

# General Rules

## Eligibility

1. Each teacher of Festival entrants must be a senior member of the National Federation of Music Clubs, either as:
  - Senior Club member or
  - Senior Individual member
  - All individual teachers affiliated with a conservatory must be Senior members.Each teacher needs to be informed on all Festival requirements.
  - a. Each teacher may enter only those students whom they personally teach in the instrument category.
  - b. Each teacher must subscribe to Junior Keynotes.
  - c. Each teacher must own a current NFMC Festivals Bulletin.
2. Each Junior Festival entrant must be a junior member of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

A Junior member is under 19 years of age on the date of the Festival event.

  - Junior Club member or
  - Junior Individual member (even small studios will find it more economical to form a Junior Club)
3. Each Adult Festival entrant must be a student or senior member of the National Federation of Music Clubs. Student members are age 19 –26.
  - Student or Senior Club member or
  - Student or Senior Individual member
4. All Area and State Festival chairmen must be senior members of the National Federation of Music Clubs, either as:
  - Senior Club member or
  - Senior Individual member

## Membership Dues

1. Dues must be current in your state before Festival entries can be processed.
2. The State Treasurer's Membership Dues for report to NFMC must be current each year. Check on the deadline with the NFMC Treasurer.
3. Dues are determined by each state federation and include a fixed amount for national dues.

## Festival Fees

1. Required national and state entry fees must be paid to the area Festival chairman by each entrant for each event entered. States are free to use those additional entry fees as determined by their state boards. (See NFMC Standing Rules)
2. Additional fees (surcharges) may be added, when needed, and must be used specifically for Festival expenses at the local level.
3. Each member of an ensemble of four or fewer (includes duets, duos, trios, quartets) must pay the Festival entry fee.
4. An ensemble of five or more must pay the group entry fee.

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## Official Application

1. One official application JR 3-8, completed and signed, must be filed for each soloist and for each member of an ensemble of four or fewer. (The signature affirms that all NFMC rules have been followed and provides copyright protection for NFMC.) One official rating sheet per judge should be provided for each soloist and each ensemble.
2. One official application must be filed for each ensemble or group of five or more (one official rating sheet per judge for ensemble or group).
3. Each academic year, July 1 - May 15, entrants may enter only one area Festival in the state in which they hold Federation membership.
4. Each academic year, July 1 - May 15, entrants may enter only one class in any one event only one time.

## Progression

1. Junior entrants in piano, vocal, accordion and string events who receive a Superior rating **MUST** progress to a higher class the next year unless otherwise noted.
2. In all other events, juniors may progress or repeat a class one time regardless of the rating received. A different required and choice composition must be used unless otherwise noted.
3. Junior entrants who have received a rating lower than Superior **MAY** progress or repeat the current class **ONE TIME** with different required and choice compositions unless otherwise noted.
4. Entrants in the highest class in any event may enter that class with different required and choice compositions each year. The one exception to this is the theory event. Once a superior has been earned in Level 12 Theory, a student has completed participation in the theory event.
5. Juniors playing in the Pre-Primary Class for any event must not have reached their ninth birthday on the day of Festival for participation in this classification. Pre-Primary entrants may remain in the same (Pre-Primary) class, regardless of rating, for a maximum of two years with different selections the second year.
6. Regression of class is not permitted under any circumstances.

## Memorization

1. Junior entrants in ALL solo events must perform from memory with these exceptions:
  - a. entrants in American patriotic and folk song, organ and hymn playing events may use scores.
  - b. entrants in brass and woodwind solo events may use scores for the choice piece; and,
  - c. entrants in sonata events (except piano) may use scores.
2. Entrants in ensembles may also use scores, except for art song and musical theater duets.
3. Memorization is required of junior entrants in all concerto events.

