

The 2010 Macra National Talent Competition

Organised By City of Dublin Macra na Feirme

Rules & Information

GENERAL RULES

1. The competition will be known as "The 2010 Macra National Talent Competition".
2. Participation is open only to officially affiliated members of Macra na Feirme.
3. Those eligible to compete are :-
Persons who are affiliated members of Macra na Feirme at either
(a) The time they first compete in a county round of the 2010 competition or
(b) At the time of the closing date for entries to their Regional / County Executive, whichever of (a) or (b) is decided by the Regional / County Executive, or it's Competitions Sub-Committee.
All competitors who go forward unopposed to the national rounds of the competition must be affiliated members at the time the county entry is being forwarded to the City of Dublin Organising Committee.
4. All competitors must be under 40 years of age on 1st January 2010.
5. Members are not eligible to compete in any event(s) in which they are classed as professionals. A professional is deemed to be a person who performs commercially (i.e. receives payment) on either a full-time or part-time basis.
6. Persons whose livelihood is the teaching of any of the events, or, who hold degrees in any of the event(s), are ineligible to participate in those events.
7. The following are the eight events which comprise the Macra National Talent Competition :-

1. Solo Instrumental Music
2. Disco / Modern Dancing
3. Solo Singing
4. Novelty Act

5. Mastermind
6. Set Dancing
7. Comedy
8. Pop / Folk / Ballad Group

8. A branch may participate in any number of the eight events.
9. It is up to each County or Regional Executive to decide if branches can enter more than one competitor or group per event at county level.
10. The eight events are, in effect, eight separate competitions. There is no overall competition.
11. **Entry Fee:** None for branch entries to the County Executive. €60 from each county executive to City of Dublin Macra na Feirme.
12. **Substitutes & Replacements:** Substitutes may be used at any stage of the competition, other than for individual events after the first round at County level, provided they fulfil all the conditions and rules.
13. **Objections:** Objections arising from the **national rounds** of the competition must be lodged in writing with the City of Dublin Organising Committee so as to arrive with the Secretary within five working days of the round in question, accompanied by a fee of €30. The fee will be returned if the objection is sustained. The basis of the objection will be entertained in writing only. No oral submissions will be allowed nor will anybody other than the members of the City of Dublin Organising Committee be allowed to attend the meeting which considers the objection.
14. **Late Sign-In :** Five per cent of a competitor's or team's (for group events) total marks on each scoresheet will be deducted if the competitor, or the entire team in the case of group events, has not signed in by the official check-in time. The Presiding Officer, who must not be a participant in that round, will be responsible for enforcing this rule.
15. If a competitor is more than half an hour late, his / her branch will be disqualified from the event(s) in which that competitor is participating.

PARTICIPATION BY PREVIOUS COUNTY & NATIONAL WINNERS:

Individual Events (i.e. Solo Instrumental Music, Solo Singing, Mastermind and Comedy) : Persons who hold **two** National Titles in an event are not eligible to compete in that event. Comedy is regarded as an individual event.

Group Events : A team cannot comprise **more** than 50% of members who hold two or more National Titles in that event. **In addition, a member of a team cannot be the holder of three National Titles in that event.** Therefore a person who has three national titles in a group event is no longer eligible for that event.

All Events : There is no restriction in relation to persons who have never won a National Title, or who hold just one National Title. **Also there is no restriction in relation to County Titles.**

MARKING SYSTEM

The following is the marking system for each event:-

1. SOLO INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Technique	20
Intonation & Phrasing	30
Interpretation	30
General Effect	20

3. SOLO SINGING

Tonal Quality	30
Phrasing	20
Interpretation	30
Suitability of Song to Singer	10
General Effect	10

6. SET DANCING

Traditional Character	40
Timing to Reflect Music	25
Carriage, Teamwork & Overall Effect	25
Variety of Figures	10

8. POP / FOLK / BALLAD GROUP

Tonal Quality	30
Phrasing	20
Interpretation	30
General Effect	20

2. DISCO / MODERN DANCING

Technique	20
Presentation	20
Musical Sense	20
Choreographic Content	20
Teamwork & Overall Effect	20

