

Virtual Contest Manual

*A Resource for Contest Organizers of
Virtual Piping and Drumming Events*



WUSPBA SOLO PIPING AND DRUMMING VIRTUAL CONTEST MANUAL

VIRTUAL CONTESTS.

The Contest Organizer and Competitors must follow all WUSPBA solo contest rules and sanctioning requirements as outlined for on-site events, as well as those outlined in this document.

There are two types of sanctioned virtual contests authorized for solo competition: (1) Stewarded Live Video Recording Contest, and (2) Pre-Recorded Video Contest. Both require the competitors to record and submit video recordings to the Contest Organizer.

(1) Stewarded Live Video Recording Contest: The Stewarded Live Video Recording Contest is run to emulate a typical in person contest. The Contest Organizer will take entries and publish a schedule of the entrants, much like an in person solo contest. Stewards will be assigned to administer the events. It is recommended that the Contest Organizer have at least one Steward per grade for the contest, but it is not required. It is also recommended that the Contest Organizer and Stewards all be connected during the contest on an SMS chat program, such as Messenger, so that problems during the contest can be resolved quickly to make for a smoothly run contest.

STEWARDS. The Steward will use a video conferencing platform such as Zoom, Skype, Facetime, etc.¹ to communicate with the solo competitor at the appointed time according to the published schedule. The Steward will ask the competitor to

¹ The exact mechanics may vary depending on the capabilities of the designated video conferencing platform. A Zoom meeting can be used to create virtual “platforms” in the form of breakout rooms, to approximate the feel and scheduling of an in-person contest by having all of the competitors join a single meeting and then go into breakout rooms when it is their turn to play. Or individual stewards may use something like FaceTime to simply call each individual competitor at their scheduled time, which allows for greater flexibility in scheduling because multiple competitors in the same event may potentially be scheduled to play concurrently, with multiple stewards.

start recording and will introduce themselves, the contest they represent and the solo competitor so that every recording will start with this introduction. The Steward will ask the tune(s) being played, or will inform the competitor of the tunes selected from the competitor's submitted tunes, as appropriate for the grade and event. Below is a sample format of a Steward's introduction.

STEWARD: Are you ready to record?

COMPETITOR: Yes.

STEWARD: Please start your video recording device. Are we recording?

COMPETITOR: Yes.

STEWARD: I am (Steward's Name) representing the (Contest Name). This is (Competitor's Name), WUSPBA Number (XXXX). The event is Grade 4 2/4 March. Which tune will you play for us today?

COMPETITOR: I will play (Tune Name).

STEWARD: Take your time and have fun.

Once the competitor is finished, the competitor will upload the performance video to YouTube or another video sharing platform and send the video link to the email address designated by the Contest Organizer. The Contest Organizer may specify the video sharing platform to be used for video submission.

COMPETITORS. Before the appointed time, the competitor will have prepared a separate recording device² to record their competition video performance. The device must be capable of file transfer via the internet. A smart phone is a typical device that has on board software capable of meeting the criteria, but other devices may be used.

The video conferencing device, recording device, recording the performance, uploading the recording to YouTube, and sending the YouTube link of the performance to the Contest Organizer is entirely the responsibility of the competitor. Competitors should do a dry run through with the equipment. The use of another person to operate the recording equipment during the performance is authorized and encouraged.

Competitors must be ready to play in the time slot provided by the contest. It is highly recommended that the competitor's instrument be warmed up and ready to go. A warmup and tuning period as designated in the WUSPBA Contest Rules is authorized. The performance must be one continuous recording. The competitor has a single chance to record their tune, just like at an in-person contest. When completed, the competitor will upload their video recording to YouTube or another video sharing platform and send the link to the Contest Organizer.

2) Pre-Recorded Video Contests: The main difference in this type of contest is that competitors pre-record their video entry within a set number of days to be designated by the Contest Organizer (the "recording window"). The competitor records their video on their own, at any time within the recording window, and without the involvement of a Steward. The competitor's video must be recorded specifically for the designated contest and must not be used for any other contest. The Contest Organizer may require that the competitor give a verbal introduction

² Video conferencing platforms like Zoom have a built-in recording function. The Contest Organizer may, at their discretion, allow competitors who desire to do so to use the built-in recording function in lieu of a separate recording device. However, the default Zoom audio settings are not optimal for music, and can in fact be unusable for this purpose if they have not been adjusted in advance. So using the built-in recording function is not recommended unless the particular competitor has adjusted and tested their Zoom audio settings in advance to ensure that the audio recording quality will be adequate.

and designate what must be included in this introduction. When completed, the competitor will upload their video recording to YouTube or another video sharing platform and send the link to the Contest Organizer.

JUDGING AND RESULTS.

Once the Contest Organizer has received all of the video submissions, for each event the Contest Organizer will compile the video links into a document and send them to the appropriate judge. This can be a simple email that lists the competitors name and then the link/URL. An Excel spreadsheet roster or Word Document using tables may be used, which allows you to embed a hyperlink in the contestants name, so all the judge has to do is click on the name and it opens to video automatically.

It is the responsibility of the Contest Organizer to arrange the timetable for the judging to be completed and contest results published. The judge will use the WUSPBA Solo Adjudication Forms for adjudication, either in hard copy and scanned, or digital with e-signature. It is recommended that the judging be completed and results announced as soon as possible. Contest results will be compiled by the Contest Organizer or WUSPBA Contest Steward using the WUSPBA Solo Summary Competition Record form and sent to the appropriate WUSPBA Representative so that points can be recorded. The WUSPBA forms may be found at <https://erdmanncathy.wixsite.com/wuspbarep/forms>

DISQUALIFICATION.

Any evidence that the recording has been tampered with, inappropriately edited, or that it is not one continuous video file from the introduction to the end of the performance will result in disqualification.