## Specially Capable Junior Musicians (SCJM)

1. In any section or event, regular rules regarding memorization, progression and choice of materials may be altered for entrants who have been identified as physically or mentally challenged.
2. Specially Capable Junior Musicians identifies a junior who needs special exceptions to the General Rules. **SCJM is not an event or class.**

3. SCJM may be a temporary or a permanent identification. Some juniors may have temporary problems which would identify them as SCJM. They would return to standard rules when the problems cease.
4. When a teacher is seeking SCJM status for a student, s/he must complete Form JR 3-13 (SCJM Official Application) and obtain the parent/legal guardian's signature if the entrant is under age 18. This form should be submitted to the area chairman at the time of entry. Based on the nature of the entrant's special capabilities, instructions and information on modifications allowed to the entrant will be provided for the judges.
6. Neither the words 'Specially Capable Junior Musician' nor the initials 'SCJM' are to appear on the rating sheet, nor are they to be placed on any Gold Cup or certificate earned by the junior.

## Scores

1. Published scores of the required and choice compositions must be provided for the judges.
2. Scores electronically produced or hand copied are prohibited. Only compositions in their original form and published key(s) will be acceptable with these exceptions:
  - a. Vocalists may use scores which have been legally electronically produced to provide the appropriate vocal range, and
  - b. Entrants may use legally produced scores from vendors such as CD Sheet Music provided they include the letter of permission that accompanies this music.
  - c. Legally downloaded scores must include the verification that the download is from a valid source. Verification could be a document printed from the download website, or verification printed on each page of the download.

## Photocopying/Copyright Prohibition

1. See copyright rule on title page of this bulletin.
2. NO photocopied music will be allowed in the audition room unless accompanied by written permission from the publisher, stating that the selection is out-of-print. Teachers are cautioned to seek this permission well in advance of the Festival date.

## Choice of Material

1. Specific Rules appear at the opening of each instrumental section or event. Read these rules carefully to avoid disqualification.
2. Compositions performed in any Festival may not be performed by the same entrant in any other event or subsequent Festival.
3. REQUIRED compositions MUST be taken from this Bulletin.
4. CHOICE compositions MUST NOT appear in this Bulletin, unless noted otherwise.
5. Pre-Primary and Primary I choice compositions must be at least twelve measures long, not including repeats. Beginning with Primary II, ALL choice compositions must be at least sixteen measures in length.
6. Required and choice compositions must represent the same level of musicianship. Similarly, participants who enter more than one event in the same section (ex. piano, voice, etc.) must also strive for parity in the degree of difficulty of music selected.
7. Hymns and/or American folk songs are not acceptable choice pieces for Piano Solo Event. If an entrant desires to play these, he or she should enter the Hymn Playing Event or the American Patriotic and Folk Song Event.
8. Required pieces must be heard in their entirety. If a choice piece exceeds ten minutes,

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the judge will indicate which portion to omit, should the schedule demand this. Also see rule #10 in the Piano Solo Event.

9. Choice pieces must be commercially published.
10. Foreign born composers who became naturalized citizens may be selected as non-American composers. (They may be considered as either American or non-American.)
11. One movement of a multi-movement work will be considered as a choice selection. For this purpose, theme and variations compositions will not be defined as multi-movement works.

## **Repeats and Omissions**

Repeats should be omitted except in short Primary compositions. In concerti, long passages in the accompaniment should be omitted. Judges may select passages to be played. All cadenzas must be played in their entirety.

## **Events Not Listed**

Multiple instrumental/vocal events are included in this Festivals Bulletin. Juniors and adults may participate in the Festival events listed.

## **Ensemble Events**

1. See individual event rules for partnership eligibility.
2. In unavoidable circumstances, which have existed for some time prior to Festival, a substitute Federation member whose classification is comparable to the ensemble class being entered may be used. Teachers are not permitted as ensemble partners.
3. Emergency substitution, except as described in (2), is prohibited.

## **Availability for Rural, Expatriot and Military Families**

1. Entrants in any category listed in the Festivals Bulletin must be permitted to perform provided all requirements are satisfied.
2. Entrants located overseas or in an area where no Festival is located may participate if:
  - a. the original area or state collects dues and fees;
  - b. all rules and procedures are followed as outlined in the current Bulletin; and
  - c. a video recording is sent for review and rating; or a SKYPE or FaceTime evaluation is scheduled with the approval of the Area Festivals Chairman and judged with the same criteria as a live audition.

