



HANDBOOK OF COMPETITION RULES, REGULATIONS AND JUDGING CRITERIA [2011]

PREAMBLE

St. Lucian Carnival is an outpouring of creative energy expressed in music, movement, spectacle and other manifest dimensions of Mas'.

It is an evolving art form rooted in the pursuit, preservation and celebration of personal and collective freedoms and in particular freedom of expression.

Carnival competitions are intended to promote such expression and inspire excellence in the conceptualisation and realisation of creative output.

Judges play a pivotal role in achieving these objectives and must therefore conduct their assessments with an abiding respect for the ideas, concepts and creativity of those persons who produce the Mas' and on whose behalf they are invited to judge.

Judges must hold in high regard the extensive time and energy that has been invested in the creative work presented to them for assessment.

They are therefore required to set aside personal bias, expectation and preference and adhere faithfully the criteria set out herein for them to follow.

1. JUDGES

1.1 Selection

All judges officiating at any competition involving SLCBA members shall be selected from a SLCBA-approved pool unless this function has been delegated to a caretaker agency appointed by SLCBA.

A standard panel of Judges shall comprise seven (7) suitably qualified persons plus one alternate and one Head-Judge all of whom will be selected from a SLCBA approved pool of eligible judges.

As far as possible the same panel of judges should not be used for any two (2) consecutive competition events in any given year.

A suitably qualified Auditor shall be appointed to oversee the accuracy of the adjudication process, the proper ranking of competitors and the timely announcement of competition results.

1.2 The Role of the Head Judge

The head Judge will collect the completed score sheets for each competitor immediately after that competitor has crossed the stage. At the end of each competition segment the head judge will hand the score sheets over to the Auditor for tabulation. The head judge will preside over the tabulation of all scores. The Head judge shall advise inter alia, on matters of interpretation, eligibility, conduct, etc., but will not otherwise directly engage in scoring.

1.3 The Role of the Auditor

The Auditor shall be present during the entire adjudication process and shall be responsible for the proper tabulation, verification and submission of all final results to the stage manager.

The Auditor shall present the results in writing to the Stage Manager who shall arrange for their public announcement.

The Auditor will retain all original score sheets and summary scores in good condition and available for inspection by any competitor for a period of not less than 14 days after which they shall be handed to SLCBA with copies to any other relevant authority involved in the staging of the competition.

1.4 Judges' Conduct

Judges must be at the competition venue at least one hour before the scheduled start of any competition. Where a judge is deemed to have arrived late, he shall be replaced by the alternate judge. Once replaced a judge will not be permitted to judge any part of the competition for which he was originally rostered.

Judges must remain alert at all times during competitions and shall refrain from any activity that may impair alertness or ability to judge. In this regard, no alcoholic beverage should be consumed during judging.

Judges must at all times remain impartial in the execution of their duties and maintain confidentiality prior to the official announcement of results. Judges must not comment in any manner which may offend a competitor or other related persons.

Judges must exhibit professional behaviour at all times and not partake or encourage on any action which might call into question the validity or objectivity of the judging process.

2. JUDGING CRITERIA

2.1 The criteria listed below are applicable to the following competitions:

- Junior Band of the Year
- Junior King and Queen of the Bands
- Junior Individual of the Year

- King and Queen of the Bands
- Band of the Year (Carnival Monday)
- Individual of the Year (Carnival Monday)
- Section of the Year Competition (Carnival Tuesday)

2.2 Definition and Interpretation of Criteria

Eligible competitors in the above mentioned competitions shall be judged according to the following criteria:

CRAFTSMANSHIP: The level of skill reflected in the creation and production of the portrayal (20 points)

- Effective use of traditional and non-traditional materials
- Quality of finish, neatness, workmanship
- Portability, fit and ease of movement.

In respect of those competitions where back-stage judging of costumes applies, a maximum of 10 points out of the available 20 points for Craftsmanship, may be awarded in this manner.

PORTRAYAL OF THEME: The extent to which the portrayal represents the stated theme (30 points)

- Use and inclusion of specific thematic elements
- Use of colour to depict theme
- Effective combination of visual elements

PRESENTATION: The extent to which a portrayal is brought to life on stage (20 points)

- Effective stage presentation by the competitor
- Appropriate movement on stage
- Communication with audience

DESIGN: The overall effect derived from the arrangement of components in the portrayal (30 points)

- Innovation of concept and construction
- Effective arrangement of principal and subsidiary components
- Inventiveness of structure, material usage, and colour

MAXIMUM POINTS: 100

2.3 Authenticity vs. Creativity

In applying the judging criteria, portrayals may be judged for authenticity or creativity as appropriate to their stated theme. This is particularly relevant when assessing Portrayal of Theme and Design.

It is however to be noted that a portrayal may contain a combination of literal and abstract components and may also contain elements which are both authentic and interpretative.

2.4 Size of Bands

Nothing in the above criteria shall be interpreted as favouring bands according to size based on number of participating revellers.

2.5 Special Prizes (Monday Parade of the Bands)

In addition to the competitions listed at Section 2.1, the following Special Prizes shall be adjudged and awarded in respect of the Monday Pageant:

BEST DESIGN (marked out of 30 points)

- Maximum points: 30
- The Band Portrayal scoring the highest points under the Design Category will be awarded the Cuthbert Anthony Best Design Award.

