

INTERNATIONAL PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIP

RULES

Saturday, August 8, 2026 at 2:00 PM
Esplanade du Théâtre de Lorient

1- Each group participating in the competition must send a representative to the draw, which will determine the order of performance. The location and time of the draw will be communicated later.

2- Minimum number of performers:

- 8 pipers
- 3 snare drummers
- 1 bass drummer
- 1 tenor drummer

3- Formation of the bands:
During the formation of the circle, the Pipe Major and the Lead Drummer may stand inside the circle marked on the ground. This circle is intended to guide the group. Judges must not enter the outer circle.

The center of the circle must be located at a maximum of 15 yards (13.5 m) from the starting line. The Pipe Band circle shall have a maximum diameter of 8 yards (7 m), and the judges' circle a maximum diameter of 14 yards (13.4 m).

4- Each group must perform a selection of Celtic music lasting between 5 and 7 minutes.

5- Judging criteria and ranking:

Musical performance will be judged starting from the first three-beat drum roll of the march until the complete stop of all instruments.

Score sheets for marks and comments will be provided to each judge.

Judging will be based on performance, not on the arrangement of tunes.

Score sheets must be completed in duplicate and handed to the steward at the end of each performance before the next group begins.

Scores must be justified with constructive comments.

Judges must remain on the field. They must not approach closer than 3 meters to the players and must not communicate with each other during the competition.

6- Egalités :
In the event of a tie, the final decision will be made as follows:
1st criterion:

- Overall ensemble
- Piping performance (musical interpretation)
- Overall piping section
- Drum section (musical interpretation)

7- Access to the competition field:
Only judges, designated officials, and participants are allowed on the competition field.

8- Dress code:
Participating groups must wear either their national costume, their usual band uniform, or a uniform outfit for the entire group that is respectful to the audience. (Avoid mismatched outfits, jeans, or casual summer clothing).

Organizers will deny access to the field to any group that does not comply with the above requirements.

9- Repertoire categories:
Participating groups may compete in:

- MSR category (March, Strathspey, Reel)
- Medley category
- Both categories (MSR and Medley)
- OPEN Grade 4 category (incomplete band, set of four 4/4 tunes)

Online registration on the Festival Interceltique de Lorient website **before July 15, 2026**:
Form weblink