

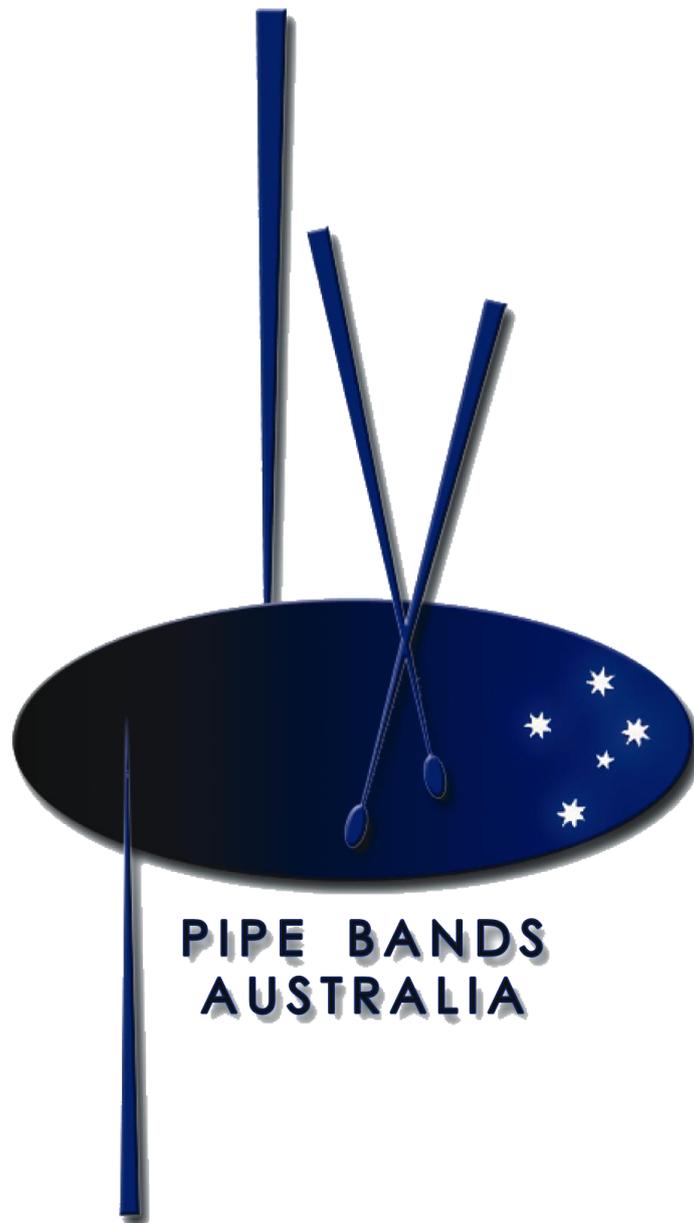
MANUAL FOR CONTEST SUPERVISORS

of

AUSTRALIAN PIPE BAND COLLEGE

of

PIPE BANDS AUSTRALIA INC
(A0035346S)



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PIPE BANDS AUSTRALIA Inc.

MANUAL FOR CONTEST SUPERVISORS

Contents

Contents.....	2
1. PREFACE	5
INTRODUCTION.....	5
REVIEW.....	5
2. GENERAL	6
3. APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISORS	8
4. PREPARATION FOR A CONTEST.....	10
5. BAND CONTESTS	11
6. SOLO [AND MINIATURE BAND] CONTESTS	13
7. THE DELEGATE'S REPORT	14
8. PROVISIONS OF THE RULES.....	15
USING THIS CHAPTER:.....	15
Rule A.1.04 Penalties	15
Rule A.1.05 Protests & Appeals	15
Rule A.1.06 Officials	15
Rule A.1.08 Behaviour.....	15
Rule A.2.01.04 Grades.....	16
Rule A.2.02.06 Review of Grading.....	16
Rule A.2.03 Juvenile Bands	16
Rule A.3.01 Registration of Players.....	16
Rule A.3.03.01 (d) Multiple Bands	16
Rule B.1.02 Complement	17
Rule B.1.03 substitutes	17
Rule B.1.04 Uniform.....	17
Rule B.1.04.05 Cancellation of Dress Inspection	18
Rule B.1.05.04 Draw (Alteration)	18
Rule B.1.06 Attendance and Lateness	18
Rule B.1.07 Contact Between Judges and Players; Presence on the Arena	18
Rule B.1.08.03 Judging Sheets	19
Rule B.1.10 Officials	19

Rule B.1.13 Band Formation	19
Rule B.1.15 Movement of Bands	19
Rule B.1.16 Australian Championships	20
Chapter B.2 The Quickstep	20
Rule B.3.04 The March strathspey & Reel/Selection of Marches on a Dais	20
Rule B.4.01.02 Medley: Time	20
Rule B.4.04 The Medley on a Dais.....	20
Chapter B.5 The Display	20
Chapter B.6 The Dress Inspection	21
Rule B.6.03 Inspection after Contest Element.....	21
Chapter B.7 Street March	21
Chapter B.8 Drum Major Contest	21
Rule C.1.02 Miniature Band	21
Rule C.1.03 Miniature Band -Substitutes.....	21
Rule C.1.05 Miniature Band -Draw	22
Rule C.1.06 Miniature Band -Lateness.....	22
Rule C.1.07 Miniature Band -Contact between judges and players; presence at the contest point	22
Miniature bands – General	22
Rule D.1.02.04 Solo Grading Report	22
Rule D.1.03 Solo Entries and Draw	22
Rule D.1.07.02 Solo -Tie in aggregate contest	23
Rule D.1.08 Solo --Dress.....	23
Rule D.1.10 Solo -Contest Point	23
Rule D.1.11 Solo -Contact between players and judges	23
Rule D.1.13 Solo Officials, etc.	23
Rule D.1.14 Solo Judging Sheets	23
Rule E.1.03 Facilities at Contests	23
Rule E.1.04 Massed Bands	23
CONCLUSION:.....	24
9. PENALTIES, PROTESTS AND APPEALS.....	25
Penalties.....	25
Protests	25
Appeals.....	26
MANUAL FOR CONTEST SUPERVISORS SUPPLEMENT No 1 DECEMBER 1993.....	28
Rule B.1.02.05	28

Rule B.1.04.02	28
Rule B.1.04.02	28
INDEX TO SUPPLEMENT TO MANUAL FOR CONTEST SUPERVISORS 1993	29

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1. PREFACE

This Manual for Contest Supervisors was approved at the 1993 Meeting of the Management Committee of the Australian Federation of Pipe Band Associations.

It complements the introduction of Certificates in the Rules & Administration Division of the Australian Pipe Band College and it is hoped that it will be of assistance to those carrying out the responsible duties of Contest Supervisor.

BRUCE NEAL, O.A.M.,
PRESIDENT.

INTRODUCTION

The Contest Supervisor has an important role in the successful conduct of pipe band contests in this country.

Ideally, the Supervisor should be strong enough to deal with arguments and objections, ever calm and friendly, supporting the staff of marshals, stewards and scorers, keeping both bands and promoter happy, always alert to note breaches of the Contest Rules, yet on top of the Supervisor's work so the Supervisor has time to respond to enquiries for advice and information, and, of course, thoroughly conversant with the Rules and relevant Association procedures and policies.

Such paragons are rare --I am not aware of any yet discovered -- but it does no harm to seek and work towards the ideal, as our players and judges strive to do.

