

ANNEX 1- A PROPOSAL FOR A JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2025

The following points were raised by the Working Group during discussion on the Issues surrounding the formatting of the World Pipe Band Championships In 2024. The Working Group share the ambition that emotional and psychological well-being of the young competitors should be apriority for any event of this nature. We focus here on identifying improvements that will help prevent future errors and the resulting trauma and also enhance the quality and Integrity of the Championships.

The celebration and showcase of youth piping and drumming through the brand of the World Pipe Band Championships will provide a strong business case for Investment and sponsorship. The Working Group proposes a dedicated 'Junior World Championships'. While consideration was given to hosting the Junior World's the Friday of the two-day World's calendar, Glasgow Green, 2025. we acknowledge that other models may also be viable (e.g. an indoor event in an arena). The following specific considerations were raised in support of this proposal.

1. **There Is a need to reduce scheduling conflicts.** Many pipers and drummers, including young competitors, participate in more than one band. The current one-day format for Junior grades, forces these musicians to rush between performances, Increasing stress and the likelihood of mistakes. By holding Junior competitions on a separate day, these musicians would have the opportunity to compete without the pressure of overlapping schedules, resulting in better performances and a more positive experience.
2. **Minimisation of Human Error in Results Compilation.** With all grades competing on the same day, the administrative burden on staff Is Immense, leading to a higher risk of errors in compiling and verifying results. By holding a dedicated event for youth piping and drumming the volunteer workload would be more manageable, reducing the potential for mistakes and ensuring the accuracy and fairness of the competition outcomes.
3. **Enhanced Experience for Junior Competitors.** A dedicated day for junior grades would provide young musicians with a less overwhelming environment to showcase their talents. it would also afford them the recognition they deserve, boosting their confidence and encouraging continued participation in the pipe band community.
4. **Improved Event Logistics and Flow.** Spreading the competition over two days would alleviate the logistical challenges of managing multiple performances and large crowds simultaneously. This would lead to a more organised and enjoyable event for participants, spectators, and staff alike.
5. **Opportunities for Additional Activities.** With the extra day, there would be more opportunities to Incorporate educational workshops, cultural activities, and other events that could enrich the overall experience for attendees. This would add significant value to the Championships, making it a more attractive event for participants and spectators as well as encouraging with a focus on the recruitment of new pipers and drummers. Attendance by schools as an extra-curricular cultural activity could be encouraged, with the support of the Scottish Government.
6. **Developing a business model to showcase youth piping and drumming around the world.** Branding of an event focussed on youth piping and drumming presents an obvious opportunity through which to attract new funders and sponsors. We envisage a strong media Interest, for example to revive the BBC coverage model providing opportunity for youth bands to compete in the main arenas.