

Solo Tenor Drumming back to 3 grades – Submitted by Suzan Karayel

Existing Text (Contest Rules)

**4. Tenor Drumming**

4.1. Grade Designation: Tenor drumming competitions are organized into five (5) grades each denoting a specific expectation of ability and experience. The grades are from 4, 3, 2, 1, and Open ranging from introductory to advanced.

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4.4. Tune Requirements: The tune requirements for each grade and each event are outlined in table 4. A minimum of four-parted tunes are required except where noted.

Grade	Competition Event	Number of Tunes to be Submitted
Open Tenor	2/4 March, Strathspey and Reel	Submit one (1) set.
	Hornpipe and Jig	Submit one (1) set.
Grade 1	2/4 March, Strathspey and Reel	Submit one (1) set.
	Hornpipe and Jig	Submit one (1) set.
Grade 2	2/4 March, Strathspey and Reel	Submit one (1) set.
	Hornpipe and Jig	Submit one (1) set.
Grade 3	2/4 March	Submit one (1) tune. The drummer must play four (4) different parts of music. However, the piper may either play a four-parted tune, two (2) two-parted tunes, or one (1) two-parted tune twice over.
	Strathspey and Reel	Submit one (1) tune of each type. To initiate the contest, the piper will strike up on an E; the drummer will then count off four (4) beats; judging will begin with the first beat of the Strathspey. The drummer must play four (4) different parts of music. However, the piper may either play a four-parted tune, two (2) two-parted tunes, or one (1) two-parted tune twice over.
Grade 4	2/4 March	Submit one (1) tune. The drummer must play four (4) different parts of music. However, the piper may either play a four-parted tune, two (2) two-parted tunes, or one (1) two-parted tune twice over.
	6/8 March	Submit one (1) tune. The drummer must play four (4) different parts of music. However, the piper may either play a four-parted tune, two (2) two-parted tunes, or one (1) two-parted tune twice over.

**Table 4. Solo Tenor Drumming Events and Requirements**

Proposed Text (Contest Rules)

**4. Tenor Drumming**

- 4.1. Grade Designation: Tenor drumming competitions are organized into ~~five (5)~~ **three (3)** grades each denoting a specific expectation of ability and experience. The grades are ~~4, 3, 2, 1,~~ **Novice, Intermediate,** and **Open**, ranging from introductory to advanced.
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- 4.4. Tune Requirements: The tune requirements for each grade and each event are outlined in table 4. A minimum of four-parted tunes are required except where noted.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Competition Event</b>	<b>Number of Tunes to be Submitted</b>
Open Tenor	2/4 March, Strathspey and Reel	Submit one (1) set.
	Hornpipe and Jig	Submit one (1) set.
<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>2/4 March, Strathspey and Reel</b>	<b>Submit one (1) set.</b>
<b>Novice</b>	<b>2/4 March</b>	<b>Submit one (1) tune. The drummer must play four (4) different parts of music. However, the piper may either play a four-parted tune, two (2) two-parted tunes, or one (1) two-parted tune twice over.</b>
	<b>6/8 March</b>	<b>Submit one (1) tune. The drummer must play four (4) different parts of music. However, the piper may either play a four-parted tune, two (2) two-parted tunes, or one (1) two-parted tune twice over.</b>

**Table 4. Solo Tenor Drumming Events and Requirements**

Rationale

There are simply not enough solo tenor drummers in the association to justify five grades. No other ANAPBA association has five grades of solo tenor drumming, and there is only one association that even has four full (unrestricted) grades.

Within the WUSPBA, tenor drumming events, even at many of the larger contests, often only have one or two participants. This doesn't make for very good "competition." In 2015, there were only 12 registered tenor drummers that appeared on the solo aggregate points table for the entire year, nine in Grade 4 and three in Grade 3; there were no registered tenor drummers with aggregate points in Grades 2, 1, or Open. As of August 2016, there were only 14 registered tenor drummers that appear on the solo aggregate points table for this year, twelve in Grade 4 and two in Grade 2; there were no registered tenor drummers with aggregate points in Grade 3, 1, or Open.

Based on this year's results from Pleasanton, a contest which draws several competitors from other associations, it appears that the solo tenor competitions in Grades 2, 3, and 4 consisted of only one competitor each. The results reflect no competitors in either Grade 1 or Open.

Consolidating solo tenor drumming into three grades should allow for slightly larger contests while still allowing enough differentiation between grades for fair competition.