This Manual sets out to assist persons appointed to this responsible post by setting out the scope of the job, and discussing the Contest Rules most in point. It is hoped that where there is a need to interpret the Rules or where there is a real dispute as to the effect of the Rules, the Manual will be kept up to date by occasional supplements, the first of which is at the rear of the text.

This edition deals with the Contest Rules as at 1 September 1993.

ANTHONY SELL,
Principal of Rules & Administration,
Australian Pipe Band College.
June 1993.

REVIEW

This handbook has been reviewed and its format updated.

DONALD MACSWEEN
Principal of Rules and Administration
Australian Pipe Band College
August 2015.

2. GENERAL

The Contest Rules require that at any contest¹ in Australia the Association shall appoint one or more persons from its Active List of Contest Supervisors² as its Supervisor or Supervisors. The Supervisor is "empowered and required to ensure that the contest is conducted in accordance with (the) Rules".³

The Rules provide for the Supervisor to make various decisions in relation to the contest: these are discussed particularly in later chapters.

The Supervisor is given wide powers to enable the discharge of the heavy responsibility imposed by the Rules.⁴ In addition to all powers expressly conferred on the Supervisor by the Rules, during and for the purposes of the contest, the Supervisor is entrusted with "all powers and discretions expressly conferred on the Association by (the) Rules, and such powers and authority as may be necessary to carry out the duties imposed on the Supervisor by (the) Rule."⁵ The Supervisor is, however, required to exercise the supervisors's authority in accordance with any directions of the Association.

The purpose and effect of these provisions is to ensure that the Supervisor is fully equipped to deal with any problem which may arise at a contest, but not to override the policies and decisions of the Association the Supervisor represents.

The underlying principle must be that contests are conducted on a fair basis, with equity to all participants. The administration of contests should not set out to create difficulties for contestants, nor for promoters, nor to discourage participation. For example, where time permits, a band not having the prescribed minimum complement;⁶ may be permitted to play, and to be judged, but not of course to be placed in the results. This can encourage and assist a band" to compete, indeed to survive, and obviously in no way detracts from the fairness of the contest.⁷

While deliberate breaches of the Rules should not be condoned, it is not either necessary or desirable for every little transgression to incur the full weight of the considerable penalties available under the Rules. An honest mistake which has little or no bearing on the contest result may be dealt with by warning or admonishing the people concerned: this establishes that the breach has been noted, and has not passed unobserved [so protecting the Supervisor from allegations of inattention or ignorance of the Rules] and enables a player or band to avoid repetition of what may have been an inadvertent error and thus the risk of penalty in the future.

In some cases, particularly length of performance in the Medley, there are prescribed penalties which are virtually automatic.

Matters are different if the breach is assessed as a form of deliberate "gamesmanship" or an attempt to obtain an advantage outside the provisions of the Rules: this is a case where penalties should be imposed.

Even an honest mistake of a major nature, which cannot be overlooked [such as straying significantly from the Quickstep course] has always been taken to necessitate disqualification from the Element, though not normally from other Elements at the contest: again, if the breach is a deliberate attempt to gain a relative advantage the attitude should be less sympathetic.

¹ Pipe band, piping or drumming contest

² Rule A.1.06.01

³ Ibid

⁴ Rule A.1.06.02

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Rule B.1.01

⁷ Formally, the band takes part and is disqualified for breach of Rule B.1.02 relating to complement. This accords with Rule A.1.04.01: a band infringing the Rules is to be permitted to complete the Contest Element.

A calculated attempt to break the rules, as by playing a "ring-in", is a case in point, where a total disqualification seems appropriate, and referral to the Association in the Report submitted by the Supervisor for the consideration of further action outside the Supervisor's authority, which applies to the particular contest only.⁸

Where a penalty is imposed, and especially in the case of a disqualification, it is the Supervisor's melancholy duty to advise the Band. The Rules prevent a judge from doing so.

The Supervisor is not concerned only with events occurring in the contest on the arena. He liaises with the Promoter and the supervisor's officials to ensure that the facilities necessary for the contest are provided, when and where required, and that the supporting services are properly staffed. This last includes checking that there are people appointed to act as stewards, marshals and scorers as required for the size of the contest, and, at least as important, that they know what they are to do and what the parameters are.⁹ It can be useful also to confirm with them that they understand that penalties are not for them to threaten or pretend to impose: these are a matter for the Supervisor. In the last resort, where liaison fails in respect of some major question, the Supervisor has power to suspend or cancel the registration of the contest. This prevents any registered band from participation, if the promoter tries to continue with the contest. It must be stressed that this action, and indeed the very threat of it, would be a very last resort after more pleasant persuasion fails.

To summarise, the Supervisor represents the Association at and in relation to the Contest, to see that it is conducted in accordance with the Rules, and that it proceeds smoothly and satisfactorily. This involves close attention to the contest, and as well a general oversight of the arena control, to ensure time-keeping, and close liaison with marshals and stewards, and if necessary intervention to give necessary directions.

The Supervisor, working with the Marshals, Stewards and Scorers, can do a great deal to make contests no more stressful for participants than is inevitable, to encourage those who do silly little things wrong to come back and try again, and to protect the vitally important feeling that the contest is fair to all. In doing this the satisfaction of the promoter and the public, who after all pay the bills, follows. The Supervisor may have to do something unpleasant or unpopular --at least with some --but that is part of the job. By and large, the Contest Rules now give enough discretion to enable the Supervisor to ease many of the problems which may otherwise trouble a band, if only the band makes contact with the Supervisor early enough.

Between contests, the Supervisor has a role in educating bands and players in the ways in which the system sets out to assist competitors --it is not all repressive or punitive.

⁸ Rule A.1.04.01 implies and Rule A.1.05.01 provides that the Supervisor may refer a matter to the Association.

⁹ See Rule B.1.10

3. APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISORS

A Supervisor is appointed by the relevant Branch of the Association.¹⁰

Each Branch maintains an Active List of persons appointed by it to be Contest Supervisors, from which list the appointment of the Supervisor(s) for each contest is made.¹¹ Appointment to this List requires the Advanced Certificate in Rules of the Australian Pipe Band College.¹²

In the Introduction the qualities of the ideal Supervisor were listed. Obviously, being human, we do the best we can to find someone to do the job as well as may be. There are likely to be questions of cost and distance in some cases to be set against the desirability of requiring deep knowledge and experience. Without admitting that second best is good enough, some acceptance of less than ideal knowledge of the Rules or less than complete training and experience may have to be tolerated. Again, this manual is intended to assist the new Supervisor to be aware of what the supervisor undertakes.

It is suggested that it is desirable to treat the first appointment of a Supervisor on a like footing to that of a Judge. There are benefits in accruing a store of experience of doing the job and dealing with its various excitements, and enabling discussion and the formulation of advice based on this experience and consultation.

How each Branch proceeds to appoint Supervisors is prescribed in Rules A.1.06.04 and A.1.06.05.

The inclusion of a Rules and Administration Division in the Australian Pipe Band College provides a formalised structure, and the periodic meeting of Supervisors and Judges will be of mutual benefit, and of general benefit to the Association: so at least it has been found where tried.

The Certificate provides a formal assessment of the familiarity of the candidate with the Rules.¹³ The personal attributes of the candidate will remain a matter for the Association, and should so remain, as it is the Association which the Supervisor directly represents [in a way different from the judges, who are retained as undoubted experts in their own fields].

