

PLEASE ACTION YOUR BANDS ENTRY ASAP - NOTE CLOSING DATE



SOUTH WEST BRASS BAND ASSOCIATION

78th ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS
RIVIERA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, TORQUAY
SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2026

SCHEDULE

1. ENTRY to Championships is **OPEN** to member and non-member bands with 2026 National Grading being recognised.

2. Test-Pieces will be as follows:

Open Section (Championship & Section One)	Own Choice
Section Two	Own Choice
Section Three	Own Choice
Section Four incorporating Ungraded	Own Choice
Youth Section	Own Choice Including a Goff Richards composition
as a whole or a short programme to include one/or an extract of of his compositions	
Training Band Section	Own Choice of any music (not exceeding 10 minutes in total) either a short programme or single composition

3. ADJUDICATORS: **Stephanie Binns & Christopher Binns**

4. i) The Contest will be administrated under the guidance of the **Rules of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain** (by kind permission of Kapitol Promotions- Nationals 2026 Rule Book).

ii) With reference to bands being allowed to additionally complete in the section above their national grading, this will firstly depend on the number of entries received overall and be subject to an additional £75 administration fee.(refundable if SWBBA remove this option) Withdrawal from the band's recognised section will automatically disqualify the band from playing in the higher section.

5. All competing players (except Youth/Ungraded/Training) must be registered with the Brass Band Players Registry (kind permission of Kapitol Promotions).

6. Registration: Registration Cards will be presented at the registration point on the day of the Contest to be verified against the Registry print-out prepared by the Registries. **Only players named on the print-out will be permitted to play** (exception para 11).

It will be the responsibility of Band Secretaries to ensure that Registration Cards are complete in every detail, including franking for the current year, up to date signature of the player and a valid effective date – also that the latest Registry print-out supplied to individual competing bands is correct.

Youth/Ungraded/Training Band Registration: Bands will be required to submit to SWBBA a list of players and dates of birth (exception Ungraded who must certify the players are bona fide members of the band) by no later than 20th October 2026.

7. The number of registered players permitted to play is **25 brass instrumentalists plus percussion as required by the band.** (Youth/Training bands refer to paras 9 &10)

8. Ungraded Bands: This Section has been incorporated into the Fourth Section (with a trophy for the highest placed). Bands **must not** be graded under the grading rules of the National Brass Band Championships of Great Britain and is intended to encourage such Bands to seek an introduction to, and experience performing in a fantastic venue and contesting at a local level. If a bona fide member of the Band is registered with another band, he/she will be permitted to play with that band, in addition to the Ungraded section at the contest. The total number of players is as per paragraph 7.

9. Youth Bands: The age limit for Youth players is 19 years and under on the date of the contest; the total number of players allowed is **45** inclusive of percussionists; Youth players **may not** compete with a Training Band; and may include up to four senior instrumentalists playing any instrument however not in a “solo” position. This Section will have Open Adjudication.

10. Training Bands: As the title implies, this Section is for bands with players **not** competing and/or holding a registration card with any other band in any Section; there is no upper age limit; the total number of players allowed to play is **35** inclusive of percussionists; and may include up to four senior instrumentalists playing ideally playing any instrument however not in a “solo” position. This Section will have Open Adjudication. Please note that, to be more inclusive, in addition to the traditional brass band instruments, players of French Horns and Trumpets will be allowed to perform in this section. Hopefully this will encourage more bands to take part.

11. “One Day Transfers” will be permitted to a maximum of **four** players on prior application, by email, to the Contest Secretary. The “transferred” player(s) must be from the same graded section or below of the competing band; **the player(s) will be permitted to play with either their own band at the Championships, or as a borrowed player with a second band;** must be in a possession of a valid current registration card and produce a letter of authority from the player’s parent band. Fourth Section bands may borrow players from the third or fourth section. First Section bands may borrow from the Championship Section as this is a combined Open Section.

12. Draw for Order of Play for all Sections will take place on the Contest Day. **All bands must be represented at the appropriate Draw.** Further details to be provided in the Final instructions for Secretaries supplied to all entered bands circa 4-6 weeks prior to the contest.

13. Rehearsal facilities are the sole responsibility of bands, please **do not** contact the SWBBA Secretary.

14. Entry Fee:

Open, Second, Third & Fourth/Ungraded for member bands is **£220** and for non-member bands **£250**.

Youth & Training for member bands is **£90** and non-member bands **£125**.

The Entry Fee includes 30 Band Player & conductor Concessionary Wristbands that gain access to the Band Assembly Area and the Forum. Youth & Training bands needs will be arranged ahead of the contest. **Entry Fees are not refundable.**

15. Bands Entering the Championships must complete the Official Entry Form and return it online (fully completed) sending the appropriate Entry Fee(s) either by bank transfer or by cheque to the Contest Secretary (address below) **no later than 31st July 2026**. Please contact the secretary if there are difficulties filling out the form online.

[SWBBA 78th Annual Championships - 7th November 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Payment by bank transfer is encouraged to SWBBA, Sort code 20 04 59, Account no 63683710. Please state band name in reference.

Final instructions for Secretaries and bands containing timings and additional information for secretaries will follow by early October.

2026 will be the 80th year of Association not but not 80th Championships. Accordingly 2026 is a year of celebration.

All enquiries: swbbasec@gmail.com or phone 07498 254402.