4. NOVELTY ACT

Acting	10
Production	25
Originality / Novelty Content	30
Presentation	10
Entertainment Value	25

7. COMEDY

Presentation	10
Timing and Delivery	30
Content and Comedy Value	60

RULES FOR EACH EVENT

1. Solo Instrumental Music

1. Each competitor must play two, but only two, tunes. **Medleys are not allowed.**

2. The two tunes **must be of contrasting tempo i.e. one FAST and one SLOW.** Adjudicators will only mark out of 50 if this is not complied with.
3. The maximum time allowed **for any one tune** is five minutes.
4. No accompaniment of any kind is allowed.
5. A competitor may play only one instrument, which can be electric but cannot be electronic. The exception to the latter is an electronic keyboard or synthesiser provided that it is used solely in plain piano mode i.e. no drum beats, any other backing instruments or special effects of any kind.
6. It is the responsibility of persons who require a PIANO to inform the relevant Organising Committee in sufficient time beforehand.

2. Disco / Modern Dancing

1. Each team must have a minimum of four and a maximum of eight dancers.
2. Any combination of males and females, or all of either, is allowed.
3. Each team's performance may last for a maximum of five minutes. There will be a time penalty of three marks per minute, or part thereof, if the limit is exceeded.
4. Live or recorded music is allowed. Musicians need not be Macra members nor is there a limit to their number. There are no marks for using live instead of recorded music, nor is the quality of the music taken into consideration in the marking, apart from its impact on the dancing performance.
5. Any type of music or dance is allowed, with the exception of Ceili and Set Dancing.
6. Any type of costume may be worn. There are no extra marks for costumes.
7. More than one song and / or dance routine may be used during a performance. However, there are no extra marks for the quantity of dance routines. Adjudication will be on the basis of the complete overall performance.
8. Special effects such as smoke, special lighting or flashing of stage lights are not allowed.

3. Solo Singing

1. Each competitor must sing just one song.
2. Any type of song is allowed.
3. One instrumental accompanist, who need not be a member of Macra na Feirme, is allowed.

4. Self-accompaniment is allowed, but only one instrument may be used.
5. Only one of 3 or 4 above is allowed.
6. No backing track or electronic instrument can be used. The only exception to the latter is an electronic keyboard or synthesiser which may be used provided that it is used solely in piano mode i.e. no drum beats, other backing instruments or any special effects. Accompaniment by an electric instrument is allowed.
7. No extra marks are given for accompaniment.
8. It is the responsibility of persons who require a PIANO for accompaniment to inform the relevant Organising Committee in sufficient time beforehand.

4. Novelty Act

1. Each team must put on a sketch or novelty item with the emphasis on originality, light-heartedness and entertainment value.
2. The performance must not last longer than six minutes. There will be a time penalty of three marks per minute, or part thereof, if the time limit is exceeded.
3. The maximum number of people allowed on a team is eight, while the minimum is four.
4. Each team will be allowed **two minutes to prepare the stage** before their performance and **one minute to clear the stage** afterwards. If either of these limits is exceeded, there will be a penalty of three marks per minute or part thereof.
5. Under no circumstances may a team bring on, or put up, props of any kind, or prepare the stage in any way whatsoever, other than during the two minutes allowed immediately before their performance or during the performance.
6. It is not allowed to throw water or material that will soil the stage and thus cause a delay in the next performance.
7. The use of naked flames and the lighting of cigarettes is not allowed.
8. Teams may use sound effects, special lighting and recorded or live music (musicians need not be members of Macra na Feirme provided they do not appear on stage). The setting up of effects, special lighting or music must be done during the two minutes preparation time.
9. **Transgression of Rules 6 to 8 may incur a ten mark penalty at the discretion of the Presiding Officer or the Organising Committee.**

5. Mastermind

1. This is an individual quiz consisting of questions on a contestant's specialist topic and general knowledge.
2. **Specialist topics must be selected from the following list only :-**

(a) Irish History	(i) Science and Nature	
(b) World History	(j) Classical Music	
(c) Irish Geography	(k) Pop & Rock Music	
(d) World Geography	(l) Country & Western Music	
(e) Literature	(m) Musicals	
(f) Cinema	(n) Current Affairs	
(g) Irish Sport	(o) Television	
(h) World Sport	(p) Art	(q) Food and Drink

Note 1: 'World' categories can include Ireland.

