



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Curriculum Planning and Development Division

Ministry of Education
JUNIOR SOCA COMPETITION
2024

Rules & Regulations

RULES & REGULATIONS

1. Definitions and Interpretations

In this document, unless the context otherwise specifies or requires:

1A. Definitions

- 1.1 “Junior Soca Competition” is a competition created by the Ministry of Education for students to showcase their talent in the Soca genre, herein may be abbreviated as the JSC;
- 1.2 “Competition” means the Junior Soca Competition at any of its respective stages;
- 1.3 The “Ministry” refers to the Ministry of Education, Trinidad and Tobago;
- 1.4 “Ministry Representative” means any personnel so designated by the Ministry of Education to carry out duties in managing the Junior Soca Competition, may also be referred to as an “Official”;
- 1.5 “Artiste” refers to a student or performer within the stipulated age category (as outlined in 3.1) who performs or has intention of participating in the JSC;
- 1.6 “Rules” means the Rules and Regulations governing the conduct of the competition as originally drafted or as amended.
- 1.7 “Registration Form” is the form designed by the Ministry and made available for participants to submit relevant information for registration and participation in the Competition.

1B. Interpretation of Rules

- 1.8 These Rules shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
- 1.9 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 Ministry’s representatives in those circumstances shall be final and binding on all parties.

2. Management

- 2.1 The Ministry of Education Junior Soca Competition 2024 shall be managed by the Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) Unit of the Curriculum Planning and Development Division (CPDD), Ministry of Education.
- 2.2 Powers to Co-opt Persons – The Ministry may co-opt personnel to perform any of the duties and responsibilities imposed upon the JSC in these rules.

3. The Competition

- 3.1 The Junior Soca Competition is open to bonafide students of primary and secondary institutions (both public and private), no older than nineteen (19) years.
- 3.2 The Competition has two (2) categories: (1) Primary/Junior (2) Secondary/Senior
- 3.3 The Competition will be conducted in two stages which will be adjudicated by a panel of adjudicators using specific judging criteria.
- 3.4 The preliminaries will be held on **Thursday 25th January 2024**. Start Time: 9:30 a.m.
- 3.5 Venue for preliminaries competition: Auditorium, RCLRC, Mc Bean, Couva.
- 3.6 The finals will be held on **Thursday 8th February, 2024**. Start time: 10am
- 3.7 The venue for the finals is to be determined.

4. Registration

4A Requirement for Registration of Artistes

- 4.1 Each participating artiste shall be required to register online with the Ministry of Education

<https://www.moe.gov.tt/national-schools-carnival-events-2024/>

4B Registration Deadline Date: January 16th, 2024

4C Entitlement of Registration – Only registered artistes and schools shall be allowed to participate in the competition

4D Limitation on Number of Registrants – There is no limit to the number of students from any one school permitted to enter the competition.

5. Compositions

- 5.1 Songs / compositions must be of the Soca genre.
- 5.2 Lyrics must not be libellous and defamatory in nature nor incite violence. Artistes performing

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such songs will be disqualified.

5.3 Length - compositions should be performed within three (3) to five (5) minutes.

5.4 Performers are not allowed to enter a piece that has been judged in any previous competition.

6. Judging Criteria

6.1 Maximum Points for Adjudication – participating artistes shall be marked on the basis of a maximum of 100 points per adjudicator.

6.2 The judging criteria are as follows:

Melody (suitability/appropriateness/phrasing) – 25 pts

Lyrics (creativity/descriptiveness/metering/rhyming scheme/ clarity of message/thematic development) – 25 pts

Rendition (intonation/clarity of diction/enunciation/articulation) – 20 pts

Arrangement (Soca genre/musical accompaniment/vocal arrangement -10 pts.

Performance (communication/visual impact/body language/use of stage/use of props etc.) - 20pts

6.3 The decision of the judges shall be final and binding. Artistes, parents and supporters must accept the results and behave in an exemplary manner.

7. Procedures for Performance

7.1 Contestants must report to the Stage Manager at least one (1) hour before his/her scheduled performance or shall be considered late and will receive a 10-point deduction.

7.2 Contestants must present a CD or flash drive with instrumental accompaniment to their song (Mp3, Mp4 or Wav formats). **There must be no lead voice singing the melody on the track. Backup vocals ONLY** are permitted on the track.

7.3 Musical tracks must be submitted to the technical officials upon arrival at the Competition venue.

7.4 Performance positions would be determined by selection of such using a number system.

7.5 The maximum length of time on stage should be seven (7) minutes, including setting up and striking of props, presentation and rendition. Performance: 3 – 5 minutes.

7.6 Backup singers and dancers must not be over 19 years of age. No adult support or accompaniment on stage is allowed without prior permission.

7.7 A maximum of three (3) back-up singers is permitted.

7.8 A maximum of seven (7) supporting persons, including dancers and actors etc., is permitted on stage during a performance.

7.9 Contestants will be disqualified if their rendition is are deemed inappropriate either through characterisation, lyrics, attire, body language or display signs.

7.10 No fire products or other incendiary props are allowed.

7.11 Contestants and their supporters must not incite violence nor damage any property, use obscene language. These acts can result in disqualification and/or arrest by security officials.

8. Disciplinary Matters

8.1 Failure to comply with any of the provisions as outlined in the Rules and Regulations without good and sufficient reason satisfactory to the Ministry and its representatives, can result in an artiste and/or school being subject to censure, fine, point deduction, and/or disqualification dependent on the findings of the Ministry's personnel whose decision in this regard shall be final and binding.

8.2 Consequences of Disqualification – Where an artiste is disqualified by virtue of these Rules, no benefits by way of Prize Monies will accrue to that artiste and/or school.

9. Recordings

9.1 Right to Make Recordings – The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Communications, whether by their agents or consignees, shall have the right to record on audio, video or other medium, the performances of an artiste and supporters during the competition and to utilize such recording for such purposes as it deems appropriate.

9.2 Consent to Recordings – The subscribing to these Rules and Regulations by way of registration and signature of any person duly authorized to act on behalf of an artiste and school shall be deemed sufficient consent to the recording of the performance.

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10 Prizes

10.1 Participation will be rewarded according to the following prize structure:

Secondary (Seniors)	Primary (Juniors)
1st place: \$ 9,000	1st place: \$6,000
2nd place: \$6,000	2nd place: \$4,000
3rd place: \$ 4,000	3rd place: \$3,000
4th place: \$2,500	4 th place: \$1,500
5 th – 10 th place: \$1,500	5 th – 10 th place: \$1,000
Sub-total: \$30,000	Sub-total: \$20,500