Musical Accuracy)	3
• Devonshire Cup (Best Overall Band)	4
• Novice Band	5
• Drum Major	6
• Bugle Team	7
• Drum Team	7
• Bell Lyre Team	7
• Individual Bugle	8
• Individual Drum	8
• Individual Bell Lyre	8
b. Drill competitions:	Section of rules:
• Squad Drill	9
• Single Line Drill	10
• 3 Person Colours (One Colour)	11



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### 3. Don West Trophy (Musical Accuracy competition)

- Bands playing in the Devonshire Cup (section 4) and Novice Band (section 5) competitions may take part in this competition by playing the published test piece once at the halt at the beginning of their performance.
- Restarting a performance is not permitted; bands should play through any errors.
- Following the performance of the test piece, the band should cease playing. The judges will give a signal to continue with the rest of the performance if the band is also competing in the Devonshire Cup or Novice Band competitions, or to march off if not.
- Instruments used should comply with the rules for the Devonshire Cup or Novice Band competitions, as applicable. Bands will be marked based on the instruments listed on the published score or the accompanying information, where relevant.
- Overview of marks available (see the published mark sheet for a full breakdown):

Musical Accuracy	
	100 marks

These marks will be separate to those given for the Novice Band and Devonshire Cup competitions.

- In the event of a tie, those involved will be declared joint winners.

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### 4. Devonshire Cup competition (Best Overall Band)

- a. Bands entering this competition should consist of any combination of the following instruments: standard military Bb bugle/non-valved trumpet, side drum, tenor drum, bass drum, cymbals, marching bell lyre. Other instruments should not be used.
- b. Bands may choose any pieces of music to perform and will be judged on musical effect. If entering the Musical Accuracy competition (section 3), the test piece should be played at the halt at the beginning of the performance.
- c. Following the playing of the Musical Accuracy test piece (if applicable), the rest of the performance should last between 4 and 5 minutes and be played on the march.
- d. Bands with a Drum Major will be under their sole command. Drum Majors will automatically be entered into the Drum Major competition (section 6). Bands without a Drum Major may be under the command of one Band Instructor who may give verbal commands to march on and off, come to attention, stand at ease, come to the ready position, commence playing and halt, but they must have no other role in the band's performance.
- e. Overview of marks available (see the published mark sheet for a full breakdown):

Musical Effect	Drill and Deportment	Uniform and General Appearance
90 marks	5 marks	5 marks

- f. In the event of a tie, the winner will be the band with the highest number of marks for musical effect only. If there is still a tie, those involved will be declared joint winners.

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### 5. Novice Band competition

- a. The purpose of this competition is to allow new bands, or bands with more inexperienced members, to compete and to perform familiar pieces.
- b. Bands entering this competition will not have won this competition within the preceding 4 sessions.
- c. Bands entering this competition should consist of any combination of the following instruments: standard military Bb bugle/non-valved trumpet, side drum, tenor drum, bass drum, cymbals, marching bell lyre. Other instruments should not be used.
- d. Novice Bands may enter two adults (i.e. aged 19 or above on 31st August of the session in which the competition takes place). One may play bugle and one may play side drum. Neither should play solo pieces. The adults must be Registered Leaders.
- e. Members taking part in the Novice Band competition may not enter the Devonshire Cup competition, although they may enter Individual and Team competitions.
- f. Bands may choose any pieces of music to perform and will be judged on musical effect. If entering the Musical Accuracy competition (section 3), the test piece should be played at the halt at the beginning of the performance.
- g. Following the playing of the Musical Accuracy test piece (if applicable), the rest of the performance should last between 4 and 5 minutes and be played on the march.
- g. Bands with a Drum Major will be under his or her sole command. Drum Majors will automatically be entered into the Drum Major competition (section 6). Bands without a Drum Major may be under the command of one Band Instructor who may give verbal commands to march on and off, come to attention, stand at ease, come to the ready position, commence playing and halt, but they must have no other role in the band's performance.
- h. Overview of marks available (see the published mark sheet for a full breakdown):

Musical Effect	Drill and Deportment	Uniform and General Appearance
90 marks	5 marks	5 marks

- i. In the event of a tie, the winner will be the band with the highest number of marks for musical effect only. If there is still a tie, those involved will be declared joint winners.