## **Accompaniments**

1. If accompaniment is indicated in the score, accompaniment must be used. Entrants must provide their own accompanists.
2. Only fully-realized, published accompaniments are allowed. Single line duets by another instrument do not meet this requirement.
3. In the Fiddling categories, where accompaniments are indicated only by chord symbols, the pieces may be accompanied on piano, guitar or other instrument where the chords can be fully realized.
4. In the vocal categories, where piano scores may have chord symbols in addition to a fully realized piano accompaniment, the piano part must be performed as published.
5. Accompaniments must be live except in the Dance Event which may use recorded accompaniment.

6. Entrants in the Piano Accompaniment Event must provide their own soloists or ensemble performers. Accompanying a concerto is not acceptable to earn points in this event.

## Video and Recording

1. No video and/or audio recording will be allowed in audition rooms during any performances on any device.
2. No photography will be allowed in audition rooms during any performance.

## Adjudication Procedures

1. One (or more) judge(s) should be provided for each event.
2. Students may receive only one evaluation in each event during the academic year, July 1 - May 15. Students may not be judged again, at a later time, for the same or a different judge to receive a different rating.
3. Judges' decisions are final.
4. A minimum of two adults (who may be judges) must be present in the audition room. If only two adults are present in the audition room, these may not be the participant's parent or teacher. Teachers and parents are allowed, as circumstances permit, provided two other adults are present.
5. Performances by junior participants will be rated as follows: Superior, Excellent, Satisfactory, Fair, Needs Improvement. See form JR 3-5.
  - a. **SUPERIOR:** An outstanding performance which is consistently musical, stylistically correct, and accurate. Attention is given to dynamics, phrasing, and musical expression. Memorization is secure with rapid recovery from minor slips. Errors do not detract from the participant's interpretation. A complete performance.
  - b. **EXCELLENT:** A strong performance that is musical and stylistically correct. The performance shows accomplishment and very good potential but there are discrepancies in rhythm, dynamics, phrasing, and/or interpretation. Hesitation and/or memory slips detract from the participant's presentation. A promising performance.
  - c. **SATISFACTORY:** Shows accomplishment; however, numerous errors occur. Additional work in one or more areas is needed in order to achieve a convincing presentation.
  - d. **FAIR:** Some commendable aspects in performance and preparation are present, but severe deficiencies in fundamentals (for example, rhythm, notes, memory, etc.) are also apparent. Not fully ready for performance.
  - e. **NEEDS IMPROVEMENT:** The participant is obviously poorly prepared and appears unconcerned with the performance.

## Award Certificates

1. A state certificate signed by the state president and state or area chairman, showing the rating received, is awarded to all participants, whether solo or member of an ensemble. This certificate may be ordered from National Headquarters.
2. Each entrant earning a Superior rating, whether soloist or in an ensemble, may be awarded a National Honor Certificate signed by the national president and the national Festival chairman. This indicates the number of consecutive years Superiors have been earned. Consecutive Superiors require that no interruptions occur in the years the Superiors are earned in a given event. When alternating is allowed for cup points, it will also be recognized when calculating consecutive superiors. Consecutive Superior

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certificates are optional. Each area chairman may choose whether or not to use these certificates.

## **Teacher Responsibilities**

1. The teacher is responsible for correctly selecting classifications and music.
2. The teacher is responsible for complying with all directives from the national chairman, the state chairman, and the area chairman.
3. The area chairman is responsible for setting a deadline for return of applications. It is suggested that this be at least eight to ten weeks prior to Festival. This would permit most juniors time to learn another piece should the selected literature be incorrect. Area chairmen must notify teachers immediately if an error in repertoire selection is discovered.
4. The teacher is responsible for meeting all deadlines.
5. The teacher should be available to assist the area chairman when needed, either prior to the Festival, or at the Festival site.
6. The teacher is responsible for keeping up to date on all Festival information by reading the Festival section found in each Junior Keynotes Magazine.
7. Area chairmen are responsible for notifying teachers immediately if any error is found in applications or if insufficient dues or fees have been paid.
8. Should there be an error on the part of a teacher which would disqualify the entrant (e.g. incorrect choice of literature, photocopies, etc.) the following options may be selected:
  - a. the entrant may be entered in another Festival in the state at a later date. The teacher will be responsible for any additional fees incurred; or
  - b. a make-up date may be set for the entrant to perform. The teacher may assist the area chairman in securing a judge. Any expenses must be met by the teacher.
9. If either of the options described in number eight is used, the chairman's report -making deadlines must not be compromised.

