



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



NATIONAL SCHOOLS PANORAMA 2024

Rules & Regulations

NATIONAL SCHOOLS PANORAMA 2024

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Interpretation

1.1 Definitions and Interpretations - In this document, unless the context otherwise specifies or requires:

- (a) "Authorized person" means any member of the National Schools Panorama Committee, or any person so designated by the National Schools Panorama Committee. Such person shall be clearly identified by displaying his or her identification card or badge or polo.
- (b) "Competition" means the National Schools Panorama 2024 Competition at any of its respective stages and culminating in the National Finals for the respective steelbands.
- (c) "National Schools Panorama Committee" (hereinafter referred to as "NSPC") means the committee established by the Ministry of Education to manage the Competition which commences in the weeks prior to Carnival and culminates in the National Schools Panorama 2024 Finals Competition on the Sunday before the National Semi-Finals of the Medium and Large Conventional Categories.
- (d) "National Schools Panorama" means the annual Schools Steelband Competition managed by the NSPC.
- (e) "Panyard" means the abode of the Steelband. The venue for the storage of the steelpan instruments, rehearsals, and other related social activities of the Steelband members.
- (f) "Rules" means the Rules and Regulations governing the conduct of the competition as originally drafted or as amended.
- (g) "Steelband" means an ensemble of pannists playing instruments of the steelpan family and supported by a rhythm section. The family consists of definite pitch percussion instruments encompassing a range of approximately six (6) chromatic octaves. The instruments are suspended from pan racks or pan stands.
- (h) The Steelband is often referred to as a steel orchestra.
- (i) "Parent Steel band" means the steelband whose affiliation by way of instruments, venue and/or assistance is rendered to the school's steelband, in preparation for the National Schools Panorama 2024 competition.
- (j) "Tune of choice" means the song arranged and performed by the band.

2. Management

- 2.1 NSPC – Ministry of Education National Schools Panorama 2024 shall be managed by the NSPC comprised of representatives of the Ministry of Education, Pan Trinbago Inc., and Pan in Schools Co-ordinating Council (P.S.C.C.).
- 2.2 **Powers to Co-opt Persons** – The NSPC shall have power to co-opt personnel to perform any of the duties and responsibilities imposed upon the NSPC in these rules.

3. Registration

- 3.1 **Requirement for Registration of Steelbands** – Each participating steelband shall be required to submit their registration forms electronically to the National Schools Panorama Secretariat on or before the **deadline date Friday 1st December 2023** by way of email address to nspsecretariat@moe.gov.tt

PLEASE NOTE: NO LATE REGISTRATION WILL BE ENTERTAINED. Please ensure that all email correspondences are sent to the email address as published herein nspsecretariat@moe.gov.tt the NSPC or persons acting on its behalf shall not be held responsible for any adverse consequences which may result from your email submissions being sent to any other (incorrect) email address.

3.2 **Requirement for Registration of Players** –

- a) Each participating steelband shall be required to submit the names and dates of birth of all their members who would be performing in the competition at the preliminary stage with the Ministry of Education to nspsecretariat@moe.gov.tt;
- b) Each participating steelband **MUST** submit **copies of the birth certificates and photo identification of performers to ensure adherence to age limits on both the Preliminary Round January 4th-10th, 2024 and the Grand Final January 14, 2024.**
- c) At the finals of NSP 2024, any changes made to the list of players who performed at the preliminary stage must be identified to the Authorized personnel. This must be done at the holding bay. Recommendation – this must be submitted by email before the finals and further verified at the holding bay at the finals of NSP 2024.

- d) **The deadline date** for submission of registration information for the final round of competition will be the date set for the draw for positions -**January 11th, 2024.**

3.3 Categories

- a) **Primary School Steelbands** - Entrants in this category must be a Primary School registered with the Ministry of Education, Trinidad & Tobago. Primary schools may combine to form a band. Performers must be registered students at a Primary school.
- b) **Secondary School Steelbands** - Entrants in this category must be Secondary Schools registered with the Ministry of Education, Trinidad & Tobago. Secondary schools may combine to form a band. Performers must be registered students at a Secondary school.

3.3(i) Failure to comply with 3.3a and 3.3b will result in the deduction of (5) five marks per judge.

3.4 (i) Size of Steelband-

- (a) Primary School Steelbands - Maximum - 35
- (b) Secondary School Steelbands - Maximum - 50

Percussion players must be included in the maximum number of players

- (ii) **Percussionist** - In the **Primary and Secondary School Steelband** category Steelbands will be allowed the use of **ONE** percussionist **IN THE RHYTHM SECTION** (who may not be a registered student as outlined at 3.3 a) and 3.3 b) and under the age of twenty-one (21) years on the date of the preliminaries.) **Failure to comply with 3.4 (ii) will result in automatic disqualification.**

- 3.4 (iii) Any Steelband exceeding the maximum number of players, as outlined at 3.4(i)(a) and (b) will result in automatic disqualification.

