Rules of The Royal National Mòd®

Updated: January 2026

MÒD GHLASCHU GLASGOW MÒD
Baile Mòr nan Gàidheal • The Heart of Gaelic Scotland

ENTRY

1. An Comunn Gàidhealach reserves the right to refuse entry.
2. All entries must be fully completed and paid for by **23:59** on **31st May 2026** using the online entry system – **enter.ancomunn.co.uk**. Entries that are incomplete, unpaid or submitted after this deadline will be automatically rejected.
3. All own-choice music and any other required supporting materials must be submitted via the online system by **23:59** on **31st May 2026**. Materials submitted after this deadline will not be accepted. **Email entries will not be accepted.**
4. No extensions or exceptions to the above deadlines will be granted. **The responsibility for ensuring timely submission rests with the entrant.**
5. All Senior solo competitors must be members of An Comunn Gàidhealach. Senior Choirs, Groups, Quartets and Duets must be affiliated or all be individual members. Failure to renew membership will mean that entries for that year may be void.
6. At its discretion, An Comunn Gàidhealach **may** need to adjust competitions where entries are oversubscribed.
7. Competitions with less than three entries **may** be suspended at the discretion of An Comunn Gàidhealach.
8. Parents / carers / teachers entering child(ren) into multiple competitions should consider the logistics of getting to competitions to avoid being late / unable to attend. Parents /carers / teachers **must** keep the Mòd office and stewards informed of any delays. Mobile contact numbers for Mòd week should be included with the competitor's entry.
9. Abusive or disrespectful behaviour towards An Comunn Gàidhealach staff, volunteers, adjudicators or stewards will not be tolerated.

COMPETITIONS (GENERAL)

10. Additional information and rules about specific competitions can be found in the syllabus.
11. No accompanist is allowed unless specifically mentioned in the competition information.
12. No competitor may sing the same song in more than one competition.
13. Prescribed pieces may be sung in any key.
14. Competitors may not refer to music or words during performance. This includes tutors or parents mouthing lyrics and/or gesturing tempo and dynamics.
15. The version of the melody provided on prescribed sheet music should be sung as written but the rhythms of the notes can be sung taking account of Gaelic stresses and local dialect variations, where these do not affect the intended rhyme scheme.
16. The following Medals can only be won once:
    Gold Medals — S104(F), S104(M)
    Traditional Gold Medals — S107(F), S107(M)
    Oban Times Gold Medal — S108
    Learners Silver Pendants — S114(F), S114(M)
    Glasgow Skye Association Gold Medals — BA100, BA101
    James C. MacPhee Memorial Medals (Junior) — S15(G), S15(B)
    An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Pendant (Junior) — S09(G)
    An Comunn Gàidhealach Silver Kilt Pin (Junior) — S09(B)
    An Comunn Gàidhealach Traditional Silver Pendant (Junior) – S23(G)
    An Comunn Gàidhealach Traditional Kilt Pin (Junior) – S23(B)
    Provost of Falkirk Medal (Junior) – S27
17. Competitors should appear in the order balloted in the Mòd Programme. The Chairperson should ensure that a competition is not unnecessarily delayed by the non-appearance of competitors; however, this may mean taking competitors out of turn if necessary.

18. If competitors are delayed at another competition or venue they must advise the Mòd office or the Chief Steward at the competition. Every effort will be made to hold a competition open, but the length of time is at the discretion of An Comunn Gàidhealach.

19. Competitors must notify An Comunn Gàidhealach as soon as possible if they withdraw from a competition.

20. No Junior choir may sing, as their own choice, any song prescribed in their respective sections (i.e., fluent or learner) in the choral section of the Junior Syllabus for the current Mòd.

21. No Senior choir may sing, as their own choice, any song prescribed in the the choral section of the Senior Syllabus for the current Mòd.

OWN CHOICE MUSIC

22. All online own choice pieces must be submitted by **31st May 2026. This rule must be strictly adhered to**.

23. Receipt of own choice music will be acknowledged through our online entry system. It is the responsibility of the competitor to ensure that own choice pieces have been submitted and complete. **Please contact An Comunn Gàidhealach if your entry is not shown as 'complete'**.

24. Permission **must** be obtained prior to photocopying of any sheet music which is copyright of An Comunn Gàidhealach. This rule does not apply if the tutor's pack or choral pack has been bought.

