



## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

### **Introduction**

The core aim of this competition is to create a positive and enjoyable experience for all participants. Since the quality of music is central to the event, coaches and managers should carefully review this document to prevent any misunderstandings or issues. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the organizers at the earliest opportunity.

### **Competition Categories**

- There are four competition categories in this competition. The specific guideline for each category is found on the competition website.
  - Category 1: Timeless Classix [Pieces based on classical compositions]
  - Category 2: Rhythm Fusion [Pieces containing marimbas and other melodic instruments]
  - Category 3: Global Harmony [Pieces that originates from outside of Africa]
  - Category 4: Mzansi fo' Sho! [Pieces that are homegrown. The artists or creators of the songs must be from South Africa].
- At this competition, each song that a the competition announcer will introduce band plays.
- For this purpose, each coach will register their pieces a week prior to the start of the competitions. Songs may not change during that week.

### **Registration, Entry fees & Accommodation packages**

- Schools must register for the competition via the website, and an institutional registration fee will apply.
- Bands can enter as many categories as they wish, with an entry fee charged for each category.
- Only bands that enter all four categories will be eligible for the final round.
- A participant fee will be charged for each band member, coach, manager, and driver. This fee includes competition memorabilia for each participant.
- Spectators can purchase daily access passes through Quicket.

- Michaelhouse offers accommodation for up to six hundred people in its ten state-of-the-art boarding houses. Accommodation packages, which include three meals per day and a room, are available to the first six hundred applicants. Additional B&Bs and hotels are located near Michaelhouse for bands choosing private accommodation. The organizers are not responsible for booking accommodations on behalf of participants. Only participants, coaches & drivers can apply for the accommodation packages; no parents, friends or spectators can utilize this option.
- The organizers are not responsible for arranging transportation to and from the airports in Pietermaritzburg or Durban.
- Only institutions paid their registration and entry fees in full will be guaranteed a place in the competition.
- Keeping in mind the specific payment procedures of your school, kindly ensure that payments are processed timeously to avoid late fees. The organizers cannot be held responsible for late payments.

#### **Band size & members**

- Each school may enter up to **two high school** bands.
- Bands must consist of at least **five and no more than twenty-five** members, including the drummer, dancers, and soloists.
- The same band members must perform in all four categories—no substitutions will be allowed. Unlike in sports, there is no "bench"!
- Only official band members may participate in dancing.
- All band members must be registered students at the high school from which the band comes.
- No adults may conduct, perform with, or assist the bands in any way during performances.
- Any band found violating these rules will be disqualified.

#### **Types of instruments**

- Only African marimbas (not orchestral) may be used in this competition. These can be either diatonic or chromatic. For competition purposes, an African marimba is defined as a melodic instrument with wooden keys that is not part of the orchestral melodic percussion family or of the Orff instrument family.
- Non-melodic percussion instruments may be used as accompaniment, but the players will be counted as part of the band. However, non-melodic percussion does not include metallophones, vibraphones, xylophones, or Orff instruments.

- Melodic instruments (allowed only in Category 2: Rhythm Fusion) must not be from the percussion family. These may include:
  - **Stringed instruments** (e.g., guitar, violin, viola, cello, double bass, harp)
  - **Woodwind instruments** (e.g., flute, piccolo, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, penny whistle, recorder)
  - **Brass instruments** (e.g., trumpet, trombone, tuba)
  - **Keyboard instruments** (e.g., piano, electronic keyboard)
  - **Vocals and spoken word** (singers, narrators, poets)
- If there are any instruments that a band wants to use and it does not appear in the list above, contact the organizer as soon as possible.
- Singers, narrators, and poets may only participate in Category 2: Rhythm Fusion. They must not use offensive language.
- Backing tracks and digital sound effects are prohibited.
- The use of metronomes or in-ear click tracks by any band member, including drummers, is not allowed and will result in automatic disqualification.

#### **Technical riders and instrumental provision**

- Bands unable to travel with their instruments may use the marimbas provided at the competition. Please inform the organizers in advance to make the necessary arrangements.
- If a band requires specialized instruments that are not commonly used by others, they must provide them independently.
- All bands must submit a list of their instruments and technical equipment to the organizers by **28 March**.

#### **Time restrictions**

- Songs in any of the categories may not exceed 3 minutes playing time (starting from when the first note is played).
- Bands that either exceed the allotted time will be stopped and disqualified from the category.

#### **Dress**

- Performers must wear appropriate attire throughout the competition. All band members are expected to dress respectfully and modestly, both on and off the stage.
- Bands may change their outfits for different performance categories, but this is optional and not a requirement.

- While judges will assess overall presentation and performance, there are no specific scoring criteria for “costumes” or “clothing.”

### **Adjudication**

- A panel of selected adjudicators will oversee the judging process.
- At the start of the competition, the adjudication process will be explained in detail to all participating coaches.
- Judging will be points-based, with first, second, and third places in each category determined by the highest combined score from all adjudicators.
- All adjudicators will participate in judging the final round.
- Each institution will receive the adjudicators' score sheets and additional comments after the competition concludes.
- All adjudicators' decisions are final. Neither the adjudicators nor the competition organizer will engage in discussions or correspondence regarding the results.

### **Prizes**

- The overall winner will receive a compact marimba, sponsored by AMI in Makhanda, along with the competition cup.
- All members of the winning band (after the finals) will receive a competition medal.
- Category winners will receive a floating trophy, plus a smaller trophy that can be kept by the school.
- Additional individual prizes will be awarded to the best players in each of the following categories: piccolo marimba, soprano marimba, tenor marimba, baritone marimba, and drummer.
- A special prize will be awarded to the band that demonstrates the best spirit throughout the competition.