

General Rules For WMTA Events

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All WMTA competitive and non competitive events are operated in the spirit of improving musicianship and good sportsmanship. WMTA makes every effort to allow each participant a full, fair and equal opportunity to participate. Participants should understand and respect the subjective elements involved in judging artistry and musicianship. Event Chairs are responsible for making every reasonable effort to operate competitive events in a fair and equitable manner, and have the discretion to resolve any issues which may arise.

Recital Etiquette

- Teachers, students, parents and family members are all expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner and abide by the Code of Ethics at all times. Throughout each event they must refrain from any action which could compromise the objectivity of the judges or place other competitors at an unfair disadvantage.
- All works must be performed from memory. Exceptions: Piano Duet, Chamber music, Adult Recital and Adult Musicale.
- For events in recital format, performers must remain for the entire recital. For events in audition format, performers need only remain for their individual performance. If a performer leaves a Judged Recital before its conclusion, that student may not be considered for Honors. In competitive events, students who arrive later than their assigned performance time, or who perform repertoire different from what was submitted on their application form, will be ineligible to compete for any prizes in a competitive event. These students may play for comments only.
- Teachers attending competitive events may not sit with or identify their students in the presence of the judges. Teachers may not converse with judges until all decisions have been announced. No one is allowed in the judges' conference room during their final deliberations.

Eligibility

- The presenting teacher must be a WMTA member in good standing as of the entry deadline. To enter a competitive event the student must have studied with the presenting teacher for at least six of the last nine months preceding the event. In the event of a teacher's illness, sabbatical or relocation, this rule may be waived. The new teacher may then enter the student, but must furnish written authorization from the previous teacher.

Teacher Service

- Teachers entering students in WMTA events are required to help in the specific event(s) entered by their students. Event chairs determine teacher assignments.

Applications

- Teachers must submit an accurate, complete and legible application as required for that specific event. Substitutes or alternative application forms will not be accepted and applications will not be taken over the telephone.

- Applications for Competitive Events require the signatures of the student, parent or legal guardian, and teacher. Non-Competitive Events require the signature of the teacher only.
- For events in which an age category is required, the participant will be deemed "of age" on the date of the actual event. The Chair may request proof of age to establish eligibility.
- Applications must be postmarked by the event's deadline date, or received at the Chair's residence no later than 6:00 P.M. on the deadline date. Late applications will not be accepted.
- Specific information including key, opus number, specific movement, tempo markings and composer of presented works must be stated on the application form. Unless otherwise noted in the specific rules of a particular event, a movement of a suite is considered one piece, and a Prelude and Fugue are each considered one piece. No simplified arrangements of standard repertoire are allowed unless otherwise noted in specific rules. No repertoire changes may be made after the entry deadline. Performance time limits will be strictly enforced at the event.
- Teachers must submit one check, payable to WMTA, to cover all entries. No checks from parents or adult students will be accepted. Entry fees are non-refundable.

Music for Judges

- In events with judges' comments, students must provide one copy of each piece to be performed for the judges. Each score submitted to the judges must include measure numbers. The use of photocopies is prohibited except when the piece is out of print. To gain approval to use photocopied music the teacher must, along with the application, furnish a letter from the publisher or music store, to verify that the music is unavailable from the publisher. Music from other sources (generated and purchased from CD Sheet Music or downloaded from the Internet) must be accompanied by a cover letter from that source.

Competition Results

- Competitive results will not be deemed final until the Chair has obtained the signatures of all judges on the Judge's Certification Form. These forms will be retained for no less than one year. Once the results are certified by the judges and made public, the results are final and may not be challenged.

Compliance with Rules

- Failure to abide by these rules, the WMTA Code of Ethics and Bylaws may result in disciplinary action by the WMTA Board in accordance with the Bylaws and Rules for Dispute Resolution.
- The General Rules, Bylaws and Rules for Dispute Resolution are available on the WMTA website and are printed in the annual WMTA Directory. In addition, a copy may be obtained upon request from the Chair of any event or the President.