A Supervisor should have current experience of band and solo contests, whether as competitor, band office-bearer, official or administrator. It is desirable that the Supervisor is reasonably well known in pipe band circles, as a matter of preserving the prestige of the Association and facilitating the execution of the supervisor's duties.

He should be able to detect and act appropriately on breaches of the Rules, able to cite the relevant authority¹⁴ and explain and justify the supervisor's view and consequent action to people who may not necessarily be in a receptive frame of mind, and do what is desirable to assist the smooth running of the contest.

A sense of proportion and a sense of humour, and an awareness that a band or player hitting a hurdle in the stress of contest is not unlikely to be less than utterly reasonable, calm and dispassionate in the immediate discussion of its fate are useful attributes.

¹⁰ Rule A.1.06.01

¹¹ Rule A.1.06.03

¹² Rule A.1.06.05

¹³ Since 1991 the Rules contain, it is thought, all provisions relating to contests, some of which were previously in the much less well known Constitution of the Federation.

¹⁴ Referring to the appropriate provisions of the Rules or Association decision or policy. The only variation from the contest Rules will be where an Association has adopted and published local and minor conditions and special conditions of entry in accordance with Rule A.1.03.02.

The Supervisor must also take care to be impartial, and not to play favourites: this is a statement of the obvious, perhaps! It does not import that a Supervisor must have no band affiliations, but just that the supervisor is generally trusted to be fair and unbiased.

4. PREPARATION FOR A CONTEST

Before the contest, the Supervisor will need to confirm location and start time of the contest, and any special arrangements for access or parking.

The Supervisor will ensure that judging sheets and any other necessary equipment (flags, stopwatches, etc.) are obtained from the Association or will be delivered for the contest. If the promoter is to supply them, it is prudent to check that a sufficient supply of the necessary items is in fact in hand.

The band draw and timetable and any other relevant material should be in the Supervisor's possession well before the big day. Also, any massed band arrangements which have been issued should be held.

Check the briefcase: are the current Rules, and this Manual, and paper and pen in it and ready? Scan those sections which will be applicable --be up to date with the latest amendments.

Check that the list of judges appointed and what each judge is to judge (if allotted) is in the bag, too. Thus there is an awareness of which faces one needs to see to be sure of starting.

5. BAND CONTESTS

The Supervisor, as noted above, is charged with ensuring that the contest is conducted in accordance with the Rules.

The preliminary arrangements for a contest which the Supervisor should confirm are discussed in Chapter 8.

On arriving at the venue, the Supervisor should ensure that the supervisor and the relevant officials of the promoter know who is who, and who is doing what. The presence of the required judges should be confirmed, and that they are aware of what sections they are judging.

The courses, flags and clearances should be checked for conformity to the Rules and for safety. [Such things as watering points on an oval, or other obstacles may need attention for the safety of competitors.] The access to and egress from the arena, and tuning areas should be checked, and any necessary proclamation of the defined arena and tuning and silent area¹⁵ determined and published, if this has not been notified to bands prior to the day. The silent area is intended to protect the judging of bands competing on the arena from interference caused by the sound of other bands off the arena, and thus will be influenced by the location of buildings and natural sound barriers, and weather conditions.

Any alterations to times or other arrangements will be notified to the people involved.

The accommodation for judges and officials should be confirmed --chairs, tables, tents or shade, refreshments if the temperature requires, and so forth, and that they are in the right places .. Meal arrangements should be confirmed and published.

The Supervisor should ensure that the stewards, timekeepers, marshals and scorers are aware of what they are to do, and the limits of their authority, particularly in that they do not purport to impose penalties --that is a matter for the Supervisor acting on information from officials or the supervisor's own observation. The division of duties should be confirmed, and a friendly spirit of co-operation, under the general supervision of the Supervisor, encouraged. [This includes such things as whether the steward or judge will direct band movements.] It is important for morale that the Supervisor support these officials, with advice and encouragement and also against uninformed attack. They are the basis for a smooth-running event, and they will work better when feeling part of a good and successful team, and aware of what they are trying to do. Appointment of these officials is the promoter's prerogative, but where an Association can build up a team of regulars it is highly beneficial to all concerned: most promoters are glad of such assistance.

The Supervisor should ensure that the Contest Rules are observed throughout the contest, dealing with any breaches as discussed elsewhere. He should also readily respond to requests for advice or information.

A friendly greeting to a band at the start point is not amiss. Similarly it is courteous and appropriate --and may help steady a band --to explain any delay which may hold a band at the start point. If the delay is other than insignificant it is reasonable to afford the band a chance to play, to keep the instruments in tune¹⁶ if it is not the band's fault that the delay has occurred.

It seems preferable for a problem to be averted where prompt action can do so rather than awaited passively --for example a band presenting at the start point not in the prescribed band formation¹⁷ could be advised to adopt the correct formation before starting, rather than being observed without comment until told to proceed and then penalised.

¹⁵ See Rule B.1.15.03

¹⁶ See Rule B.1.15.03

¹⁷ See Rule B.1.13

The arena must be kept clear of unauthorised people during the contest: there is the potential of interference to a band's performance or to a judge which is clearly not desirable. Experience indicates that bands simply do not instruct their members sufficiently about these rules, and it may be helpful in an on-going sense to ensure that band officials are advised when members of the band transgress by presence on the arena.

The Supervisor will satisfy himself that the Master Sheets are being correctly kept, the sheets are getting to the scorers in good time, and that any penalty imposed is notified to the scorers and the necessary adjustment made to the Master Sheets. Where possible [i.e. photocopier available] it is desirable to make a copy of the Master Sheet available to each band as well as to the Promoter and the Association: at least it is highly desirable that a copy be displayed for all to see.

The progress of the day according to plan is in the hands of all concerned, but it is the role of the Supervisor to provide the lead, and to take the initiative in dealing with difficulties, and even potential difficulties, as they arise, and preferably before they become problems.

Massed band arrangements at contests are subject to Association approval¹⁸: on the day, this means the Supervisor. If these have not been published to the bands in advance, the Supervisor should ensure that they are confirmed with the promoter and all concerned fully advised as early as possible.

It is possible to conduct a contest without undue stress, on time and predictably, to quickly assemble massed bands, and get the formalities through without tedium, and this is surely the aim.

¹⁸ Rule E.1.04: this rule enables the issuing of directions for massed bands binding both on promoters and bands, and thus enables the specification of a presentation procedure if required.

6. SOLO [AND MINIATURE BAND] CONTESTS

The Supervisor, as noted above, is charged with ensuring that the contest is conducted in accordance with the Rules.

The preliminary arrangements for a contest to be confirmed by the Supervisor are discussed in another Chapter.

The first five paragraphs of the previous Chapter apply also to Solo and Miniature Band Contests.

The definition of the contest point or arena and-tuning and silent areas will reflect the slightly different needs of such contests. Publication of these definitions should be early, and clearly in view of the passer-by at the entry/registration desk or enquiry area: we are here dealing -with a relatively unorganised throng of eager and perhaps nervous players, not with fewer and [presumably] organised bands.

