



GROOVY SOCA COMPETITION RULES

The following are the rules governing the Groovy Soca Competition as set forth by the Carnival Planning & Management Committee and the Carnival Music Management Committee (CMMC). Those rules form part of the Standard Operating Procedures adopted by the CPMC/CMMC and are based on the rules developed by the respective bodies previously responsible for the management of Calypso.

Article 1. THE NAME OF THE COMPETITION

- a) The name of the competition shall be the Groovy Soca Competition which comprises four stages
 1. **The Pre-Selection Stage:** in this phase, the Digital Copies of songs entered for the Groovy Soca Competition will be judged by a panel(s) under the supervision of the organizers (CMMC, CPMC, and ECSL). At this stage, **forty (40) songs** will be selected to go through to the Elimination Stage.
 2. **Elimination Stage (Soca Quarters):** This will take the form of a live audition where the selected artistes will appear before the judging panel to perform their compositions. At this stage, **twenty (20) songs** will be selected for the Semi Final Stage, dubbed SOCA Semis
 3. **Semi-Final Stage (Soca Semis):** This phase of the competition will be held in public, and nine (9) songs will be selected for the finals to compete alongside the defending Monarch (Groovy Soca Monarch).
 4. **Groovy Soca Monarch Finals:** The finalists will comprise the artistes publicly announced after the completion of the Semi Final Stage to compete alongside the defending Monarchy. In the event there is no defending Monarch, an additional performer will be selected.

The Groovy Soca Competition (the Competition) is organized and administered by the Carnival Planning & Management Committee, Events Company of St. Lucia Inc. (ECSL), in association with the Carnival Music Management Committee (CMMC).

Article 2. ELIGIBILITY

- a) An artiste wishing to enter the Competition must be a national of Saint Lucia or a legal resident in Saint Lucia for at least (5) years. CPMC/CMMC reserves the right to request proof of nationality or length of residency at any time.



Article 3. REGISTRATION

- a) An artiste or a group (hereinafter referred to as “artiste”) must register for the competition by completing the approved Registration Form provided by CPMC. Registration Forms must be accompanied by a recent passport-size photograph of the artiste, a digital file containing the Groovy Soca Song to be performed in the competition and the backing tracking (an instrumental version with the backup vocals). The completed registration form must reach the designated drop-off venue or email address at the times and dates announced by the organizers
- b) An artiste’s appointed representative may register entry, as set out above, on behalf of the artiste.
- c) Artistes whose Registration Forms have not been received by the CPMC by the announced deadline will not be eligible for participation.
- d) The song performed in the Competition must be an original Groovy Soca song and must not have been entered in any previous nationally organized competition. Where there is a complaint that a song does not conform to this requirement, the complainant shall produce recorded evidence to support the complaint.
- e) Compositions entered in other national competitions (e.g., Power Soca, or Calypso Monarch) shall not be allowed in this competition.
- f) The penalty for violation of Rules 3 (d) and 3 (e) shall be disqualification of the song/artiste from the competition.
- g) The Groovy Soca song shall play at a tempo **NOT EXCEEDING** 130 BPM (beats per minute).

NB. "For the purposes of these rules a national competition means any competition which is characterized as being open to participation by eligible persons from the whole country or nation rather than being restricted to persons from a defined part or parts of the country or nation."

Article 4. ARBITRATION

- a) The CPMC/CMMC shall appoint an Arbiter to preside over the administration of the adjudication process of the competition and shall vest in him/her the authority to rule on appeals and matters in dispute or requiring clarification or settlement during the competition.



- b) The Arbiter shall be the final judge.
- c) All complaints related to the Competition must be submitted, in writing, to the Arbiter in a sealed envelope addressed as follows:

The CHAIR PERRSON
Groovy Soca Competition
Carnival Planning & Management Committee
Ground Floor Events Company of Saint Lucia
Sea Grapes Avenue, Rodney Bay

- d) All decisions made by the Arbiter will be final and binding on the competitors and the CPMC/CMMC.

