



# *The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association*

## **Adjudicator Training**

### **Explanatory Notes**

**Please read these notes carefully to ensure that you fully understand them**

#### **General Information**

The highest standards of adjudication are essential to the competition programme of the RSPBA. Members of the approved RSPBA Adjudicators' Panel must be seen to be competent, credible, impartial and professional; and they must be capable of operating objectively, fairly and consistently in an environment which is essentially subjective and very much influenced by individual judgement. RSPBA Adjudicators are increasingly becoming the focus of world-wide scrutiny.

The effective Adjudicator requires a wide range of skills which in many ways differ from the skills required by players in Pipe Bands. Good players with high level achievements will not necessarily make good Adjudicators. It also does not follow that individuals with high level musical qualifications will possess the range of skills required for adjudication. Some of the required skills are personal attributes; some are developed through qualifications attainment or from lengthy playing experience at high level; some can be acquired or improved by initial training and continuing professional development; and others can only be achieved or enhanced gradually through practical experience of adjudication.

Applicants for entry to the RSPBA Adjudicator Training Programme must, therefore, be fully aware of the importance of the role for which they are applying and they must meet the demanding entry criteria. Applicants who meet the criteria will be accepted only on the basis of need for new Adjudicators. There can be no guarantee of acceptance. All applications will be considered by the RSPBA Adjudicators' Training Group on behalf of the RSPBA National Council. All information provided by applicants in the application form must be capable of being confirmed. Accurate completion of all sections of the application form is, therefore, crucial. Decisions reached by the Adjudicators' Training Group will be final.

#### **Equal Opportunities**

The RSPBA is committed to the promotion of equality of opportunity. All applicants will be treated fairly and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, colour, nationality or gender.

#### **Entry Criteria**

If you wish to apply you must demonstrate that you have the relevant skills, experience and potential to become an Adjudicator and must understand fully the RSPBA's expectations. The criteria are:

##### **Qualifications and practical experience**

You should hold:

- the RSPBA Advanced Certificate in Piping or Snare Drumming; or
- an equivalent qualification in Piping or Snare Drumming at HNC/D or degree level; or
- an equivalent qualification in musical theory together with evidence of practical application of that qualification in a Piping or Drumming environment

### **Playing Experience and Achievements**

You should have at least 20 years playing experience with a minimum of 10 years' recent experience in Grade One or 15 years in Grade Two in the capacity of Pipe Major, Pipe Sergeant, Drum Sergeant/Leading Drummer, Drum Corporal/Flank Drummer or distinguished band player. Where relevant specific achievements should also be listed.

Exceptionally applicants with a shorter experience record who have distinguished competition achievements may be accepted, provided that they also have at least 5 years' distinguished experience in Grade One or 10 years' distinguished experience in Grade Two.

You should also specify in your application the means by which the details of your playing experience and achievements can be confirmed.

### **Teaching/training experience**

You should have a good track record of teaching Piping or Drumming in Pipe Bands, particularly at Novice-Juvenile and Juvenile levels. The application should say how the track record can be confirmed.

### **Conduct, integrity etc**

You should submit the names of two referees who can confirm your reputation, conduct, integrity and reliability and, if appropriate, details of your experience/achievement record. These references will be taken up by the Adjudicators' Training Group on receipt of application and the responses taken into account in considering whether the application should be accepted.

### **Ability to adjudicate in terms of health and fitness.**

You should submit as part of your application a written statement confirming your health and fitness to be involved in a process which could result in assessing up to 50 bands per contest in all weather conditions.

### **Continuing professional development**

You must accept that, should you be successful, you will be required to regularly update your skills and participate in continuing professional development activities as directed by the Adjudicators' Training Group.

### **Adjudicator conditions and retirement policy**

In order to achieve and maintain RSPBA Adjudicator status you will also require to adhere to the *Adjudicators' Panel Constitution and Code of Practice* which sets out specific standards for conduct, dress and competition procedure. You will be subject to annual appraisal of your performance as an Adjudicator, and you will be required to participate in mentoring and additional training as directed by the Adjudicators' Training Group. RSPBA policy is that Adjudicators should retire at age 70.

### **Pre-entry examination and interview**

If you are considered to meet the criteria following confirmation of the information contained in your application form, you will also require to undertake a pre-entrance examination and interview conducted by the Adjudicators' Training Group. The examination and interview will test:

- written communication
- numerical ability
- team working skills
- analysis and assessment skills
- ability to compare objectively and place in order of preference
- ability to operate under pressure
- understanding of Piping and Pipe Band Drumming, musical presentation and RSPBA competition rules

If you are successful in the pre-entrance test you will be allowed entry to the RSPBA Adjudicator Training Programme. The Programme will involve two intensive weekend training courses and supervised outdoor practical training sessions over a two-year period. Successful candidates will be considered for entry to the RSPBA's approved list of Adjudicators as an Unattached (non-playing) Adjudicator. All new Adjudicators will be subject to a two-year mentoring period. They will also require to accept the RSPBA's conditions for Adjudicator membership of the RSPBA. These conditions cover conduct, dress, competition procedure, availability to adjudicate, impartiality, loyalty to RSPBA etc.

**The Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association**  
**Adjudicator Training Application Form**

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS IN BLACK INK IN BLOCK CAPITALS

Adjudicator Training applied for:	Piping	[ ]
(Please tick appropriate box)	Drumming	[ ]

It is important that the information contained in this application form is accurate as it will be checked by the RSPBA. The RSPBA reserves the right to reject an application, or to remove the applicant from the Adjudicator training programme, if information provided is subsequently found to be inaccurate or misleading.

**1. Personal Details**

Surname: .....	Forenames: .....
Home Address: .....	
Postcode: .....	Telephone No: .....
Email address: .....	Date of Birth: .....

**2. Certificated Qualifications**

Please provide details of the music qualifications you hold, the awarding body and the year of attainment.

Qualification: .....	Level of Qualification: .....
.....	.....
.....	.....
Awarding Body: .....	Year Awarded: .....

**3. Pipe Band Playing and Other Musical Experience**

Please describe your Pipe Band playing experience including Pipe Band/s played with, the positions held and the specific achievements, taking into account the requirements set out in the explanatory notes. Any other musical experience should also be shown. You may attach a separate CV if preferred. Please also comment on how your experience record can be checked.

#### 4. Teaching/Training Experience

Please describe your experience in teaching or training in Piping or Drumming, the Pipe Bands involved and any achievements. Please also say how this record can be confirmed.

#### 5. Character References

Please give the names and addresses of two suitable referees, preferably associated with the RSPBA, who will be prepared to support your application. The referees will be contacted by the Adjudicators' Training Group.

1. Name: .....	2. Name: .....
Address: .....	Address: .....
.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
Telephone No: .....	Telephone No: .....
Email Address: .....	Email Address: .....

#### 6. Health and Fitness

Please provide written confirmation that you understand the demanding role of an RSPBA Adjudicator and that you consider yourself to have the health and fitness necessary to cope with these duties.

#### 7. Adjudicator Conditions

Please confirm that you fully understand the role of the RSPBA Adjudicator; that you are prepared to accept annual appraisal, mentoring and the conditions of Adjudicator membership; that you are prepared to participate in continuing professional development as required; and that you understand that the retiral age for RSPBA Adjudicators is age 70.

#### 8. Your Aspirations

Please explain in this section the reasons why you wish to be an RSPBA Adjudicator.

Signature: ..... Date: .....