If entries are to be taken on the day appropriate arrangements must be in place for their reception, and the necessary paperwork to be carried out. It is appropriate to ensure that player registration and grading are checked at time of entry. A player seeking to play out of grade should [in the absence of a particular determination of the Association] apply to the Supervisor.¹⁹

A Steward is, if perhaps not always necessary, at least highly desirable at each contest point, to call the players in order as the judge is ready for them, and to time their appearance. The rules are quite clear as to these limits: a player not appearing within one minute from call and not ready to play within two minutes from call shall be disqualified²⁰ and should not be allowed to delay all others involved at the supervisor's whim. The Supervisor has power to modify a draw where there is a good reason: players should be encouraged to seek help early in the piece rather than at the last minute, so there is no hiatus in proceedings. "Good reason" is something not reasonably within the player's control which will have a bearing on the performance and which can be remedied or alleviated before the end of the section.

The availability of pipers to accompany drummers is always a source of delay and irritation. One possible way to reduce this annoyance is to commence either Piping or Drumming from the Learner up, and the other from the Open down: this has been found helpful in at least one state.

It is obviously desirable for each section in each grade to be judged without interruption, and certainly without the judge being asked to adjudicate upon players of more than one grade intermingled where these are separate contests. This does not prevent two judges officiating at one spot, taking their grades alternately --each has the supervisor's section -without the interruption to the supervisor's attention which interposing a player from another section causes.

In general, similar considerations apply to miniature band contests. It is desirable, if at all possible, to avoid running solo and miniature band, or indeed solo and band, sections at the same time: this always places strains on players and officials, and causes delays.

It may be thought reasonable to avoid [by the Association refusing permission] conducting solo contests on the same day as a major band contest --perhaps one involving more than ten bands or so: it is, quite simply, very hard on all concerned to try, and probably a source of more frustration than benefit.

¹⁹ Rule D.1.12. A player [other than a player graded Learner] may be permitted to play in the next higher grade.

²⁰ Rule D.1.03.06, D.1.03.07. It is customary to allow a slight latitude in this but it is unreasonable for a judge and an audience to be held for a lengthy period until a competitor chooses to appear: the same considerations apply as at a band contest, and if the draw/order of play is posted, there is really no reason why the contest cannot flow smoothly, as a band contest does.

7. THE DELEGATE'S REPORT

The Rules do not yet provide for a formal report from a Supervisor to the Association. Some Associations do require their Supervisors to report, in writing, and this is a desirable course to take.

The Report provides an opportunity to recognise the good things a promoter has done, and the good and often thankless work done by the volunteers on whom we depend to operate our contests. Without these people the contest would be less satisfactory for the competitors, the public, and notably for the Supervisor, who would be busy indeed.

Proposals for future improvements to a contest, or for changes to procedures, are usefully raised.

The Report should also include a short summary of each breach of which notice was taken, and the manner of dealing with it.²¹ This enables other Supervisors to be aware of events at the contest, with particular reference to warnings for inadvertent breaches, and serves to draw to attention problems which may otherwise beset more people in future.

In particular, any protest should be fully reported in case of an appeal, so the Association has information as to why what was done was so done.

On occasion, it may be convenient to attach these matters in an appendix, so that a minor matter is not given wide publicity and unnecessary embarrassment be thus caused about an inadvertent mistake.

²¹ This avoids double jeopardy, in the Association being invited to intervene in a matter which was in fact dealt with by the Supervisor. Rule A.1.05.03 limits the power of the Association to act after a contest to matters referred by the Supervisor, or not brought to the notice of the Supervisor, or by way of appeal from the decision of a protest.

8. PROVISIONS OF THE RULES

In this Chapter the various express provisions of the Rules creating discretions for or otherwise directly involving the Supervisor will be considered. It should be noted, however, that any breach of any Rule is a matter for the consideration of the Supervisor. This discussion does not seek to present a comprehensive study of the Rules, just to draw to attention and comment on those aspects with which the Supervisor is most likely to confront. Nothing can substitute for a thorough study of the Rules themselves. For reasons of space, the provisions of the Rules are not set out here: reference should be made to them.

Some of the matters listed below may appear to be in the domain of the judges: experience is however not sufficiently uniform that all such things will be observed by the judges [who are there primarily to assess their own areas qualitatively] that the Supervisor can afford to ignore these aspects.

USING THIS CHAPTER:

It is recommended that in the event of a need to interpret any provision of the Rules, the Rule in question itself be read carefully, then any reference to it in this Chapter be examined, and then the Supplements to this Manual be checked for any further precedent or comment on the Rule. This Chapter is set out by Rule number, as is each Supplement. Each Supplement contains an Index of references to the Rules in this Manual and in the Supplements which may assist in determining what, if any, material is available in any instance.

Rule A.1.04 Penalties

A breach of the Rules on the day of a contest is cognisable by the Supervisor. This gives the general power to deal with breaches of rules.

Rule A.1.05 Protests & Appeals

Protests at a contest are dealt with by the Supervisor, with such advice from other people as the supervisor sees fit. There is an appeal to the Association, as a protection to the player or band involved; in practice this has been very rarely used. The hearing of a protest is a matter of some importance, and is more fully considered in Chapter 7. There is now a right of appeal to the Federation Appeals Committee from the decision of an Association.²² This is an expensive course for the appellant, who is required to meet the costs involved, probably of teleconferencing.

Rule A.1.06 Officials

The Supervisor's responsibilities and powers are generally set out in this Rule, and have been discussed in earlier Chapters.

Rule A.1.08 Behaviour

This rule enables unseemly behaviour by a judge, official, player or band member at a contest to be dealt with under the Rules. The Supervisor may deal with the matter himself or refer it to the Association: in the former case the decision is be subject to protest and appeal under Rules A.1.04 and A.1.05 in the usual way; in the latter the procedure is set out in the Rule, and must be followed. (The concept of natural justice which the procedure embodies must; be given effect to protect the Association and its officials, and is the right of any accused under our legal system.)

The former procedure is NOT appropriate in a case not involving a player or band member or band official, NOR in a case sufficiently serious that it warrants continuing penalties beyond the day of contest. The Supervisor is not entitled to take action under both limbs of the Rule --they are alternatives.

²² Rule A.1.04.05 --07.

In any such matter care should be taken to proceed with care, with respect for the rights of the person whose conduct is under consideration, and it is prudent to have a steward or other witness at hand throughout consideration of the matter: the person whose conduct is under consideration must be afforded the opportunity to hear and test the allegation and evidence against him, to adduce evidence, and to speak in the supervisor's own behalf.

In an extreme case, it may be necessary to use the reserve powers of the Supervisor²³ to stand down and replace an official etc, to promote the satisfactory conduct of the contest.

This rule should be used with caution and reluctance.

Rule A.2.01.04 Grades

A player is permitted to compete with only one band at any contest. Where a band enters more than one "contest band"²⁴ it is prudent to check that no player plays in more than one such band except as permitted²⁵: this protects both the band and the Supervisor from suggestions of players doubling up. This is particularly so in respect of interchange players of multiple bands.²⁶ It can be a useful protection and control to photograph each such band.

Rule A.2.02.06 Review of Grading

At a contest, a Judge who thinks a band is wrongly graded reports this to the Supervisor who so notifies the Association.²⁷ [Further action is up to that Association's Grading committee.]

Rule A.2.03 Juvenile Bands

Once upon a time, the members of a juvenile band had to be able to prove their age at each contest. This was usually honoured in the breach not the observance, and was replaced by the present provision. It is not incumbent on the Supervisor to check the age of the players, though the supervisor may choose to check that all the players competing on the day have satisfied the Association²⁸ of their right to play in Juvenile Grade.²⁹

Rule A.3.01 Registration of Players

A Supervisor is entitled to check that a band is playing only registered players. If there is a doubt about the entitlement of a player, obviously the matter should be checked. [There are problems about anonymous allegations, which have been known: it is suggested that it is proper to ignore such things, but also entirely proper to check up.] Such means as signature checks and photography of bands are commonly used.