25. For all competitions requiring own choice music, a copy of the song lyrics (in Gaelic), a copy of the sheet music and a translation of the song lyrics **must** be provided. This is also a requirement for the premier competition finals. These three documents must be uploaded to the online system before **31st May 2026**.

    - **Words (Gaelic)**-Own Choice Submission. Words or Lyrics as text, Microsoft Word Document or OpenDocument text. This must be provided separately to the music score.

    - **Music**-Own Choice Submission. Music notated appropriately for the instrument / form delivered as: PDF, Microsoft Word Document, OpenDocument text, Sibelius file or a scanned image (TIFF, JPEG, BMP etc).

    - **English Translation**-Own Choice Submission. Words or Lyrics as text, Microsoft Word Document or OpenDocument text. This must be provided separately to the music score.

    Please be mindful of copying music directly from published books without seeking permission. For traditional competitions only, please upload one copy of the words of each song. A translation and music are not required for traditional competitions.

26. All copies of words and music **must** be legible and clearly marked with the competitor's name and competition number.

27. Minor changes to own choice pieces will not be accepted after **31st August 2026.**

FLUENCY

28. If a child is being educated through the medium of Gaelic, and will be in Primary 2, or above, at the time of The Royal National Mòd, he / she must be entered into fluent competitions.

29. Children in GME (Gaelic Medium Education) in P1 should enter learner competitions.

30. Children from P1 who come from a fluent background (whether in GME school or not) i.e. when at least one parent / carer speaks Gaelic in the home, should be entered into fluent competitions.

31. Please refer to the 'Guidelines for Families, Schools and Tutors' document for more information.

32. Parents / carers / teachers of a child with additional support needs (or an exceptional circumstance) and looking to enter a child into a competition, should contact An Comunn Gàidhealach. Parents / carers / teachers should use their discretion when entering their child/children into competitions.

33. Fluent speakers must not be entered into Learner competitions. However, learners may take part in fluent competitions in certain cases – e.g. Duet competitions.

AGE LIMIT

34. Within the junior section, for competitions marked with an age and not a class, competitors must be within the prescribed age group on the first day of October of the year in which the Mòd is held. Any competitor under 18 is not eligible to enter senior competitions - this excludes choral competitions.

35. A competitor should not compete in both junior and senior competitions in any one year (excluding choral competitions).

INSTRUMENTAL COMPETITIONS

36. Competitors may refer to music during performance. Competitors for instrumental competitions are not required to submit music.

37. A competitor may not play in more than one group in the same competition.

38. Fiddle groups must consist of a minimum of three fiddles and may be accompanied by up to six instruments. Groups must not exceed more than eleven players.

39. Competitors in all instrumental competitions should be mindful of the additional information provided on the syllabus about the competition. For example, there may be a requirement to play a piece of music of Gaelic origin.

40. For any queries regarding Clàrsach competitions, please contact the Comunn nan Clàrsach administrator – **gaelic@clarsachsociety.co.uk**. Competitors for instrumental competitions are not required to submit music in advance but clear copies of own choice music must be given to the adjudicator / chairperson on the day.

PIPING COMPETITIONS

JUNIOR

41. This is a competition open to junior players aged 18yrs and under who have not competed in any adult Bagpipe competition.

42. Competitors must be within the prescribed age group on the first day of October of the year in which the Mòd is held.

43. Competitors in events P01 and P02 are not eligible for other events.

44. Competitors in event P03 are not eligible for other events other than P07 subject to age qualification.

45. Competitors entering event P08 cannot also compete in P07.

46. Competitors who have performed a full Piobaireachd in any competition cannot compete in event P07.

47. Competitors may only enter events in their own age group.

48. Competitors must be prepared to present themselves in the order of play as specified in the programme, or as directed by the Stewards. Failure to do so may mean disqualification.

SENIOR

49. Senior Piping Competitions are administered by The Competing Pipers Association. For information, contact: cpa_sec@yahoo.co.uk

COGADH NAN CÒMHLAN (BATTLE OF THE BANDS)

50. Bands should be a minimum of 3 members but no more than 8 members for any one set.

51. For the first heat, bands should perform one traditional instrumental set incorporating Gaelic song. If the band qualifies for the final, bands should perform two sets which can be made up of instrumental pieces incorporating Gaelic song. Bands can play their qualifying piece in the Final Competition.

52. A PA system will be provided. **Please submit your band's technical specification as part of your online entry.**

53. Competition I11 Under 13 years – The first heat will take place on Monday of Mòd week with the final competition I13 taking place the same evening. Competition I12 Under 19 years – The first heat will take place on Tuesday of Mòd week with the final competition I14 taking place the same evening.