Since this change will require a reorganization of the entire grade structure for WUSPBA tenor drummers, the proposal is to convert the existing grades as follows: tenor drummers currently registered as Open or Grade 1 will become Open; tenor drummers currently registered as Grade 2 or Grade 3 will become Intermediate; and tenor drummers currently registered as Grade 4 will become Novice. This leaves the current Grade 4 class—which contains by far the large majority of solo tenor drummers—essentially unchanged, and simply changes the name. Only Grades 3 through Open will be affected in a practical way by this rule change, in that these four grades will be collapsed into two grades. Since there haven't been even four registered tenor drummers to populate these four grades in the past two years, even this change, which may seem drastic on paper, should not cause much actual disruption.

Note on terminology: This proposal steers away from “Amateur” as a grade designation. WUSPBA solo bass drumming currently uses Amateur to denote the beginning grade, but no other association uses Amateur in this way; the only two ANAPBA associations that use the word “Amateur” as a tenor grade designation use it to denote the *intermediate* grade. Although internal consistency should be more important than consistency with other associations, I propose that both tenor and bass in WUSPBA use the word “Novice” for the beginning grade, instead of using the word “Amateur.” This is fairly straightforward and hopefully should not be overly confusing for WUSPBA bass soloists, and it will also minimize confusion for any bass and tenor soloists that may wish to compete outside WUSPBA, as well as any soloists from other associations that may wish to compete at WUSPBA competitions.

#### Comparison of Solo Tenor in other ANAPBA Associations and Winter Storm

Alberta Soc. P&D — Four (4) grades: Professional, Grade 1, Grade 2, and Grade 3.

Professional	MSR; Hornpipe/Jig
Grade 1 Tenor	MSR; Hornpipe/Jig
Grade 2 Tenor	MSR; 2/4 March; 6/8 March
Grade 3 Tenor	2/4 March; 6/8 March; 4/4 March

Atlantic Canada PBA — No solo tenor drumming.

BCPA — Four (4) grades: Open, Grade 1, Grade 2, and Beginner. Beginner is a special grade limited to individuals who have never competed before, and tenor drummers can only play in Beginner grade for their first year competing. In essence, the Beginner tenor grade is akin to practice pad for side drumming (in fact, the BCPA Beginner side grade is on practice pad and subject to the same special restrictions as Beginner tenor). So really, only three (3) regular grades.

Open	MSR; Hornpipe/Jig
Grade 1	MSR; Hornpipe/Jig
Grade 2	2/4 March; 6/8 March

Beginner                      Massed bands 2/4; Massed bands 6/8

EUSPBA — Three (3) grades: Professional, Amateur, and Novice. Games sponsors also have the option of offering an unsanctioned Beginner grade.

Professional	MSR; Hornpipe/Jig; Medley
Amateur	Mini-MSR; March Set
Novice	4-parted March (2/4, 4/4, or 6/8)

MWPBA — Four (4) grades: Advanced, Intermediate, Novice, and Beginning. Beginning is a special grade that individuals may only compete in for one season. So really, only three (3) regular grades.

Advanced	MSR; Hornpipe/Jig
Intermediate	MSR
Novice	2/4 March (one 4-parted tune or two 2-parted tunes)
Beginning	2/4 March (one 2-parted tune played twice through)

PPBSO — Three (3) grades: Professional, Amateur, and Novice.

Professional	MSR & Hornpipe/Jig (two sets as a combined event)
Amateur	MSR
Novice	2/4 March

Prairie PBA of Manitoba — Three (3) grades: Professional, Intermediate, and Novice.

Professional	MSR; Hornpipe/Jig
Intermediate	MSR
Novice	March

Saskatchewan PBA — Three (3) grades: Open, Intermediate, and Novice.

Open	MSR; Hornpipe/Jig; Medley
Intermediate	2/4 March; Strathspey/Reel; 6/8 March
Novice	2/4 March; 6/8 March; 4/4 March

MHAF Winter Storm — Three (3) grades: Gold Medal, Intermediate Amateur, and Novice Amateur. Novice Amateur is limited to amateur (non-professional) competitors under 18, who have never previously placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Novice Amateur at Winter Storm and have never previously entered Intermediate Amateur at Winter Storm. Intermediate Amateur is limited to amateur competitors who have never previously placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Intermediate Amateur at Winter Storm.

Gold Medal	MSR; Hornpipe/Jig
Intermediate Amateur	MSR
Novice Amateur	2/4 March