Rule A.3.03.01 (d) Multiple Bands

If a band has registered multiple bands, and also interchange players, it must notify the Supervisor, in writing, each time any such band competes, of the band [if any] with which each registered interchange player is competing on that day. This note should be passed to the Association³⁰ to enable the records required to give effect to the Rule to be maintained.

²³ See Rule A.1.06.02

²⁴ See Rule A.3.03

²⁵ For exceptions, see Rules A.3.03.04 (e) and (f) in relation to Multiple Bands, and B.1.03 in relation to substitute Drum Major and Bass Drummer.

²⁶ Rule A.3.03.01 (d) , See also the discussion of that Rule below.

²⁷ Presumably of the Association with which the band is affiliated, or to the Association controlling the contest for transmission to that Association.

²⁸ The Association with which the band is affiliated

²⁹ Rule A.2.03.02

³⁰ The Association with which the band is affiliated

Rule B.1.02 Complement

Minimum:

It is useful to check that each band does in fact have the required minima of players for the grade contested. (B.1.02.01) The complement of a Band must not be altered during a Contest Element. If the Dress Inspection is conducted after another Element, it is regarded as part of that Element for this purpose. That means that all the players competing in that Element are to be inspected, and no others.

Player not performing throughout Element:

A player who does not perform as piper, drummer or drum major in the accepted and traditional manner throughout an Element attracts a penalty for the band of 5% of the maximum points allotted for that Element. The points awarded by the judges for the Element should be totalled, and 5% of the maximum deducted pursuant to the Rule to obtain the points to count for the result.

This rule applies to a player who "breaks" the supervisor's performance, as well as to one who does not ever begin. On occasion, the "break" will have an effect on the sound such that the piping or drumming points have already been reduced: it is therefore useful to check with the judge in this regard, to avoid the application of a double penalty --if the band has been marked down by the judge a formal warning may be thought a sufficient penalty.

Injury or illness:

When a player is able to play, but not comply fully with the Rules in relation to Dress or Drill the Supervisor, if satisfied that this is by reason of injury or illness, may permit the player to compete and notify the Dress and Drill Judges of the situation: they are required to take the effects of the injury or illness into account in judging the band. This takes into account dress modifications or awkwardness in drill, for example a sling, sunglasses, bandages or a leg injury affecting keeping in step. The purpose is to treat the music as paramount.

Rule B.1.03 substitutes

If a Bass Drummer or Drum Major is unable to compete through accident or other misfortune the Band may request the drawing of a substitute. For many years, the mishap had to occur on the day of the contest, but that is no longer the case. The Supervisor must be satisfied that the player has suffered accident or misfortune preventing him from competing. The level of proof is up to the Supervisor, who may be harder to satisfy if the same player has been substituted frequently. The purpose of the rule is to enable a band to compete despite the sudden absence of a player for whom there may be no reserve, rather than to replace the need to fill a continuing gap in the ranks. The Supervisor draws from the others of the same grade, after taking into account all relevant circumstances. This is intended to enable a substitute to have some time with the other band without damaging the chances of the supervisor's own band. [Ideally, the substitute will have played with the supervisor's own band before playing as substitute.] The Supervisor tells the Dress and Drill judges of the substitution: the substitute is not as such judged while playing as substitute. A substitute Drum Major is not judged for the Drum Major Contest (Quickstep) (See Part B Chapter 8) whilst acting as substitute.³¹

Rule B.1.04 Uniform.

A Band shall compete in its uniform approved by the Association.³² Anomalously, some differences in uniform are permitted: these are set out in the Rule. No other difference is permitted. The distinction between a "minor adjustment;" and a "deliberate alteration" can be a fine one. For example, when the Inspection follows an Element, it would be argued that playing with collars

³¹ Rule B.8.01.02

³² The Association with which the band is affiliated

loosened or sleeves pushed up imports that the Inspection will be undergone in the same state, as distinct from adjusting what has moved during the performance.

Rule B.1.04.05 Cancellation of Dress Inspection

If the weather is unkind the dress inspection for a grade or all grades may be cancelled by the Supervisor.

Rule B.1.05.04 Draw (Alteration)

In certain circumstances the draw for order of play at a contest may be altered: "for good cause suddenly and unforeseeably arising" or on the application of a band. A band may be placed either first or last in its grade, or in a convenient space in the timetable. In practice, a band's application should only be entertained if there is a good reason for it --perhaps an accident delaying a key player, or a sudden attack of illness of a transitory nature. The Supervisor should ensure that the relevant judges, marshals and announcer are advised of the change. Bearing in mind that the Rules allow a band at least half an hour, and where possible an hour, between Contest Elements, the Supervisor should ensure that any change made of the supervisor's volition is notified to the band involved in good time: clearly this does not apply when the band applies for the change.

What is a "good cause"? There is little, if any, established precedent on this. Some natural event which will be over quickly might be one such case --where it might be better to inconvenience one band than to run the whole contest very late or "leapfrog" the whole of a grade over other grades where more than one grade is being conducted in an interlocked time-table. For example, some catastrophe affecting the Quickstep course, requiring say half an hour to overcome: the grade contesting the quickstep could be so modified without affecting another grade performing the Medley or Selection.

Rule B.1.06 Attendance and Lateness

Lateness:

The Supervisor should ensure that calls are made in accordance with the Rule, on the arena, in addition to any direct contact by marshals or stewards. The penalties for lateness are specified in the Rule, and should be applied unless there is a good cause, outside the control of the band. In general, climatic conditions and factors common to all bands do not appear to constitute good cause, nor do matters which the band could or reasonably should have foreseen.

Band Representative:

The name of the band representative is to be endorsed on the entry form, and any change notified to the Supervisor on the day. This prevents more than one member or official of the band claiming to be on the arena³³ as of right as Band Representative. It is clearly in a band's interest that the representative is not playing in the contest: if the supervisor is, the supervisor will simply not be able to do the supervisor's job properly. The band representative is the appropriate channel for communication with the band, being presumably available for that purpose and, also presumably, less burdened with other tasks than a player, let alone a Pipe Major or Drum Major.

Rule B.1.07 Contact Between Judges and Players; Presence on the Arena

This Rule is one of the most fruitful sources of action by the Supervisor. Many players seem to assume that they have the right to view other bands from about three inches away, or to traipse across the arena rather than walk around like the mere public.

Contact between judges and players

To avoid suggestions of bias, it is probably ideal that the Rule be followed literally, and there be no contact at all during a Contest Element between judges and players involved in it. In practice, the

³³ See Rule B.1.07.04, discussed below.

usual courtesies are generally accepted as not inappropriate, but further conversation should be left until after the Element is over. Generally a quiet warning suffices, as inherently the judge is not subject to penalty, and if the supervisor initiates the contact it would be unjust to penalise the bandsman.