Note 2: 'Classical Music' includes Operas.

Note 3: A contestant may only select one specialist topic but can change it from one round of the competition to the next.

3. **The format for a particular round of the competition will either be :**
 - (a) **Two rounds of ten questions**, the first on the specialist topic and the second on general knowledge with five seconds to answer each question **or**
 - (b) **Two speed rounds, each of 90 seconds duration**, with again the first on the specialist topic and the second on general knowledge.
4. **County and Regional Executives can choose either format for county rounds.**
5. ***The format for the National Semi-Finals and the National Final will be 3(b).***
6. All questions are of equal value in both formats i.e. one point.
7. As stated in Rule 3, the time allowed to answer each question in format (a) is five seconds.
8. There should be a Question Master, Adjudicator, Scorekeeper and Timekeeper. The Question Master can double as Adjudicator if necessary.
9. The Adjudicator's decision in any situation is final.
10. Only the first answer will be accepted.

11. In the case of a prompt from the audience, another question must be given.
12. No part marks or half marks can be given. A person has to answer a question fully correct or else no marks can be awarded.
13. Except where specifically allowed by and stated in the question e.g. "to the nearest 100 miles ", " to the nearest five years ", a competitor must give the exact answer.
14. In the event of a tie, the person with the higher score in the specialist round will be the winner. In the event of further equality in that section, the matter must be resolved by sudden death General Knowledge questions.
15. A draw for the asking order should be made in the presence of the contestants before the Mastermind commences.

6. Set Dancing

1. Each team must consist of either four (a half set) or eight persons (a full set).
2. Any combination of males and females, or all of either, is allowed.
3. Live or recorded music is allowed. Musicians need not be members of Macra na Feirme. There are no extra marks for live as opposed to recorded music. It is recommended however, in the interests of audience appeal and general presentation, that, if at all possible, teams should use live music.
4. Teams must perform two, but only two, parts of a traditional Set Dance.
5. **Adjudicators should not mark down a team on the basis that they have a half set, nor should they favour a personal favourite traditional set over others.**

7. Comedy

1. This event is for individual comedians / comediennes or comedy duos.
2. It is not allowed to throw water or any material that will soil the stage and thus cause a delay in the next performance.
3. The use of naked flames and the lighting of cigarettes is not allowed.
4. **Transgression of rules 2 or 3 may incur a ten mark penalty at the discretion of the Presiding Officer or the Organising Committee.**
5. The maximum time allowed is five minutes. There will be a time penalty of three marks per minute or part thereof for exceeding that time limit.
6. **A set-up time of 15 seconds is allowed.** Transgression of that time limit will incur a penalty of three marks per minute or part thereof.

7. It should be clearly understood that **the requirement in this event is for stand-up type comedy** with the emphasis on plenty of verbal and / or visual gags. **It should not be a mini-sketch.** Adjudicators should bear these points in mind.

8. Pop / Folk / Ballad Group

1. A group must have a minimum of three and a maximum of six members.
2. Groups must sing two songs of **contrasting tempo i.e. one fast and one slow.** **Adjudicators will only mark out of 50 if this is not complied with.**
3. Any type of song e.g. Irish, Ballad, Pop, Rock, Country & Western is allowed.
4. Music may only be provided by the group. Accompaniment outside of the group of six is not allowed. This does not mean that all musicians (pianists for example) have to be on stage. All musicians must be Macra members. Groups are not necessarily required to have music.
5. Both electric and electronic instruments are allowed.
6. It is the responsibility of groups who require a PIANO to inform the relevant Organising Committee in sufficient time beforehand.
7. Adjudicators should not mark group(s) in the context of a preference for or against particular type(s) of songs or any particular instruments.
8. Groups must use the sound system provided by the hosts / organisers.

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