BEST PORTRAYAL (marked out of 30 points)

- The Band Portrayal scoring the highest points under the Portrayal Category will be awarded the Roddy Walcott Best Portrayal Award.

2.6 Special Prizes (Tuesday Parade of the Bands)

In addition to the competitions listed at Section 2.1, the following Special Prizes shall be adjudged and awarded in respect of the Tuesday Parade of the Bands:

SECTION OF THE YEAR (marked out of 20 points)

- Each Band shall advise which of its sections it wishes to be judged for this award.
- The Section shall be judged using the general criteria outlined in Section 2.2. That is, Craftsmanship, Portrayal, Presentation and Design.
- The Section gaining the highest aggregate score in the Section of the Year competition on Carnival Tuesday will be awarded the Eralis Booty Section of the Year Award.

MASS ON THE MOVE (marked out of 20 points)

The following criteria shall be used to determine the award for Mas' on the Move:

- Exuberance of revellers when crossing the judging area
- Smooth and speedy progress across the judging area
- The Band with the highest score shall be awarded the Inglis Brothers Mas' on the Move Award

3. DETERMINATION OF RANKING

The ranking of competitors shall be determined by the aggregate system. Of the seven judge's scores the highest and the lowest scores shall be discarded and the aggregate of the five (5) remaining scores will determine the final score of each competitor. The competitor with the highest total of points will be adjudged the winner and other places determined in like manner.

4. RULES AND REGULATIONS OF COMPETITION

4.1 Eligibility

The competitions to which these rules apply are deemed national events and are open only to competitors registered with the SLCBA.

No individual costume may compete if it has been designed and produced outside of St. Lucia.

No individual costume may compete which has previously appeared in whole or in part in any other carnival, pageant or show outside of St. Lucia, except if has been designed and produced in St. Lucia by a member of SLCBA.

Any national whether or not associated with a member band may register with SLCBA for the purpose of entering the Junior Individual of the Year Competition.

Junior Carnival Bands having participated in Junior Carnival are not eligible to compete in Adult Band Competitions

Junior Individual Costumes may feature in any Adult Carnival Band as part of that band's portrayal but may not compete in any adult individual carnival competition.

4.2 Registration

All competitors entering the aforementioned competitions are required to register with SLCBA and to pay such registration fees as determined by SLCBA.

Upon registration, all competitors shall be provided access to a printed or electronic copy of the competition rules, regulations and judging criteria.

Registering to compete in any of the aforementioned competitions shall constitute agreement by the competitor to appear at the designated competition venue at the advised date and time, and to be bound by the rules and regulations stipulated herein.

Entry into any SLCBA related competition shall indicate that the competitor has read and understood the applicable competition rules, regulations and judging criteria.

4.3 Synopses

A synopsis describing each competing presentation shall be submitted by the competitor to the relevant competition officials seventy-two (72) hours before each competition. This synopsis shall be made available by the stage manager or his designate to the panel of judges in advance of the competition date and shall serve as a guide to the judges in the adjudication process. A total of ten (10) copies of each synopsis shall be submitted.

4.4 Order of Appearance

Competitors shall appear in the order determined by a dipping process. The dipping process shall be carried out in advance of the competition day and the resulting order shall be communicated to relevant competition officials.

4.5 Call to Stage

Competitors shall be called to the stage no more than 3 times on the public address system. Failure to comply shall result in automatic disqualification and the judges and audience will be so advised by the stage manager or his designated representative.

4.6 Stage Presentation

A maximum of 20 minutes is allowed for any band of less than 300 persons. A maximum of 30 minutes is allowed for any band of 300 to 500 persons. A maximum of 40 minutes is allowed for any band of more than 500 persons.

An additional five (5) minutes per costume shall be allowed to any band presenting Individual, King or Queen costumes as part of its band portrayal. No more than 20 minutes shall be added for this purpose to the standard allotted time.

4.7 Overtime Penalty

Once the allotted presentation time has elapsed the band must clear the stage within 5 minutes of being so advised by the stage manager or his designate. Failure to comply shall result in the deduction of 10 points for every additional five (5) minutes on stage.

No overtime penalty shall be imposed if it is determined by the Judges on the advice of the Stage Manager that the delay was not fault of the band or its members.

4.8 Musical Accompaniment

All competitors shall supply their own musical accompaniment and commentary for their respective presentations. Where such music is pre-recorded and intended to be played through the venue sound system, it shall be presented to the stage Manager or his designate in a compatible digital format in advance of the competitor's appearance on stage.

4.9 Competitor's Conduct

Except during the period of back-stage judging, no competitor, bandleader or individual associated with any competitor band or costume shall find himself in the vicinity of the judging panel for any purpose whatsoever during any competition.

4.10 Maximum Number of Wheels

A maximum of 3 wheels is allowed on any adult or junior costume.

4.11 Crossing the Stage

While crossing the stage the competitor must remain an integral part of the costume and must not leave the costume at any time. The costume must cross the stage unassisted manually or mechanically by any other person or motorized device.

If a competitor falls on stage and has to be assisted to continue his presentation or to exit the stage he shall be disqualified.

If a competitor falls on stage and recovers unassisted by any person or device he shall not be disqualified.

Mascots and other performers may precede a costume on stage as part of its presentation but these will not be judged.

In any competition of costumes the maximum allowable time for presentation of any King, Queen or Individual shall not exceed 10 minutes.