Article 5. ADJUDICATION

- a) A panel of judges shall be selected for the adjudication of each Stage of the Competition.
- b) The CPMC/CMMC shall determine the composition of the panel of judges and shall appoint a member of the panel to be Chief Judge.
- c) The Competition shall be judged in four (4) stages:
 - 1. **The Pre-Selection Stage** (Digital Files/copies)
 - 2. **Elimination Stage (Soca Quarters)**
 - 3. **Semi-Final Stage (Soca Semis)**
 - 4. **Groovy Soca Monarch**
- d) The names of the judges shall be publicly announced before the commencement of each stage of the competition.
- e) All objections to the judge(s) must be done within 24 hours of the announcement being made, failing which, the artiste (s) shall waive his/her right to object.
- f) The judges' decision at all stages of the Competition shall be final.

Article 6. STIPULATIONS

- a) An artiste shall be held accountable for the actions of those individuals whom he/she brings on stage during the Competition - including supporting acts - to support his



performance. If, during the Competition, an artiste or any of his supporting acts makes any gesture or action, which in the opinion of the organisers, that exceeds the bounds of decency or socially appropriate behavior that draws unwarranted attention, the song may be disqualified from the Competition.

- b) All artistes, upon qualifying for the competition, are bound by these rules, the breach of which may result in disqualification.

Article 7. THE BAND

- a) A Band selected by the CPMC/CMMC will provide the musical accompaniment for all artistes at the Semi-Final and Final stages of the Competition, and arrangements shall be made for the artiste to rehearse at least twice with the Band prior to the staging of those shows.
- b) Subject to approval by the CPMC/CMMC, an artiste may be allowed to augment the Band, at the additional expense of the artiste, by adding instrumentation or background vocalists not provided by CPMC/CMMC no later than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the artiste's final rehearsal. There must be at least one (1) rehearsal with the augmented band.
- c) Each artiste selected to compete at the Semi Finals and Finals shall provide musical arrangements and other instructions for performing the song to the designated rehearsal coordinator or musical director.

ARTICLE 8. Pre-Selection Stage

- a) At this stage, digital or electronic recordings of songs entered for the Groovy Soca Competition will be judged by a panel under the supervision of the organizers (CMMC, CPMC, and ECSL).
- b) At the end of this stage, the Qualifiers will be selected to advance to the Elimination Stage.
- c) In the Competition's Pre-Selection Stage, the judging panel will be guided by the criteria approved for this Competition.
- d) The judging criteria are appended to these Rules.
- e) A public announcement will be made of the artistes who qualified to compete in the Elimination Stage.

ARTICLE 9. Elimination Stage



- a) During this stage, the Qualifiers will be judged based on a live performance before a panel of judges.
- b) In the Competition's Elimination stage, the judging panel will be guided by the criteria approved for this Competition.
- c) The judging criteria are appended to these Rules.
- d) At this stage, twenty (20) songs will be selected to go through to the Semi Final Stage.

ARTICLE 10. Semi Final Stage

- a) A maximum of twenty (20) artistes will be selected for this Stage of the Competition.
- b) Each performance at this Stage of the Competition shall not exceed seven (7) minutes in duration and will be timed by the official timekeeper from the commencement of the first musical note played by the band or the first vocal note performed by the artiste or the back-up vocalists, whichever comes first.
- c) In this Stage of the Competition, the points system to be used by the panel for judging will be as follows:
 - i. Lyrics – a maximum of 25 points
 - ii. Music – a maximum of 50 points
 - iii. Performance- a maximum of 25 points
- d) The judging criteria are appended to these Rules.

Article 11. FINALS

- a) The Finalists shall comprise the artistes publicly announced to compete at the Final stage after the completion of the Semi Final stage - and the reigning Monarch.
- b) In the event that the reigning Monarch fails to defend his/her title, the artiste placing tenth in the preliminary stage shall be included in the final.
- c) Each Finalist shall make one (1) appearance on stage and perform one (1) song.
- d) The finalists or their duly appointed representatives shall assemble at the CPMC office or a location approved by CPMC/CMMC, on the date and time indicated by CPMC to participate in a draw to determine the position in which they will appear at the Final stage.



