



Queensland Piano Competition 2026

Rules and Regulations

KEY DATES

Date	
Monday 6 July	Registrations open
Sunday 9 August	Registrations close
Week of Monday 10 August	Competitor number emailed, and repertoire submissions open
Sunday 23 August	Repertoire submissions close
Sunday 30 August	Final date for any repertoire changes
Week of Monday 31 August	QPC Schedule out
Saturday 12, Sunday 13, Saturday 19, Sunday 20 September	Queensland Piano Competition 2026

Competition Rules & Eligibility

- **Eligibility:** The competition is open to non-professional pianists who do not earn an income from performing or compete in higher-tier competitions.
- **Registration Deadline:** Midnight on Sunday, 9 August 2026. All entries must be submitted online; late entries will not be accepted.
- **Age Limits:** Age requirements are calculated as of Friday, 11 September 2026.
 - **Proof of Age:** Place-getters in each section may be required to verify their age by providing a copy of their birth certificate.
- **Past Winner Restrictions:**
 - **Diploma & Concerto Sections:** Competitors who win first place in these sections for two consecutive years are ineligible to enter the same section for the following 12 months.
 - **Novice Section:** Competitors who have either placed or competed twice in the Novice section can no longer enter this section.

1. General Rules & Logistics

- **Cap on Entries:** Some sections have limited capacity. Please submit entries as early as possible to avoid disappointment.
- **Scheduling:** Sections are scheduled based on venue logistics and adjudicator availability. Performances may be scheduled on any of the advertised competition dates.
- **Competition Schedule:** The final schedule (including precise times and competitor numbers) will be emailed to all participants shortly after repertoire submissions close on **Sunday, 23 August 2026**.

- **Repertoire Submission & Deadlines:**

- All competitors must submit an online Repertoire Form (emailed the week of 10 August) listing pieces, composers, and accurate durations.
- **Submission Deadline: Sunday, 23 August 2026** (three weeks prior to the competition start). Failure to submit by this date will nullify the entry.
- **Repertoire Changes:** No changes are permitted after the submission deadline without prior written approval. All final change requests must be emailed to qpc@qmta.org.au by **Sunday, 30 August 2026**.

- **Section Adjustments & Splits:** If a section receives an exceptionally high number of entries, it may be split into two parts, with prizes awarded across the section as a whole.
- **Diploma Section Structure:** The Diploma section will consist of two or three heats held at the University of Queensland (UQ), followed by a Finals section held at AMEB Qld premises.
- **Performance Order:** The playing order is randomized and cannot be altered under any circumstances.
- **Cancellations & Refunds:** If a section receives insufficient entries, it may be cancelled or have limited prizes awarded. If cancelled by the QPC Committee, a full refund will be issued.
 - If a competitor cannot attend, they must notify the committee via gpc@qmta.org.au as soon as possible. Refunds for missed sections will only be considered upon presentation of a valid medical certificate.
- **Media & Privacy Consent:** By entering, competitors (or their guardians) agree that the competitor's name, images, or video footage may be used in QMTA publications, on the website, and across QMTA social media platforms (such as Facebook). If you object to this condition, you must notify the QMTA office in writing (qmta@qmta.org.au) prior to the event.

2. Entry Limits & Adjudication

- **Solo Entry Limit:** Competitors may enter **only one** age-based solo section.
- **Open Sections:** In addition to their single age-based solo section, competitors may enter any number of the following categories: *Diploma, Concerto, Australian Composer, Two Pianos, and Duets*.
- **Adjudicator Allocation:**
 - **Two Adjudicators (Two Reports):** Sections 12 (Age 15–16), 13 (Age 17–18), 17 (Diploma), 18 (Concerto), and 22 (Two Pianos).
 - **One Adjudicator (One Report):** All other competition sections.
- **Repertoire Exclusivity:** The same piece cannot be performed in more than one section. Doing so will result in disqualification from prize eligibility (though an adjudicator report will still be provided).