54. A competitor may not sing or play in more than one group in the same competition. Bands (members of bands) may only win this competition once.

55. Members taking part in the Battle of the Bands may not refer to words or music during performance.

56. An Comunn Gàidhealach will notify entrants of this competition with their allocated sound check time. Bands must strictly adhere to their respective times.

DUETS, QUARTETS AND HARMONY SINGING

57. A competitor must not sing in more than one duet / group in the same competition.

JUNIOR CHORAL

58. Choirs must consist of a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 30 voices.

59. A competitor may not sing in more than one choir in the same competition.

60 All choirs may sing prescribed pieces in their own chosen key.

61. Conductors must not sing with their choirs.

62. Neither Choir members nor Choir Conductors may consult words or music whilst competing.

63. Learners' Choirs should have no more than the agreed percentage of Gaelic Medium pupils, which for the current year will be 50%. This percentage will be reviewed on an annual basis.

64. Competition C07 is confined to primary schools / community groups in areas with a population of 2000 or less. Primary schools / community groups may come together to form one choir.

SENIOR CHORAL

65. The maximum number of choristers allowed to compete in mixed choral competitions is 35 voices. The minimum is 10 voices. This rule applies for area and rural choirs. This rule also applies to ladies and male choir competitions.

66. Rural Choirs will be made up from non-urban areas.

67. Conductors must not sing with their choirs.

68. All choirs may sing prescribed pieces in their own chosen key.

69. For choral prescribed pieces, stresses are marked according to the prescribed rhythm throughout the song. Adjudicators should be aware that choirs may differ in their interpretation and delivery of stresses and rhythms, and allow for flexibility in this regard. Choirs are not now required to submit minor changes which they may make.

70. An Comunn Gàidhealach will maintain the exisitng rules on fluency for choirs this year (Mòd 2026).

71. A competitor may not sing in more than one choir in the same competition.

72. Neither Choir members nor Choir Conductors may consult words or music whilst competing.

73. Young people between the ages of 16 and 18 may sing in a senior choir.

MEDIA, ART AND LITERATURE COMPETITIONS

74. All submissions must be the entrant's original, uncorrected work.

75. Pen-names must be supplied, and must be marked clearly on each page of written/typed work.

76. Literature - all work must be typewritten and should be submitted in PDF format.

77. Art – all work should be submitted in PDF or JPEG format.

78. Radio/Film – all work should be submitted in MP4 format.

79. All submissions must be received by **31st May 2026** via the online entry system.

ADJUDICATION

80. Adjudication sheets will now be uploaded directly to the participant's online entry account. **Please be aware that adjudication sheets will no longer be available to collect during the week of the Mòd**.

81. Adjudicators' decisions are final.

FIRST PRIZE-WINNERS

82. First prizewinners of selected competitions may be asked to take part in filming for the BBC. The BBC manages and oversees this process.

TROPHIES

83. All trophies must be returned, cleaned and engraved (at the expense of the competitor) to An Comunn Gàidhealach's office at 5 Mitchell's Lane, Inverness, IV2 3HQ by **31st July** of the following year. It is the responsibility of the winner of the trophy to return the trophy back to the Inverness office in-person or via courier. **Trophies must not be left or dropped off in any other location.**

84. **Failure to comply with this instruction will result in the levying of a £20 administration fee for each 30 day overdue period (or part thereof).**

85. An Comunn Gàidhealach must be informed of any damage or work required to any trophies as early as possible.

GAELIC ASSESSMENT

86. Competitors who enter the **An Comunn Gàidhealach Gold Medal, Traditional Gold Medal** and **Silver Pendant** competitions must have their fluency levels reassessed **every 3 years**. This is to ensure fluency standards at these competitions are maintained at a high level.

87. **An Comunn Gàidhealach reserves the right to refuse entry to competition when no progress in the language is being made**.

88. It is expected that learners will make continuous progress in the language with an annual advance through the levels. Competitors must attain a Bronze Card before entry to the Senior Learners' Traditional competition.

89. Competitors must complete their Gaelic Assessment before the **31st May** of the year they are competing at the Mòd. This can be done in-person or online prior to the Mòd entry deadline date.

90. Please refer to the Gaelic Assessment section of the website: **ancomunn.co.uk/nationalmod/gaelic-assessment** for full information.

Any other information on rules or changes to rules will be communicated via the website (www.ancomunn.co.uk) and via social media.