## **Adult Participant Rules**

Adults are to adhere to the rules and regulations as stated in this section. Judges' decisions are final.

1. Adult participants are amateur music students who are age 19 or above on the day of the Festival event.
2. Adult participants must be Senior or Student members. See Eligibility Rules under General Rules.
3. Adult participants may enter any Festival event. Apart from rule number four (memorization) and rule number six (rating), they must adhere to all other requirements.
4. Although entrants are encouraged to perform at least one piece from memory, memorization is not required of adult participants.
5. Regardless of rating, participants may progress to a higher class or remain in the same class for as many as three years total, using different required and choice compositions each year.
6. Judges will use the following ratings for adult participants: Superior, Excellent, Satisfactory.
7. Certificates will be awarded and adult entrants will be eligible to participate in the Silver Cup Program.

# Official Festival Cup Award Plan

## Purpose

The Festival Cup Award Plan (Gold and Silver) offers additional incentive to all entrants in the NFMC Festivals Program. Gold Cups and Silver Cups are awarded on a point system based on Festival ratings. Participation is optional; however, states should offer NFMC's Official Gold Cup Plan and Silver Cup Plan in conjunction with Festivals.

## Eligibility

Any participant entering an event in the Festival, including the Junior Composers Contest and Musicianship Section is eligible to enter the Festival Cup Award Plan. Gold Cup points are earned only within the Junior Division (up to age 19). Silver Cup points are earned only within the Adult Division (age 19 and above). Points in each Division (Junior and Adult) are totaled separately. No individual may hold Junior and Student/Collegiate membership in the same year.

## Point System

Points based on Festival ratings are as follows:

Superior	5 points
Excellent	4 points
Satisfactory	3 points
Fair	2 points
Needs Improvement	1 point

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF Senior Concerto, or Sonata/Concerto Events:

Superior	8 points
Excellent	7 points
Satisfactory	5 points
Fair	3 points
Needs Improvement	1 point

AND Junior Composition:

Entrants have the opportunity to work toward Festival cups, with the first cup being earned with 15 points. Points received for ratings are:

Superior:	8 points for a composition with two instruments or more; 7 points for a composition with one instrument.
Excellent:	6 points
Satisfactory:	5 points
Fair:	3 points
Needs Improvement:	1 point

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## Accumulation of Points

When a total of 15 points has been earned, the First Cup is awarded. When each additional 15 points has been earned, the next larger cup is awarded.

First Cup	6 inch	15 points
Second Cup	8 inch	30 points
Third Cup	10 inch	45 points
Fourth Cup	12 inch	60 points
Grand Cup	14 inch	75 points
President's Cup	15 inch	90 points

All points counted toward a Cup must be earned in the same event (*see exceptions below*).

## COMBINING OF POINTS: (Exception to accumulation of points)

- How to combine Solo and Concerto points in order to earn larger cups:
  - IN ALL EVENTS** except Vocal and Guitar, all of the following criteria must be followed:
    - Entrant has not yet reached age 19 on the day of Festival.
    - Entrant may begin combining of points for the same instrument in 9th grade.
    - Solo level must be Difficult 1 or above.
    - Concerto level must be at least Junior Class III (or the class listed immediately preceding Senior Class). Remember that Senior Class Concerto point system is different from the standard system.
    - Points may be combined for a maximum of 4 years.
  - VOCAL EVENTS:** In order to potentially earn 10 points in one year toward a larger cup, a 12th grade student may combine points in *Art Song* and *Musical Theater*.
  - GUITAR EVENTS:** In order to potentially earn 10 points in one year toward a larger cup, a 12th grade student may combine points in *Classical Guitar* and *Pick Style Guitar*.
- These combined points can be added to solo points earned previously. No combining before 9th grade.
- All concerto points (Junior III and Senior) may be used either as Concerto points or Solo/Concerto combined points. No points can be used twice.
- It is recommended that form JR 4-1 (Application for Grand and President's Cups) be used to help track and understand the combining of points even if not earning the Grand or President's Cup.