3. Solo Sections

- **Section 1 (Novice):** Open to competitors of any age studying up to and including Grade 1 standard. Repertoire must not exceed a Grade 1 difficulty on any recognized syllabus. This section is open to competitors with **fewer than 3 years** of piano experience. Additionally, competitors are ineligible if they have entered this specific section **twice** in previous years, or if they have **ever placed** in it. Novice competitors cannot enter any other solo section.
- **Section 2 (Intermediate – 10 & Under):** Open to competitors aged 10 and under studying up to and including Grade 3 standard. Repertoire must not exceed a Grade 3 difficulty. Entrants cannot enter any other solo section.
- **Section 3 (Intermediate – 14 & Under):** Open to competitors aged 14 and under studying up to and including Grade 5 standard. Repertoire must not exceed a Grade 5 difficulty. Entrants cannot enter any other solo section.
- **Section 17 (Diploma – Age Open):** Repertoire must consist of Certificate, Associate, or Licentiate level works from a recognized examination board in Australia.
- **Section 18 (Concerto - Age Open):** Must be an original concerto work (no solo arrangements). Competitors must provide their own accompanist (teachers are permitted to accompany). The winner may be offered a performance or recording opportunity with the Brisbane Symphony Orchestra (details provided post-competition).

4. Duet Sections (One Piano, Four Hands)

- **Age Bracket:** Entries must be registered under the age category of the older partner.
- **Format:** Strictly two pianists per entry at one piano.
- **Limits:** A competitor cannot enter the same duet section twice with the same partner, but they may enter another age-appropriate duet section with a different partner.

5. Two Pianos Section (Section 22)

- **Format:** Open age. Strictly two pianists per entry using two separate pianos.
- **Repertoire:** Pieces must be specifically written or arranged for two pianos. Standard duets (four hands, one piano) and Concertos are strictly prohibited.

4. Timing & Copyright Regulations

- **Performance time & Time Limits**
 - **Piece Count: Solo, Duet, Australian Composer, Diploma, and Concerto Sections:** Maximum of **two** works may be performed.
 - **Two Pianos Section:** Maximum of **three** works may be performed.
- **Timing Restrictions:** Time limits represent total time spent at the piano and will be strictly enforced. Performers who exceed their limit will receive feedback but will be ineligible for prizes or placings. Repeats and *Da Capo* markings are optional; do not heavily edit or cut repertoire solely to fit time limits.
- **Multi-Movement Works:** Two or more movements from a suite or collection of pieces are counted as a single work, provided they fit within the section's overall time limit.
- **Copyright & Photocopies:**
 - Competitors are not permitted to perform solely from photocopied music; doing so results in disqualification. Photocopies are only permitted to facilitate difficult page turns alongside an original score.
 - If performing from a tablet/iPad, you must show physical proof of ownership of the original sheet music unless the piece is legally in the public domain.
- **Adjudicator Copies:** Every competitor must submit a physical hard copy of their score and a completed Copyright Form (one per competitor) to the registration desk on competition day for the adjudicator's use.
- **Music Retrieval:** Original music must be collected immediately after the section concludes. In compliance with copyright laws, all adjudicator photocopies will be destroyed immediately after the competition.

5. Sections and Time Limits

Section #	Section Name	Time Limit
Section 1	Novice: Age open, Grade 1 or below	3 minutes
Section 2	Intermediate: 10 years and under, Grade 3 or below	5 minutes
Section 3	Intermediate: 14 years and under, Grade 5 or below	7 minutes
Section 4	7 years and under	5 Minutes
Section 5	8 years	5 Minutes
Section 6	9 years	7 Minutes
Section 7	10 years	7 Minutes
Section 8	11 years	10 Minutes
Section 9	12 years	10 Minutes
Section 10	13 years	10 Minutes
Section 11	14 years	12 Minutes
Section 12	15 - 16 years	12 Minutes
Section 13	17 - 18 years	12 Minutes
Section 14	Australian Composer: 10 years and under	7 Minutes
Section 15	Australian Composer: 11 to 14 years	10 Minutes
Section 16	Australian Composer: 15 to 18 years	12 Minutes
Section 17	Diploma, Age Open	12 Minutes
Section 18	Concerto, Age Open	17 Minutes
Section 19	Duets: 10 years and under	7 Minutes
Section 20	Duets: 14 years and under	8 Minutes
Section 21	Duets: 18 years and under	10 Minutes
Section 22	Two Pianos: Age Open	15 Minutes