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### 6. Drum Major competition

- a. Drum Majors in command of bands in either the Devonshire Cup or Novice Band competitions will be automatically entered into the Drum Major competition.

- b. Overview of marks available:

Control of Band	Showmanship	Drill and Department	Uniform and General Appearance
50 marks	40 marks	5 marks	5 marks

- c. In the event of a tie, the winner will be the Drum Major with the highest combined number of marks for control of band and showmanship only. If there is still a tie, those involved will be declared joint winners.

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### 7. Team competitions

- a. Team competitions will take place for bugles, drums and bell lyres. These rules apply to all Team competitions, except where noted.
- b. Teams must consist of at least 3 members. Drum teams must consist of at least 2 side drummers and 1 bass drummer. Additional members are at the team's discretion.
- c. The team will play the published test pieces and will be judged on musical accuracy and overall effect. They must not follow sheet music.
- d. The team will perform the test pieces at the halt, at a position set by the judge(s).
- e. Restarting a performance is not permitted; teams should play through any errors.
- f. Teams may be under the command of one Band Instructor who may give verbal commands to march on and off, come to attention, stand at ease, come to the ready position, commence playing and halt, but they must have no other role in the team's performance.
- g. Overview of marks available (see the published mark sheet for a full breakdown):

<b>Musical Accuracy &amp; Musical Effect</b>	<b>Drill and Deportment</b>	<b>Uniform and General Appearance</b>
90 marks	5 marks	5 marks

- h. In the event of a tie, the winner will be the team with the highest combined number of marks for musical accuracy and musical effect only. If there is still a tie, those involved will be declared joint winners.

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### 8. Individual competitions

- a. Individual competitions will take place for bugles, side drums and bell lyres. These rules apply to all Individual competitions.
- b. The individual will perform the set pieces of music and will be judged on musical accuracy and overall effect. They must not follow sheet music.
- c. The individual will perform the set pieces at the halt, at a position set by the judge(s).
- d. Restarting a performance is not permitted; individuals should play through any errors.
- e. Band Instructors must not have a role in the performance of any individual.
- f. Overview of marks available (see the published mark sheet for a full breakdown):

Musical Accuracy & Musical Effect	Drill and Deportment	Uniform and General Appearance
90 marks	5 marks	5 marks

- g. In the event of a tie, the winner will be the individual with the highest combined number of marks for musical accuracy and musical effect only. If there is still a tie, those involved will be declared joint winners.



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### 9. Squad Drill competition

- a. Squads may be made up of no less than 8 and no more than 12 members. The squad will be under the command of a Senior, NCO or Registered Leader. If the squad is under the command of a Senior or NCO, that person may not be a member of the squad itself.
- b. Breakdown of marks available (see the published test paper for a full breakdown):

Drill Movements	Uniform and General Appearance
90 marks	10 marks

- c. In the event of a tie, the winner will be the squad with the highest number of marks for drill movements only. If there is still a tie, those involved will be declared joint winners.

### 10. Single Line Drill competition

- a. Squads may be made up of no less than 4 and no more than 6 members. The squad will be under the command of a Senior, NCO or Registered Leader. If the squad is under the command of a Senior or NCO, that person may not be a member of the squad itself.
- b. Breakdown of marks available (see the published test paper for a full breakdown):

Drill Movements	Uniform and General Appearance
90 marks	10 marks

- c. In the event of a tie, the winner will be the squad with the highest number of marks for drill movements only. If there is still a tie, those involved will be declared joint winners.

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### 11. 3 Person (One Colour) competition

- a. Colour Parties must be made up of 3 members. The Colour Bearer must be a Senior, NCO or Staff Sergeant. The Colour Party will be under the sole command of the Colour Bearer, who will give all of the commands. The other two members of the Colour Party will be Escorts.
- b. In the case of the Colour Bearer only, the upper age limit is raised by a year (i.e. he or she will be aged 19 or under on 31st August of the session in which the competition takes place).
- c. Colour Parties are to use their own Company Colour. Battalion Colours should not be used.
- d. Breakdown of marks available (see the published test paper for a full breakdown):

Drill Movements	Drill Commands	Uniform and General Appearance
70 marks	20 marks	10 marks

- e. In the event of a tie, the winner will be the Colour Party with the highest number of marks for drill movements only. If there is still a tie, those involved will be declared joint winners.