Presence on the arena

This Rule enables the arena to be kept clear of unnecessary people. It thus avoids the risk of [deliberate or accidental] interference with a band's performance by members of another band. The Supervisor's discretion enables a competitor to undergo a "dry run" for judging appointment, for example, -or other people with band involvement to carry out their Association/contest duties, and other reasonable examples can be found. For instance, a service band might seek to have the Commanding Officer, who may be registered as a band member, view the contest from close up on the arena, and this could be a worthwhile goodwill exercise. Likewise, civilian bands have on occasion entertained distinguished visitors, and sought the like courtesy for the visitor and an escort from the band. Note also Rule B.1.07.05~ in relation to certain Dress Inspections.

Rule B.1.08.03 Judging Sheets

The noting of the time of delivery of judging sheets to the Band Representative (or the default time) starts the time within which a protest may be lodged. A convenient way of recording this is to have the Band Representatives sign on a separate sheet as they collect their sheets, after the scorers note the time of availability on that sheet. It is useful to ensure that the Scorers know to look for any notification of a breach of the Rules endorsed on a judging sheet under Rule B.1.08.05 and confirm with the Supervisor that the Judge has notified him directly.

Rule B.1.10 Officials

Scorers, Stewards and Marshals are appointed by the Promoter subject to the approval of the Association. The Supervisor may therefore disapprove of the appointment of such an official, though this should be done only when really necessary and will demand a degree of tactful dealing with the promoter. The Supervisor has the general supervision of the work of these officials. Obviously, it is not desirable to interfere in detail or unduly, but any useful help, advice or support should be offered. On occasion it can help these people to have a particularly hyperactive band representative discouraged from pressing for sheets unrealistically early. The Supervisor should be satisfied that the results are correctly added and transcribed. If Rule B.1.11.05 applies (more than one judge in some aspects of a performance) the supervisor should ensure that the scorers understand its application. If a steward is to notify bands to move off³⁴ the Supervisor should ensure that the supervisor understands for whose indication the steward is to wait before, telling the band to move.

Rule B.1.13 Band Formation

It is desirable that as far as possible the Supervisor keep an eye on this, especially when there is no Drill judge officiating. Experience indicates that judges may overlook an error in formation while concentrating on particularities.

Rule B.1.15 Movement of Bands

Moving off after competing

If the judge's role is carried out by a steward or marshal (see Rule 1.10.05 above), the Supervisor should ensure that that official understands the supervisor's duties. The use of a steward or marshal enables the judge to concentrate on the supervisor's judging: it has been known for a judge to overlook the need to dismiss the band, which leads to delay for them and to the contest generally.

³⁴ See Rules B.1.10.05 and B.1.15.02

Definition of arena, tuning and silent areas

This can be a very important factor in securing an orderly and fair contest. Defining the arena is most important where there is no fenced area in use, or where there are other attractions on the ground - there is no reason why a bandsman should be kept out of the egg and spoon race, or whatever, provided there is no risk of unfair interference to another band. Defining the tuning area is of assistance to marshals and bands, to the same end. A silent area may be necessitated to preserve a fair contest: climatic conditions or ground layout may make it undesirable that bands play within earshot of the arena: a strong band can make judging a less strong band very difficult. The use of these areas avoids artificially wide "arena" areas being defined, with all the consequent restrictions on movement. The defined areas should be notified to all bands, by prior notice or by notice at the scorers' office, to which all band representatives should be encouraged to check in on arrival to obtain, also, information of any late changes.

Playing on the arena

Should a band be delayed on the arena for reasons beyond its control [like delay of a judge, or interference from other causes] then it is reasonable to offer it the chance to play or tune on the arena while waiting, though not so as further to delay the contest.

Rule B.1.16 Australian Championships

A Supervisor officiating at an Australian Championships should note the special provisions for Grade 1 bands at that event.

Chapter B.2 The Quickstep

The Supervisor should keep an eye on the performance of each band, to see that the prescribed course is followed. Any significant divergence from the course should lead to disqualification. It is considered that the disqualification is a matter for the Supervisor, and that the judges should judge the band to the end of its performance.³⁵ The Rules prevent a judge from discussing such a matter with a band.³⁶

Rule B.3.04 The March strathspey & Reel/Selection of Marches on a Dais

The Supervisor may permit a band to play on or off the dais.

Rule B.4.01.02 Medley: Time

The Supervisor must ensure that one properly equipped timekeeper (or more) is present to time each Medley and aware of the time limits applicable to each Grade.³⁷ The penalties for falling short or going over the time limits prescribed are set out and are mandatory. It is of assistance to bands to note the elapsed time on the judging sheets.

Rule B.4.04 The Medley on a Dais

The Supervisor may permit a band to play on or off the dais.

Chapter B.5 The Display

The Supervisor has a number of functions in relation to the Display. The Supervisor must confirm that the area conforms to the Rule. He must watch the formation of the band at the start and finish of the Display. He may permit a band to play on or off the arena, though the band must stop completely before starting and to finish the Display.

³⁵ See Rule A.1.04.01

³⁶ Rule B.1.07

³⁷ Rule B.4.01.01

The judges officiate from points away from the band. The Supervisor needs to know where the judges are located, and to ensure that once they are ready, the supervisor signals to them that the supervisor has told the Drum Major to proceed.

Chapter B.6 The Dress Inspection

The Supervisor should be aware of the Association's direction as to when the Dress Inspection shall be conducted, and, if it is to follow a Contest Element, whether there is to be a preparation period or not. [If there has been no such direction the supervisor should fill that gap, and notify bands of the supervisor's direction.] As to inclement weather, see Rule B.1.04.05.

Rule B.6.03 Inspection after Contest Element

The Supervisor must ensure that someone is present to time the five minute judging period, and the five-minute preparation period if applicable, [noting that a band may opt to curtail this time³⁸]. That person should also watch that only the persons acting as Pipe-Major and Drum-Major move out of formation during the preparation period, and that only minor adjustments are made to uniform.³⁹ It is considered that although a player may be named as Drum-Major or Pipe-Major in the programme or in the band's registration, unless that player acted as such in the Contest Element immediately preceding the Dress Inspection, the supervisor is not entitled to move out of the band formation during the preparation period.⁴⁰

Chapter B.7 Street March

The Supervisor may well have to exercise the Association's right to determine the distance over which bands shall be judged. This can be difficult to determine until the street and circumstances are inspected.

Chapter B.8 Drum Major Contest

Note that a substitute Drum Major is not judged when playing as substitute, only with the supervisor's own band.

Rule C.1.02 Miniature Band

Complement

The Pipe-Major, bass drummer and leading snare drummer of a band [on the day --not necessarily as registered or as listed in 'the programme J may play with each miniature band entered by an affiliated band. This aspect should be watched. Also, the restrictions applicable to multiple bands (see discussion above) apply: only the interchange players so registered may play out of grade and the requirement of written notice as to interchange players applies.⁴¹

Injury or Illness

See the discussion of Rule B.1.02.05 above.

Rule C.1.03 Miniature Band -Substitutes

See the discussion of Rule B.1.03 above.

³⁸ Normally, in extreme climatic conditions a band may prefer to go through the inspection without delay --or it may be confident of its readiness.

³⁹ See Rule B.1.04.03 and B.1.04.04 and the discussion of them above.

⁴⁰ See Rules B.1.02.04 and B.1.02.02. A player must act as Drum-Major, piper or drummer throughout a Contest Element. There shall be no change to complement during an Element. The Dress Inspection, when following an Element, is deemed to be part of that Element.

⁴¹ See discussion of Rules A.2.01.04 and A.3.03.01 (d) above.

