



# The North East Midlands Brass Band Association

## September 2026 Entertainment Contest Rules: Registered & Unregistered Bands

1. The contest is a 20 minute (timed from the first note to the last note played and including any compèring) own-choice entertainment contest. All programmes must have a featured soloist.
2. The entry fee for the contest is £130 (which includes membership of NEMBBA) or £120 for existing members of NEMBBA and includes free admission to the hall for all competitors.
3. **For registered bands:** The grading of registered bands will be in accordance with their national grading for the current year.

**For unregistered bands:** Entering unregistered bands must not have a national grading, but should be a bona fide brass band (i.e., not one created for the purpose of entering this contest).

4. The closing date for entries is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026 unless all the contest places are taken beforehand. Bands should email their completed form to [admin@nembba.org.uk](mailto:admin@nembba.org.uk) and pay by BACS to

North East Midlands Brass Band Association  
NatWest Bank, sort code 60-01-10, account number 43212182

or post their completed form to Robert Stansfield, 29 Neale Street, Long Eaton, Nottingham NG10 1FF with a cheque payable to

North East Midlands Brass Band Association (no abbreviations, please)

5. Bands should post unmarked scores of their chosen programme, for use by the adjudicator, to Robert Stansfield by the closing date for entries (see above).
6. Band should use any large percussion items provided by the Association (a list of which will be available before the contest). Bands should provide any additional percussion items which they require, including beaters.
7. The contest will be pre-drawn, and bands notified of their draw and estimated playing time before the contest. Bands will not be grouped by section.
8. Bands should be ready to perform within five minutes of the preceding band vacating the stage.
9. **For registered bands:** bands competing at the contest shall play a maximum of thirty (30) standard brass band instrumentalists plus percussion as required.

**For unregistered bands:** the number of players is not restricted, but bands wishing to exceed 30 players should advise Robert Stansfield (see above) beforehand, so that arrangements for the required number of chairs and music stands can be made.

10. All bands must appear in uniform or uniformity of dress, unless the Association has previously given special permission.
11. **For registered bands:** all registered players must be registered with Brass Band Players Ltd or the Scottish Brass Band Association.

**For unregistered bands:** bands may play any number of players who are registered with Brass Band Players Ltd or the Scottish Brass Band Association, but these should be regular members of the band.

12. **For registered bands:** Registered bands may borrow up to four (4) players for the contest. These borrowed players must be from a brass band in the same section (national grading) or below or be unregistered. Fourth section bands may borrow players from the third section. Borrowed and unregistered players should be entered on the Player Information Form in red and a letter of consent is required from the player's own band.

**For unregistered bands:** In addition, unregistered bands may borrow up to four (4) players for the contest. Borrowed players (who may be registered with other bands) should be entered on the Player Information Form in red and a letter of consent is required from the player's own band. Unregistered bands may not borrow players registered with bands in the championship or first section.

13. The contest will be held under open adjudication.



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14. No application for borrowed players will be allowed on the day of the contest except in circumstances beyond the control of the band concerned. In the event of sickness or accident, self-certification or medical evidence from a doctor or GP is required.
15. The results will be announced, and prizes awarded at the end of the contest. The prizes will be:
  - Winner of the Contest as a whole
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize
  - Prize for the highest placed band from each section (including bands in the first three places)
  - Trophy for the best Soloist
  - Prize for the best new arrangement or composition by a playing member/conductor of the competing band.
16. Bands and individuals winning trophies at the contest will be required to sign a receipt at the time of the award (in the case of juniors, the receipt must be signed by a responsible adult). The trophies must be kept in a good and safe condition, be insured by the band, and be returned upon receipt of a request from the Association's Trophy Officer.
17. Protests or complaints regarding the contest must be in writing and handed to the administration manager on the day of the contest, or within seven days, and must contain all relevant particulars. A deposit of £50 must accompany the protest or complaint, which will be returned if the protest or complaint is upheld by the Association.
18. The adjudicator's decision is final.
19. The North East Midlands Brass Band Association cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage to persons or property.