In the event a competition participant violates any of the above rules, or alleges any irregularities, or other problems arise, WMTA has initiated rules for governing how to proceed: See Rules for Dispute Resolution

Rules for Dispute Resolution

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PROCEDURES TO HANDLE IRREGULARITIES

1. In the event that any competition participant has cause to believe that any irregularities may have occurred, then the competition participant must notify the Chair of the competition as soon as possible, and before the judges begin their final deliberations, so that any remedies can be instituted before the competition results are finalized. Anyone who fails to bring any such allegations to the attention of the Chair prior to the beginning of the judges' deliberations will be deemed to have waived any cause of action. Irregularities include, among other situations, any event or action by any person that may unfairly distract or influence the decision of the judges, or which may put any competition participant at an unfair disadvantage with regards to other participants, or an unfair bias or lack of competence on the part of any judge, or that these Rules or By-laws have been violated, or that the judges may be improperly influenced in their decision making process. (In addition, these procedures are intended for any disputes between WMTA members.)
2. If any competition participant makes any allegation to the Chair about irregularities or unfair actions regarding the fairness of the competition in a timely manner as prescribed above, the Chair must immediately gather all known facts of such alleged incident, discuss with the judges if appropriate, and has broad discretion to take any corrective action before the judges begin their deliberations. The Chair must investigate and attempt to resolve any other sorts of irregularities, such as disputes between competition participants, in a timely manner.
3. The Chair must then notify the President of the alleged irregularities and what action he or she may have taken, within one week of the Competition. If the Chair makes or conveys any allegations of violations of any Rule or By-law, then the President must proceed in accordance with Article XIII, Section 2 of the By-laws. Any reports, notes or relevant evidence will be kept by both the Chair and the President for not less than one year.
4. Any competition participant who remains unsatisfied with the Chair's decisions or actions must proceed in accordance with Paragraphs 9-11 of these Rules.

CANCELLATION OR POSTPONEMENT OF ANY COMPETITION

5. If the Chair of a competition decides to cancel or postpone the competition for any reason, the Chair must first contact the President to discuss the situation, and obtain the permission from the President as soon as possible. The Chair must then contact all competition participants to notify them that the competition is canceled, and a new date, if chosen.
6. In the event the President is unavailable to give timely permission to cancel a competition, the Chair may not cancel the competition but must continue as planned. The exceptions to this rule are limited to the following: a) The judges agree that the piano is unplayable, b) The judges agree that the venue prevents the competition from proceeding in some fashion, c) Inclement weather would jeopardize the safety of the participants, or d) A regional emergency. If any of these exceptions apply, and the

event is canceled, the Chair must still attempt to contact the President to get his prior authorization and a report must be subsequently written and submitted to the President.

7. In the case wherein the Chair has decided that the competition may not continue, but not because of the exceptions enumerated in Paragraph 16, and cannot obtain the President's permission in a timely manner, the Chair will nonetheless continue the competition as planned. However, the judges will be instructed to finalize the competition results and must either sign a Judge's Certification, or decline to sign, with a written statement from each judge as to why they do not believe that the competition afforded a full, fair and equal opportunity to hear each contestant. The competition results will not be made public or final until the matter is brought to the attention of the President, who will then consider the Chair's written report made in accordance with these Rules, the judge's statements, and any other information the President deems relevant. The President will then, in a timely manner, issue a statement either certifying the judges' results, making them final and public, or canceling the competition and the results altogether. The President's decision will be final and binding on all parties."
8. Any competition participant who remains unsatisfied with the President's decision must proceed in accordance with Paragraphs 9-11 of these Rules.

PROCEDURES FOR CHALLENGING A FINAL DECISION

9. Any competition participant or WMTA member who alleged any unfair behavior, harm, or other irregularities but still believes that the matter was unresolved properly, or was disciplined by a two-thirds vote of the Board, and wishes to challenge the results, must file by mail an "Intent to Challenge" to the President, describing in detail the facts and reasons in support of the Challenge. Any request for relief must be limited to non-monetary damages. This "Intent to Challenge" must be signed by all participants who are bringing the allegation and must be postmarked within 10 calendar days of the date of the Competition or action in question.
10. The President will consider the "Intent to Challenge," review any relevant documents or statements from the Chair or other participants or judges, and will issue a decision within 90 days describing whether the Challenge has merit, and what, if any, action he or she will take. This decision will be final and binding upon all parties."
11. If any competition participant remains unsatisfied and intends to bring legal action against the WMTA, he or she must first notify the President of this intention in writing within 30 days of the President's decision on the "Intent to Challenge." WMTA, in its sole discretion, has 90 days to decide whether the matter will be decided in a court of law or in arbitration, as WMTA may unilaterally require that all disputes be handled through binding arbitration in accordance with the rules promulgated by the American Arbitration Association. All competition participants or members who bring a lawsuit or other legal action against WMTA over the results or process of any competition, or the results of a disciplinary action, agree to pay all legal fees and ancillary costs incurred by the WMTA in defending such an action. Moreover, competition participants and members agree that any "Intent to Challenge," lawsuit or legal action, or arbitration proceeding, will be limited to a request for non-monetary damages or relief.