Rule C.1.05 Miniature Band -Draw

It is for the Supervisor to conduct the draw for miniature band contests: these are often not subject to prior entry, and are endemically subject to last minute withdrawals, so that the provisions relating to band draws are not appropriate.

As to amendment of the draw, see the discussion of Rule B.1.05.04 above.

Rule C.1.06 Miniature Band -Lateness

See the discussion of Rule B.1.06 above, but note the different time limit and penalty applicable.

Rule C.1.07 Miniature Band -Contact between judges and players; presence at the contest point

See the discussion of Rule B.1.07 above. The terms of C.1.07.04 are not the same as the band rule, but like principles apply. The difference in wording reflects the customary operation of miniature band contests.

Miniature bands – General

As to Rule C.1.08 see the discussion of Rule B.1.08 above;

As to Rule C.1.10 see the discussion of Rule B.1.10 above;

As to Rule C.1.11 see the discussion of Rule B.1.11 above;

As to Rule C.1.13 see the discussion of Rule B.1.15 above.

Rule D.1.02.04 Solo Grading Report

If a judge at a contest considers that a player has been wrongly graded, the supervisor is to report it to the Supervisor, who shall report it to the Association⁴² for further consideration in the Association's usual manner.

Rule D.1.03 Solo Entries and Draw

These provisions cater for the frequent practice of taking entries on the day as well as for postal entries, as distinct from the requirement that band entries and draws be completed well ahead of the contest.

Entries

Entries are to be taken as the Association directs. In the absence of direction, the Supervisor will need to give the appropriate directions.

Draw

The Supervisor or the supervisor's nominee shall conduct the draw when entries for a solo section close, and the draw shall be notified or displayed as the Supervisor directs. This again reflects the frequent need to respond to circumstances at particular venues.

Play-off

If there are two or more divisions of a section, the promoter may seek the Supervisor's approval to have a play-off for the places in the section --usually where there are trophies or other significant prizes offered. There is of course a penalty in the need to corral the players and in the extra time the play-off takes.

Small sections

The promoter may seek the Supervisor's approval to cancel a section with fewer than four entrants, and if it proceeds the judge may notify the Supervisor that fewer than three places should be awarded.

⁴² and if the player is registered with another Association, for transmission to that Association.

Late entries

To contain the tendency for players to enter as late as they can, the Rule restricts the acceptance of late entries. Some reason for lateness should be looked for, beyond the convenience of the player concerned --everyone else has arrived in time!

Time limits

The time allowed for appearance and being ready to play are prescribed and are fairly short. This takes into account the number of performances to be fitted into the day, as well as fairness to the judge and all other competitors. In days of yore, long and tedious waits were inflicted on judges and spectators alike. A player with some difficulty can seek amendment of the draw under Rule D.1.03.06, by applying to the Supervisor. Within reason, such applications should be sympathetically considered subject to the factors set out above.

Rule D.1.07.02 Solo -Tie in aggregate contest

If there is a tie for an aggregate place, the promoter may seek the Supervisor's approval for a play-off. This protects the promoter from an excessive demand for trophies, but see "Play-off" above.

Rule D.1.08 Solo --Dress

Dress in solo contest and prize-givings must be to the satisfaction of the Association: inherently this will, in practice, be up to the Supervisor, as it can only be assessed on the day! The piper(s) accompanying a solo drummer should also be properly attired: this can be covered by Rule D.1.06.04 --"traditional manner" is broad enough to require proper dress.

Rule D.1.10 Solo -Contest Point

See the discussions of Rules B.1.15 and C.1.07 above. The solo rule is a little different, but the principles are the same.

Rule D.1.11 Solo -Contact between players and judges

This rule is much less restrictive than those in relation to bands and miniature bands. It is general for a judge to have to ask for the tunes a player intends to perform, and common for a judge to discuss a player's performance once the supervisor concludes, and there is every reason not to interfere with this. On the other hand, it is appropriate that this contact should be initiated by the judge, not the player. It is important that the appearance of bias be avoided. Again, conventional courtesies should not be objected to.

Rule D.1.13 Solo Officials, etc.

Rule D.1.14 Solo Judging Sheets

See discussion of Rules B.1.10 and B.1.08.05 above.

Rule E.1.03 Facilities at Contests

The Supervisor must be satisfied that appropriate staffing and physical facilities are supplied by the Promoter. He supports the Judges by ensuring that they are properly paid by the Promoter the fee set by the Association and the expenses set out in the Rule.

Rule E.1.04 Massed Bands

The Promoter is required to obtain the approval of the Association [prior to the day] or of the Supervisor [on the day] for massed band arrangements. The Association or the Supervisor may give directions in relation to massed bands. These give effect to the approval of the Association or the Supervisor as far as the promoter is concerned, and are binding on the participants - a non-compliance with such a direction is a matter cognisable by the Supervisor.

CONCLUSION:

These notes discuss various matters arising under the contest Rules. A Supervisor must be familiar with the Contest Rules themselves. The Contest Rules are the authority.

9. PENALTIES, PROTESTS AND APPEALS

These are discussed separately as whilst not frequent, they have the potential to cause much concern and unhappiness, not to say uproar and nastiness, if not carefully handled.

Penalties

The imposition of penalties --points deduction set out in the Rules, or disqualification --is the province of the Supervisor.⁴³ The same provisions apply to bands, miniature bands and solo events. A Judge is entitled and obliged to assess a performance qualitatively--that is the supervisor's role, and it is not the role of the Supervisor. A Judge has the option of giving zero points, but that is, in general, undesirable, as it effectively negates the band's⁴⁴ right to protest the decision, there being no points to restore if a protest succeeds.⁴⁵ It would also be difficult to justify as a qualitative assessment of a performance. A Judge is required to draw any breach of the Rules to the attention of the Supervisor⁴⁶: it is then up to the Supervisor to enquire into the breach.

[Except where the Rules provide a mandatory penalty,] when a breach is minor, causes no disadvantage to other contestants, and no-advantage to the perpetrator, there is a strong case for drawing the breach to the attention of the band concerned, if thought fit admonishing suitably, and indicating that a repetition cannot be treated as being from inadvertence and accordingly would be likely to attract a penalty.

Otherwise, the penalties provided by the Rules should be considered, together with the gravity of the breach [in terms of its general significance in the order of things, and whether it is a calculated attempt to derive an unfair advantage, the latter crying for strong action] and the decision promptly made and notified to the band representative. With lateness penalties, and other matters arising during a Contest Element, Rule A.1.04.01 provides that "although a band may infringe these Rules, that band shall not be prevented from completing the Contest Element". [This is distinct from a band disqualified for non-appearance within the prescribed time, which has not started the Element, and is not therefore in a position to complete it.] It may be thought undesirable to worry a band itself about, for example, lateness, notifying the band representative as soon as convenient, and advising the band after completing the Element. There is no good reason to prejudice the performance by upsetting them before they start. Likewise, referring to the Rules or conferring with officials during a performance is best done inconspicuously.

It is important that the band knows specifically the breach alleged, and the provisions of the Rules relied on in dealing with it, so that the band may properly consider its course of action. If, as is all too common, its representatives indicate an ignorance of the Rules, they should be assisted in this regard.

If a penalty involving loss of points or disqualification is imposed, the Supervisor must ensure that the scorers are notified of it so that the Master Sheets can be adjusted appropriately.