- 3.5 (i) **Entitlement of Registration** - Only registered players (including the percussionist) shall be allowed to participate in the competition.
- (ii) Steelbands may not enter more than one category.
- (iii) Steelbands may not enter more than one Steelband in the same category.

- 3.6 **Limitation on Number of Registrants** -No player shall be allowed to perform in the Primary AND Secondary school category; except in the specific case of a percussionist in the rhythm section as outlined in 3.4 (ii).

4. Music Selection

- 4.1 **Music Selection** - For the purposes of the competition, each participating Steelband may select and perform any calypso, soca, or chutney soca.
- 4.2 **Composition of Selected Music** - There shall be no restriction as to the nationality of the composer of the tune selected to be rendered by a Steelband during the competition.
- 4.3 **Participants will not be permitted to perform**
- (a) the same tune of choice as their parent steelband in the same year.
 - (b) the same tune of choice which was played by the Steelband in a previous Junior/School panorama competition within a **10-year period**.

5. Judging Criteria

- 5.1 **Maximum Points for Adjudication** - During each stage of the competition, every Steelband shall be marked based on a maximum of 100 points per adjudicator.
- 5.2 **Judging Criteria** - Each Steelband shall be awarded points for the following categories: -
- (a) Arrangement - a maximum of 40 points (**Primary Schools only**) 40 points (Secondary Schools only) shall be awarded under this category.
 - (b) General Performance - a maximum of 50 points (**Primary Schools only**) 40 points (Secondary Schools only) shall be awarded under this category.
 - (c) Timbre - a maximum of 10 points (**Secondary Schools only**) shall be awarded under this category.
 - (d) Rhythm - a maximum of 10 points shall be awarded under this category.
- 5.3 **Definitions of Criteria** - Judges at every competition stage shall be guided by the official Definitions of Judging Criteria in the exercise of their duties. A copy of the Definitions of Judging Criteria for National Schools Panorama 2024 is outlined at the end of this document.

6. Preliminary Rounds

- 6.1 **Preliminary Rounds** – The preliminary rounds for all School Steelbands will **commence from Thursday 4th January and end on Wednesday 10th January 2024**. The NSPC shall determine the schedule and format for the judging process.
- 6.2 **Procedure for Judging Preliminary Rounds** – The process of adjudication of the preliminary stage of the competition shall be as follows: -
- (a) The NSPC shall select a panel of four (4) adjudicators (3 adjudicators and 1 alternate) to judge the preliminary round of the National Schools Panorama 2024 Competition in each category. A panel of six (6) adjudicators (5 adjudicators and 1 alternate) shall judge the finals of the competition. In the finals the highest scores and the lowest scores from the judges are eliminated.
 - (b) The NSPC shall be responsible for the adjudication process at the preliminary rounds of the competition in the Region. This is to ensure that the process and panel of adjudication is similar in each Region.
 - (c) The decision of the judges shall be final and binding and the NSPC **shall not** entertain any protest regarding judging.
- 6.3 **Conclusion of the Preliminary Round of the National Schools Panorama 2024 Competition** – At the conclusion of the preliminaries, Steelbands will be selected by **order of merit** to progress to the National Finals in the following manner: -
- (a) Secondary: Ten (10) steelbands
 - (b) Primary: Ten (10) steelbands

7. National Finals

- 7.1 **The Finals** – The National Finals for the National Schools Panorama 2024 Competition shall be held at the Queen’s Park Savannah, Port of Spain on **Sunday 14th January 2024 at 8:00a.m.**
- 7.2 **Draw for Playing Position** – All competing bands shall be required to draw for playing positions in the Finals of the National Schools Panorama 2024 Competition on **Thursday 11th January 2024** at the Education Tower A, #5 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain.

8. Procedures for Performance

- 8.1 Procedures to be observed by Steelbands during their performance – All finalists of the National Schools Panorama 2024 Competition shall be required to comply with the following procedures in respect of the commencement and conclusion of their performances before the judges: -
- (a) Each Steelband shall commence its performance before the judges upon receiving an indication to do so **by the Stage Manager**.
 - (b) Each Steelband in the Primary category shall perform for no less than four (4) minutes and no more than five (5) minutes.
Each Steelband in the Secondary category shall perform for no less than five (5) minutes and no more than six (6) minutes.
 - (c) In the event that a steelband exceeds the maximum or does not meet the minimum playing time, one (1) point from each adjudicator will be deducted from its overall score for each fifteen (15) seconds (or part thereof).
- 8.2 Upon the conclusion of its performance, each Steelband shall immediately proceed along the route away from the judging area upon being signalled to do so **by the Stage Manager**.

