

## **General Rules For WMTA Events**

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

### **Rules of Conduct**

1. Teachers are required to conduct themselves professionally and abide by the Code of Ethics at all times. Students and family members are expected to follow WMTA rules, and should refrain from any action that may disrupt the event, compromise judges' objectivity or place other competitors at an unfair disadvantage.
2. All works must be performed by memory. Exceptions: piano duet, chamber music and performances by adult students.
3. In events held in recital format, performers must attend their entire session. In audition-format events, students need to be present for their performance only.
4. In competitive events students who arrive later than their assigned time, do not stay for their entire session, or fail to provide music to the judges will be ineligible to compete for prizes and may play for comments only. A student becomes ineligible to play if any changes are made to the repertoire submitted on the application form.
5. 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 the final deliberations. No interaction is allowed at the venue between teachers and students until after the decisions have been announced.
6. Parents may videotape only their child at WMTA events, in a location designated by the Chair.

### **Eligibility & Service**

7. The presenting teacher must be a WMTA member in good standing. Non-members may only participate in events that specifically allow it.
8. Teachers are required to help in events entered by their students. Assignments are determined by the Chair. Teachers are permitted to supply a substitute for their assigned duties. This substitute must be a member of MTNA in the same field of study. The Chair must be notified of any substitutions.
9. To enter a competitive event the student must have studied with the presenting teacher for at least six of the nine months preceding the event. This rule may be waived in the event of a teacher's illness, sabbatical or relocation, as long as the new teacher furnishes written authorization from the previous teacher.

### **Applications**

10. Only complete and legible applications filled in by the teacher will be acknowledged. Only checks written by the teacher payable to WMTA will be accepted. Entry fees are non-refundable. Applications must be postmarked or delivered by the deadline date.
11. For events that require an age category, participants will be deemed "of age" on the date of the actual event.
12. Unless otherwise specified for a particular event, a movement of a Suite or a Prelude and Fugue are each considered one piece; no simplified arrangements of standard repertoire are allowed.
13. No repertoire changes may be made after the entry deadline. Performance time limits will be strictly enforced.

### **Music for Judges**

14. In events with judges' comments, students must provide one copy of each piece to be performed for the judges. Each score must include measure numbers.
15. All WMTA event participants are responsible for complying with US copyright law. WMTA is not liable for any copyright infringements by participants, and they agree to indemnify WMTA for any legal cause of action resulting from their violation of copyright laws. The MTNA website offers information on compliance ([www.mtna.org](http://www.mtna.org)).

### **Event Results and Compliance with Rules**

16. Competition results will not be deemed final until the Chair has obtained all the judges' signatures 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, they are final and may not be challenged.
17. In the event of irregularities, WMTA has initiated Rules for Dispute Resolution for governing how to proceed.

## **RULES FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

### **PROCEDURES TO HANDLE IRREGULARITIES**

1. In the event that any competition participant has cause to believe that irregularities occurred, the competition Chair must be notified 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 such time 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 judges' decisions or which may put any competition participant at an unfair disadvantage with regard to other participants; an unfair bias or lack of competence on the part of any judge; violation of any WMTA Rules or Bylaws (in addition, these procedures are intended for any disputes between WMTA members).
2. If any competition participant makes an 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 and discuss with the judges if appropriate. The Chair 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 any actions taken, within one week of the Competition. If the Chair makes or conveys any allegations of violations of any Rule or Bylaw, then the President must proceed in accordance with Article XIII, Section 2 of the Bylaws. 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 a Chair decides to cancel or postpone the competition for any reason, he or she must first contact the President to discuss the situation and obtain permission as soon as possible. The Chair must then contact all competition participants to notify them that the competition is cancelled, and of a new date, if applicable.
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. 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 cancelled, the Chair must still attempt to contact the President to get 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 6, and cannot obtain the President's permission in a timely manner, the competition will nonetheless continue 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 judges' 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 cancelling 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 will be taken. This decision will be final and binding upon all parties.
11. Any competition participant who remains unsatisfied and intends to bring legal action against WMTA must first notify the President of this intention in writing within 30 days of the President's decision on the "Intent to Challenge." WMTA, at 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 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.