Protests

When a band indicates that it wishes to protest, it may be useful to consider, in an informal manner, what is being said. If there has been a palpable mistake which is readily rectifiable, like an error in addition, or a misunderstanding by a judge, it can be much quicker and easier to make the correction or check with the judge, making any appropriate adjustment, without going through the performance of the formal protest.

⁴³ Rule A.1.04.01

⁴⁴ or the miniature band's or the solo player's --in this discussion the reference to a band should be read as inclusive of miniature bands and solo players.

⁴⁵ And it seems to be against at least the spirit of Rule A.1.04.01.

⁴⁶ Rule B.1.08.05

If a protest is to proceed, then the formalities set out in the Rule must be followed: the protest must be in writing, accompanied by the fee of \$25, and lodged with the Supervisor within thirty minutes of receiving the judging sheets involved, or of the giving of the decision or doing of the act complained of.

A protest must be dealt with carefully. The appearance as well as the substance matters here. Obviously, the point matters to the band, or they would not bother with the protest. There is often a degree of excitement in the ranks, and a desire to bring the whole posse into the act. Neither helps the calm consideration of the points in issue. A useful practice is to appoint a time to deal with the protest, usually half an hour or so away [if at all possible] and to suggest that no more than half a dozen of them attend.⁴⁷ This enables temper~ to simmer down a little, and gives time to check with judges, marshals, stewards or other observers, placing them on standby to attend the hearing, and to take any advice thought helpful.

The decision of a protest is the task of the Supervisor, unless the supervisor exercises the supervisor's option to refer the matter to the Association for determination. He may take advice as the supervisor thinks fit, but the decision is the Supervisor's. Reference to the Association should be a last resort: the Supervisor is appointed to deal with such things, and if placings are involved, the results stay provisional until the determination of the protest, which is inconvenient to all.

It is desirable to ensure that the parties are talking about the same things, so the Supervisor might well begin by stating the observed facts, the decision, and the provisions of the Rule involved. Often then nothing more is required than to invite the band to show how the Rule does not apply to the case. Once this is done, or the existence of a breach admitted, then the question of the appropriateness of the penalty imposed can be addressed.

In any event, it is important that the band has the opportunity to hear the details of the breach alleged against it, and the information on which this is based, test that material, present its case, and produce any material it may desire for the Supervisor's consideration. This is a matter of natural justice.

It is desirable to have a steward or other impartial person in attendance, as a 'second source of information about the protest itself should this be later raised.

Obviously, any protest and the decision made on it should be reported to the Association, in writing: this will be a basic start should a band appeal to the Association against the Supervisor's determination of the protest.⁴⁸

When a protest is allowed, the protest fee is refunded.⁴⁹

Appeals

A band which is dissatisfied with the determination of a protest may appeal to the Association by written notice to the Secretary within fourteen days. The Association then determines the appeal in accordance with its own procedures, though there is a general presumption that there must be natural justice accorded the parties.⁵⁰

A band dissatisfied with the decision of an Association on an appeal may appeal to the Appeals Committee.⁵¹ This course is expensive, as the Rules require that the costs involved be borne by the appellant. [This is perhaps harsh, but the Association has limited resources, and it is not desired. to encourage such appeals on frivolous matters.] This is likely to be a rare course. It does, however,

⁴⁷ If the hearing takes place on the arena, Rule B.1.07.04 gives authority for this restriction.

⁴⁸ Under Rule A.1.05.02

⁴⁹ Rule A.1.05.04

⁵⁰ Rule A.1.05.02

⁵¹ Rule A.1.04.05 --07

cater for problems involving interstate bands: an Association may refer a matter to the Committee rather than deal with it itself, to avoid any appearance of parochialism or "home town decisions".

MANUAL FOR CONTEST SUPERVISORS SUPPLEMENT No 1 DECEMBER 1993

THESE NOTES ARE SET OUT UNDER THE NUMBER OF THE RULE PRIMARILY INVOLVED. See the Index to the Supplement for a full listing of references to Rules in the MANUAL, and this Supplement

Rule B.1.02.05

The leading side drummer of a band was unable to march, having suffered a foot injury. The band was not in a position to compete without her. She was permitted to commence in her position in the inner circle for Medley and MSR, with assistance to move to and from her position, provided that Rules E.1.02.02 and B.1.02.04 were complied with. This was done. It was 'considered that the disadvantage of the drummer being separated from the band for the period outweighed any benefit of her not marching while she played.

[Hobart 1992]

Rule B.1.04.02

A band's pipers' kilts are made to sett, the drummers to stripe, except that the Drum Major's and Bass drummer's kilts were to sett, thus the two types of kilt were not a "standard difference" under Rule B.1.04.02. The matter was drawn to attention. The difficulties in procurement, supply and funding are understood. No further action was thought necessary.

[Hobart 1992]

Rule B.1.04.02

A band observes the Jacobite tradition that females do not wear the sporran. This has long been a vexed question in bands with both male and female members. The uniform has been approved by the State Association, though the difference does not fall within the variations permitted by Rule B.1.04.02. The same matter was drawn to attention at the 1988 Championships in Sydney. The matter was again drawn to attention. Since the uniform has been approved by the State Association it was again considered that it was inappropriate to impose a penalty. The suggestion was again made that an amendment to the Rule be put forward by the band to cover the situation.

[Hobart 1992]

INDEX TO SUPPLEMENT TO MANUAL FOR CONTEST SUPERVISORS 1993

All references in the Manual and Supplement to the Contest Rules are indexed below: numbers are page numbers; N.. numbers are footnotes (listed after the relevant page); S1 = Supplement 1.

RULE	REFERENCE
A.1.04	14
A.1.04.01	3-N7 3-N8 22-N35 24-N41 28-N45
A.1.05	14
A.1.05.01	3-N7
A.1.05.02	30-N48
A.1.05.03	13-N21
A.1.05.04	26-N49
A.1.06	15
A.1.06.01	2-N2 2-N3 5-N10
A.1.06.02	2-N4 2-N5 15-N23
A.1.08	15
A.2.01.04	15 24-N41
A.2.02.06	16
A.2.03	16
A.3.01	16
A.3.03	15-N24
A.3.03.01 (d)	16 ' 22-N35
B.1.01	2-N5
B.1.02	3-N7 17
B.1.02.02	23-N40
B.1.02.04	23-N40
B.1.02.05	S1
B.1.03	17
B.1.04	18
B.1.04.02	S1
B.1.04.03	23-N39
B.1.04.04	23-N39
B.1.05.04	18
B.1.06	19
B.1.07	19 19-N33
B.1.07.04	19-N33 29-N47
B.1.07.05	20
B.1.08.03	20
B.1.08.05	28-N46
B.1.10	4-N9 20
B.1.10.05	20-N34
B.1.13	9-N17 21
B.1.15	21
B.1.15.02	20-N34
B.1.15.03	8-N15 9-N16 51
B.1.16	21
B.2	21
B.3.04	22
B.4.01.02	22
B.4.04	22
B.5	22

B.6	22
B.6.03	23
B.7	23
B.8	23
B.8.01.02	18-N31
C.1.02	23
C.1.03	24
C.1.05	24
C.1.06	24
C.1.07	24
C.1.08; C.1.10; C.1.11; C.1.13	24
D.1.02.04	24
D.1.03	25
D.1.03.06	11-N20
D.1.03.07	11-N20
D.1.07.02	26
D.1.08	26
D.1.10	26
D.1.11	26
D.1.12	11-N19
D.1.13; D.1.14	26
E.1.03	26
E.1.04	9-N18 26