9. Procedures to be observed on Competition Day

- 9.1 **Procedures to be observed by Steelbands on the day of the competition** – All finalists of the National Schools Panorama 2024 Competition shall be required to comply with the following procedures in respect of their conduct on the day of the competition: -
- (a) Each Steelband is required to present its members and instruments at the competition venue at least 60 minutes prior to the time stipulated for the commencement of the competition;
 - (b) All Steelbands shall appear and play in the order in which they drew by ballot;
 - (c) If any Steelband shall fail to appear in the position in which they were due to appear as selected by ballot, the next Steelband in sequence shall perform before the judges when instructed to do so by the NSPC or one of its duly authorized representatives; (please refer to 10.1)

- (d) No Steelband shall deliberately impede another Steelband from appearing onstage in the order in which they are to appear as selected by ballot;
- (e) No unauthorized persons shall be permitted in the judging area;
- (f) All Steelbands shall easily be identifiable and shall have prominently displayed on its banner the Name of the School and/or Steelband, the Name of its Leader, Composer, Arranger, tuner, and the Title of the tune of choice the Steelband is playing as well as the position in which the Steelband is appearing as selected by ballot;
- (g) The members (including players, pushers, officials, etc.) of each Steelband shall be easily identifiable;
- (h) Before proceeding onstage to commence its performance, each Steelband shall be subject to a tally by the officials of the NSPC as well as by the officials of the Steelband to determine whether the Steelband is appearing with the registered number of players and registered players;
- (i) No member or official or supporter of a Steelband shall impede the tally of the Steelband by the NSPC or an authorized person;
- (j) Where there is a discrepancy in the results of the tally made by the officials of the NSPC and the officials of the Steelband respectively, the matter shall be referred to the NSPC whose decision in this regard shall be final and binding upon the Steelband.

9.2 **Procedures to be observed by Steelbands immediately prior to their performance** - All finalists of the National Schools Panorama 2024 Competition shall be required to comply with the following procedures immediately prior to the commencement of their performance before the judges: -

- (a) Each Steelband next scheduled to perform shall proceed to the "Holding Bay" while the preceding Steelband is performing onstage;
- (b) Each Steelband shall stop playing upon arriving at the "Holding Bay";
- (c) Prior to the commencement of the performance of a Steelband, the resident disc jockey at the respective venues shall only be allowed to play the music selected by the Steelband for a maximum of ten (10) minutes;
- (d) Each Steelband shall be expected to be ready to perform its selection of music at the end of the ten (10) minute period; and

- (e) Each Steelband must play in its position irrespective of whether the disc jockey plays the tune of choice that the Steelband is about to perform.

10. Ethical Expectations

- 10.1 All parties engaged in the National Schools Panorama Competition are to abide by the regulations outlined in the Ministry of Education's Policy documents, namely, the National Schools' Code of Conduct (2018) and the Education Act (2016).
- 10.2 Ethical practices are to be observed by all persons (pannists, parents, supporters, teachers, arrangers, tuners etc). throughout the activities related to the 2024 Steelband Competition. Reference is drawn to the following key points of interest-
 - (a) In the display of any signage, all Steelbands must **NOT** use promotional media that may bring the Ministry of Education into disrepute e.g., alcoholic/ narcotic promotional material and/or imagery.
 - (b) Ensure appropriate dress code is used by all for an educational event.
 - (c) Refraining from lewd and/or suggestive behaviour both on and off stage (in the stands). This includes consideration for the content of dramatic presentations, characters, flag bearers etc.

Schools should seek to encourage supporters to also be considerate of these ethical guidelines.

11. Disciplinary Matters

- 11.1 **Disciplinary Measures** - Failure to comply with any of the provisions as outlined in the Rules and Regulations at any stage of the competition without good and sufficient reason satisfactory to **the** NSPC, can result in a Steelband being subject to censure, fine, point deduction, and/or disqualification dependent on the findings of the NSPC **whose decision in this regard shall be final and binding upon the Steelband.**
- 11.2 **Consequences of Disqualification** - Where a Steelband is disqualified by virtue of these Rules, no benefits by way of Prize Monies or Assistance to Steelbands will accrue to that Steelband.

12. Recordings

- 12.1 **Right to Make Recordings** – The NSPC whether by their agents or consignees, shall have the right to record on audio, video or other medium the performances of a performer or a band of performers during any phase of the competition and to utilize such recording for such purposes as it deems appropriate.
- 12.2 **Consent to Recordings** – The subscribing to this document of a signature of any person duly authorized to act on behalf of a Steelband shall be deemed sufficient consent by that member Steelband to the recording of its performance at the competition by the NSPC for the purpose stated at 12.1 hereof.

13. Arrangers/Conductors

- 13.1 An Arranger shall be allowed to arrange for more than one (1) Steelband in this competition. The conductor is not allowed to use any object other than a non-melodic percussion instrument for the sole purpose of giving the initial count before start time. **Failure to comply will result in no benefits by way of Prize Monies or Assistance to Steelbands will accrue to that Steelband.**

14. Interpretation of Rules

- 14.1 **Interpretation of Rules** – These Rules shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
- 14.2 **Where Rules Are Silent** – On any matter in relation to the competition in respect of which these Rules are silent, the decision made by the NSPC in those circumstances shall be final and binding on all parties.