6. Competition Day Logistics

- **Registration:** All competitors must register at the desk **30 minutes prior** to the scheduled start time of their section (or section part, if split).
- **Warm-Up Facilities:** Warm-up rooms are **not available** on-site. Competitors are strictly prohibited from entering or using the University of Queensland or AMEB Qld practice rooms.
- **Media & Recording Policy:**
 - **Audio/Video:** In compliance with strict copyright laws, personal audio or video recording of any performance is strictly prohibited. Only official QMTA media recording is permitted.
 - **Photography:** Still photography is permitted inside the performance rooms, provided the camera flash is **turned off**.
- **Pedal Extenders:** A pedal extender will be provided for younger age groups. Competitors are welcome to bring their own if preferred. **Please note: The installation and adjustment of the pedal extender is the sole responsibility of the parent, guardian, or teacher.**

7. Adjudication Rules & Reports

- **Music Submissions:** Physical scores for the adjudicator, alongside a completed Copyright Form, must be handed in at the registration desk on the day of the competition. In line with legal regulations, photocopied materials cannot be returned and will be destroyed.
- **Communication:** Competitors, parents, guardians, and teachers must not speak to or communicate with the adjudicators at any point during the competition.
- **Conflict of Interest:** If a competitor is a current student of an adjudicator, they may still perform and receive feedback, but they are **ineligible to win prizes**.
- **Adjudicator Reports:** Written feedback reports are provided to guide future development; however, no numerical point scores will be issued.
 - *Collection:* Reports can be collected from the registration desk immediately after the section concludes. Depending on scheduling, some sections may distribute reports directly in the performance room.
- **Finality of Decisions:** The adjudicator's decision is absolute and final. No correspondence or appeals will be entered into.

8. Prizes & Awards

- **Payouts:** All cash prizes will be distributed on the day during the official award presentation for each respective section.
- **Ensemble Sections (Duet & Two Pianos):**
 - The designated cash prize money will be split equally between both players.
 - Each individual competitor will receive their own trophy and certificate.

9. Highlights Concert & Max Olding Bursary

Highlights Concert

- **Invitations:** Selected standout pianists from the Solo (Sections 8–13), Diploma (Section 17), Concerto (Section 18), and Australian Composer (Sections 15–16) categories will be invited to perform.
- **Availability Check:** Selected performers will be approached immediately after their competitive section to confirm their availability.
- **Event Details:** The concert will take place on the afternoon of **Sunday, 20 September 2026** at the AMEB Theatre (AMEB Qld, Ashgrove). Precise timing will be finalized once general entries close.
- **Repertoire:** Invited musicians are to perform **one work only** chosen from their winning competition repertoire.
- **Media Recording:** Please be aware that this concert may be recorded, and footage may be featured across QMTA social media platforms, including Facebook.

Max Olding Bursary (\$500)

- **Selection:** A special panel will evaluate the performances at the Highlights Concert and award a single \$500 bursary to one exceptional pianist.
- **Eligibility:** To be eligible for the Max Olding Bursary, the chosen pianist **must perform live** at the Highlights Concert on Sunday, 20 September 2026.

Important Notices

- **Rules Interpretation:** Competition organisers reserve the absolute right to interpret and apply any of the rules and regulations outlined in this document.
- **Performer Passes:** All registered competitors will be issued a complimentary performer's pass, granting them free entry to all sessions of the competition. All other audience members will require a ticket.
- **Errors & Omissions:** Errors and omissions excepted (E&OE).