- e) The draw shall take place no later than 48 hours after the announcement of the qualifiers for the final shows.
- f) Participants may agree among themselves to trade places, but any amendments to the position drawn must be made known to the Secretary of the CMMC Secretariat/CPMC no later than 24 hours after the draw
- g) The CPMC/CMMC shall present each Finalist with an unsigned performance contract to perform at the Finals. The Finalists shall sign and return the contracts to the CPMC/CMMC within forty- eight (48) hours of receipt. A Finalist shall not be allowed to compete if he fails to return the signed contract as required.
- h) The content of the presentation will be at the discretion of the artiste. At the Final stage of the competition, however, each artiste shall be limited to eight (8) supporting persons as part of his/her presentation, excluding the back-up vocalists.
- i) Should an artiste fail to observe this rule(h), the Chief Judge shall take note of the breach immediately after the performance has ended. The penalty for violation of the rule shall be a deduction of one (1) point by each Judge for every person in excess of the number permitted, up to a maximum of five (5) points per judge.
- j) Presentations preceding each performance, at each stage of the Competition, shall not exceed three (3) minutes from the time the Master of Ceremonies introduces the artiste, to the first vocal note performed by the artiste or the back-up vocalists or the first musical note played by the band, whichever comes first. A violation of this rule shall result in a one (1) point deduction by each judge for every minute or part thereof over the three (3) minute limit, up to a maximum of five (5) points per judge. Where a violation occurs, the artiste or his representative shall be notified accordingly as soon as the violation is practiced. Should an artiste require the use of any flammable substance during their performance, the artiste must declare it to the Saint Lucia Fire Service & CPMC/CMMC.
- k) The actual performance at the Final stage of the Competition shall not exceed seven (7) minutes duration and will be timed by the official time-keeper from the commencement of the first musical note played by the band or the first vocal note performed by the artiste or the back-up vocalists, whichever comes first. A violation of this rule shall result in a one (1) point deduction by each judge for every minute or part thereof over the seven (7) minute limit, up to a maximum of five (5) points per judge. Where a violation occurs, the artiste or his representative will be notified accordingly as soon as it is practicable.
- l)The artiste shall appear and perform in the position as determined by the draw or as subsequently agreed. An artiste failing to perform as scheduled in the final programme will be penalised by the deduction of five (5) points by each judge.



- m) In the Final stage of the Competition, the points system to be used by the panel for judging will be as follows:
- I. Lyrics – a maximum of 25 points**
 - II. Music – a maximum of 50 points**
 - III. Performance- a maximum of 25 points**
- n) At the Competition's Final stage, sponsored artistes shall ensure that their sponsors' products or services do not clash with those of the competition's sponsors. Each artiste shall further ensure that he bears no signage on his person or on stage that refers to products or services which compete with those of the competition's sponsors.

ARTICLE 11A. BREAKING A TIE

- a) Should two or competitors have the overall same score, the individual who scored highest in the performance segment will be deemed to have prevailed.
- b) If a tie still persists in (j) above, the individual who scored highest in the musical segment shall prevail.

Article 12. GENERAL

- a) The CPMC/CMMC shall determine the venue for the staging of the Finals of the Competition.
- b) Artistes shall report to the designated Stage Manager at the venues selected by the CPMC/CMMC no later than one (1) hour before the scheduled start time of the event. Failure to comply with this stipulation shall result in the reduction of the prize monies awarded or the appearance fee paid at the Final stage as follows: 10% if the artiste is up to fifteen minutes late and 25% if the artiste is over fifteen minutes late.
- c) With the exception of a group, where more than one artiste appears on stage, the chief judge shall be notified, before the commencement of the performance, which one of the artistes is to be judged.
- d) Failure by any artiste to comply with the reasonable instructions of the CPMC/CMMC may result in his disqualification from the Competition.
- e) Each artiste participating in the Final of the Competition shall be issued with an appropriate pass by the CPMC/CMMC to facilitate entry to the event and to the backstage area. Artistes not displaying the correct passes shall not be allowed access backstage.



Article 13. PROMOTION

- a) The artiste agrees that should he/she be selected as a Finalist in the Competition, the CPMC/CMMC shall be entitled to use his performance or part thereof or his image or likeness photograph, video, name, music and/or voice without compensation whatsoever and without limit as for the period of use in any media on a regional or worldwide scale for publicity purposes in the promotion of the Competition in particular, and Saint Lucia Carnival, or for any other purpose that may be considered relevant.