



# COMPETITION GUIDELINES

NEW FROM 1 January 2026

## 1. General Information

- 1.1 The following guidelines were drawn up by the CONFÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIÉTÉS MUSICALES (CISM) with the assistance of renowned experts in Bohemian-Moravian style wind music.
- 1.2 The CISM competition is of a high international and artistic standard and makes correspondingly high demands on the participants.
- 1.3 Orchestras and bands can apply in the following groupings:
  - Small groups of 6–11 players
  - Formations of 12 to 25 players
  - Wind orchestras with 26 or more players

## 2. European Championship Competition – Performance Levels

- 2.1 The following performance levels/grades apply to the competition for orchestras and bands of the Bohemian-Moravian style:
  - **Highest level / Grade 5 + 6** (highest level of artistic requirements)
  - **Upper level / Grade 4** (second highest level of artistic requirements)
  - **Intermediate level / Grade 3** (medium level of artistic requirements)
- 2.2 No professional musicians may play in the intermediate and advanced levels.  
With the following exceptions apply:
  - A professional musician is the conductor but does not play him or herself
  - A maximum of two professional musicians may play if they have documented evidence that shows their membership of the ensemble precedes their professional career and that they have played continuously with the ensemble since then.
- 2.3 If There are professional musicians playing who are not covered by the above exceptions, the orchestra/s in question will be ranked in the highest category.  
  
Professional orchestras or bands can participate, but may only compete in the highest category. The participation of professional musicians or the corresponding number must be indicated by the bands when registering.
- 2.4 Any band, Orchestra and/or ensemble that does not adhere to the stated rules will be excluded or disqualified from the competition.

### 3. Selection of the competition programme

- 3.1 A total of 5 pieces must be performed: one compulsory piece, 2 compulsory choice pieces and 2 self-selected pieces from the same level of difficulty. All lists are published on the CISM website [www.cism.info](http://www.cism.info).
- 3.2 The self-selected pieces should be chosen from the catalogue of works published and classified by CISM. The arranger and publisher must comply with the regulations of the self-selection list. Works that are not included in the CISM catalogue of works must be submitted to the Music Commission for review.
- 3.3 In addition to polkas, the programme must include a waltz and a march.
- 3.4 The performances can be with or without conductor.
- 3.5 If a piece is rejected, the orchestra/band has the option of submitting another piece of its own choice within three weeks.
- 3.6 For small groups of up to 11 players, the works (compulsory piece, compulsory choice pieces, self-selected pieces) must be arranged appropriately so that no parts from the original composition are missing.
- 3.7 Each participating orchestra or band is allowed a warm-up time of 3 minutes on stage. However, the entire performance, including warm-up time and set changes, may not exceed 30 minutes per orchestra/band. The jury is entitled to interrupt the performance if it exceeds the time limit.
- 3.8 The performance of the individual pieces may only begin once the jury has given the signal.
- 3.9 The competition organiser will provide music stands and seating, but all percussion instruments must be provided by the performers themselves.
- 3.10 The order of the pieces may be chosen freely, but must be specified at the time of registration.

### 4. Registration

- 4.1 The competition will be announced one year before the competition date. Registration to participate must be completed at least five months before the competition date.
- 4.2 The following are required for registration:
  - a fully completed registration form with a list of musicians.
  - a fully selected competition programme.
  - scores or at least two lines of detailed conducting notes in triplicate for the jury. Single lines of conducting notes and individual parts will not be accepted!
  - A good quality digital photograph suitable for any mainstream media outlet plus a description of the performing group.
  - The registration fee set by CISM (€200) must also be paid to the organiser upon registration. This will only be refunded if a brass band cannot be admitted to the competition.
- 4.3 Four weeks after the registration deadline and after thorough examination of all registration documents, confirmation of participation will be sent to the registrant.
- 4.4 Subsequent changes to an existing registration require the confirmation of the organiser and are free of charge up to the registration deadline, after which time, changes **may** only be made with the express permission of the organiser.

- 4.5 Incomplete registrations received by the registration deadline will not be considered and will be deemed not to have been submitted.
- 4.6 The organiser is solely responsible for the timing of the competition. A maximum of 25 wind orchestras/formations will be admitted to the competition. The order of admission will be determined by the date of receipt (and completeness of the registration documents) and by the selected performance level.

## 5. Judging

5. The evaluation will be carried out by three judges (experts) recognised by CISM. This process will be undertaken privately immediately after the performance of the compositions. The make up of the jury will be published on the European Championship organiser's website.
- 5.2 The performances will be judged according to the following criteria:
- Tuning and intonation
  - Tone and sound quality
  - Phrasing and articulation
  - Technical execution
  - Rhythm and metre
  - Dynamic differentiation
  - Tempo and agogics
  - Sound balance and register balance
  - Musical expression
  - Interpretation and stylistics
- 5.3 The judges award a maximum of 10 points per above criteria:
- 5.4 Half points may also be awarded.
- 5.5 The maximum number of points awarded is 100.
- 5.6 The total number of points achieved will be announced at the award ceremony.
- 5.7 Participants will receive feedback in the form of comments/notes written on the submitted scores/partitures used by the judges with a details covering the 10 evaluation criteria.  
Feedback discussions are not planned during the competition.

## 6. Fees and claims

- 6.1 All Participants perform without fee or expectation of payment. This rule also applies to any additional performances within the framework of the event!
- 6.2 All rights covering the subsequent use of audio and video recordings made during the competition are the property of and retained by the organiser.

## 7. Rankings and prizes

- 7.1 After the conclusion of the European Championship, a ranking list will be drawn up showing the prize winners and the further order of the orchestras/bands.
- 7.2 The jury will determine the ranking of the orchestras and bands participating in the competition based on points awarded according to their performance level.

- 7.3 The ranking is based on the points achieved. In the event of a tie, the compulsory piece shall be decisive.
- 7.4 When determining the ranking, decimal places are neither rounded up nor rounded down.
- 7.5 The jury's decision is final and cannot be contested.
- 7.6 The European Championship title can be awarded at any performance level. However, a minimum of 92 points must be achieved at the highest level, 91 points at the upper level and 90 points at the intermediate level. The same applies to the European Vice-Champion title.
- 7.7 If none of the participants in a performance category achieve this minimum number of points, there will only be a category winner but no declared European Champion.
- 7.8 The following shall receive:
- the first-placed participant in each performance category receives the "CISM GOLDEN GLOBE"
  - the runner-up in each performance category the "CISM SILVER GLOBE"
  - the third-placed competitor in each performance category the "CISM BRONZE GLOBE"
- 7.9 All 3 groups are **combined per performance category**, meaning there are 9 trophies and a maximum of 3 declared European champions (if the required points for the title are achieved).

## 8. Miscellaneous

- 8.1 Each participating band will receive a certificate.
- 8.2 All decisions made by the organiser, the jury and the organisation are binding and final.
- 8.3 The organiser is not responsible for, nor liable for, theft or damage to any instruments, clothing or belongings to any participant or accompanying third parties.
- 8.4 Up-to-date and additional information about the European Championship of Bohemian-Moravian Brass Music can be found on the homepage of the respective organiser or on the CISM homepage [www.cism.info](http://www.cism.info).