



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS
Competitions Programme 2015-16

Status FINAL
March 2015
Eliminator

NFYFC Choir Competition

26 & under

R U L E S

COMPETITION AIM

To learn and perform music as a team

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Composition, singing, performing, expression, decision-making, teamwork and personal development skills

1. **DATE & VENUE**

1.1. After Area Eliminators, the Final will be held in conjunction with the 2016 Annual Convention on Sunday 8th May 2016.

2. **REPRESENTATION**

2.1. Counties may enter one team per 600 members or part thereof in Area Eliminators.

2.2. English Areas and Wales will be represented in the final by one team per 3,000 members or part thereof.

3. **ELIGIBILITY**

3.1. The minimum number of singers is eight (8) and the maximum is twenty (20), all of whom must be 26 years of age or under on 1 September 2015 and a full member of a Club affiliated to the NFYFC.

3.2. Choirmaster. If the teams so wish to have a conductor they must be within membership age (must be 26 years of age or under on 1 September 2015 and a full member of a Club affiliated to the NFYFC). The conductor would be in addition to the singers.

3.3. Musical accompaniment. A maximum of one (1) member within membership age and holding a current membership card may be appointed to provide live musical accompaniment. This is in addition to the singers.

3.4. Additional percussion instruments may be added by singers if wished

3.5. All competitors are required *in person* on the day of each round of the competition (County, Area, Region and NFYFC final) to produce their own current, **signed** NFYFC membership card with suitable ID, or a fine of **£20** will be imposed for non production.

4. **SUBSTITUTION**

4.1. If more than half the original team are unable to compete at the next round the next highest scoring team will represent area.

4.2. **All substitutes must have been eligible to compete in the County Final.**

5. **PROCEDURE**

5.1. **The programme**

5.1.1. A maximum of ten (10) minutes will be allotted for each group's performance. This includes time for the conductor or nominated person to make a short introduction to the choir and music to be sung and any applause from the audience.



5.1.2. Once the Choir is on stage, timing will start from the moment the first sound is made until the moment the last sound is finished.

5.1.3. **The programme should include a semi-directed piece and an own-choice**

E.g.: The programme will consist of two pieces as detailed below. These may be accompanied or unaccompanied. Choirs will be judged on their merits regardless of whether they are accompanied or unaccompanied: the quality of the accompaniment will only be considered in terms of the overall performance.

- Musical accompaniment, where required, may be provided by one musical instrument (e.g. piano or guitar) or by pre-recorded backing track. See point 3.3 for eligibility of accompanist.
- The accompaniment must be purely instrumental and must not contain any vocals.
- Pre-recorded accompaniment must be submitted to the organisers on CD no later than fourteen (14) days before the county or area round and twenty one (21) days before the NFYFC final to NFYFC.

5.1.4. **Piece 1 - Semi-directed piece:**

Any arrangement of any song originally performed by: *Glee (Series 5 Only)*

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_songs_in_Glee

Suggestions for finding arrangements: local music shops or www.musicroom.com; www.sheetmusicplus.com.

5.1.5. **Piece 2 – Own choice:**

Own choice, to contrast with Piece 1

Suggestions for finding arrangements: local music shops or www.musicroom.com; www.sheetmusicplus.com.

5.1.6. Any published arrangement will require a **Performing Rights (PRS) Society for Music Form** to be completed this will be supplied to finalist teams by the NFYFC (as directed by the venue licence holders) for the final of the competition. This form must be completed and returned to the NFYFC twenty one (21) days prior to the NFYFC final performance.

5.1.7. Where published and available, choirs must provide original copies of their music for use by the judges at all stages of the competition. The competition round organisers will advise on the quantities required at each stage, at the National Final 2 copies will be required. If not published and available, a short written description of the arrangement and a summary of how it was created must be provided. **If providing music, do not present photocopied music unless written authorisation has been obtained from the publisher and can be produced if required.**

5.2. Please ensure, especially if making your own arrangements, that your choice does not contravene copyright laws: as a general rule, music where the last surviving composer/arranger/editor/librettist died more than 70 years ago is in the public domain, otherwise it is still in copyright – however, there are exceptions.

Choirs should consider the following:

Choirs should think carefully about the quality and range of the music and its suitability for young developing voices e.g. extremes of range can lead to forcing the vocal chords for volume.

It is important that the pieces chosen are well suited to the voices, both in terms of the technical requirements, range, words and pitch.

Choosing repertory is regarded by most conductors as the hardest and most important decision of all. If a conductor is in any doubt about the suitability of a piece under consideration, we recommend that they seek advice from

experienced choir directors working with young people: try the local secondary school or sixth-form collage. Organisations such as "Sing for Pleasure" may be able to help members keen on choral directing, one-off singing days or workshops may be worth investigating at <https://www.singforpleasure.org.uk>

Contrasting Works

The own-choice work should show a clear contrast to Piece 1 in mood, style, period or a combination of these and other elements. The aim is to showcase your choir's abilities to the full.

Physical Movement / Choreography

This is a choral competition, which will be judged on the criteria listed below. If a choir decides to use movement it should in no way undermine the quality of the choir's singing. It should be visually tasteful and appropriate. Although choreography is not one of the listed criteria, movements which enhance the overall impression will be credited. Movement that undermines the quality of choral singing, however, will result in the loss of marks.

5.3. At the County and Area round of the competition

- 5.3.1. Choirs may not be amplified at the County and Area rounds of the competition, however choirs should check this with local organisers.
- 5.3.2. Choirs may bring amplifiers for instruments but should note that sound checks may not be possible. Choirs must provide a PAT certificate for any electrical instruments or equipment.
- 5.3.3. Organisers will advise ahead of the day of the competition of the amplifiers/AV equipment being provided for pre-recorded music.
- 5.3.4. A keyboard/piano availability should be checked with local organisers
- 5.3.5. Stepped rostra availability onstage should be checked with local organisers.

5.4. At the NFYFC Final

- 5.4.1. Amplification for choirs will be provided by NFYFC. Choirs will be allocated a 10 minute technical rehearsal to include a sound check prior to the competitions. Teams will be advised on this timetable prior to the event.
- 5.4.2. Amplifiers will be provided by the NFYFC for electrical instruments – PAT test certificates must be provided for all electrical instruments – failure to provide a certificate will result in instrument not being used.
- 5.4.3. A Keyboard/piano will be available. Details will be advised prior to the event.
- 5.4.4. Amplifiers and AV equipment will be provided for pre-recorded music.
- 5.4.5. Finalists will be required to send two (2) copies of any pre-recorded accompanying music on CD to the NFYFC twenty one (21) days before the final.
- 5.4.6. Stepped rostra will be in place for the NFYFC Final.
- 5.4.7. NFYFC will provide the stage layout plans fourteen (14) days before the NFYFC final.
- 5.4.8. Finalists will be required to confirm their programmes twenty one (21) days before the NFYFC Final.



6. Scale of Marks & penalties

Choice of Programme (to include contrast and difficulty level) <i>E.g.: two genuinely contrasting pieces should score higher than two similar in style; extra points for any particularly well-thought-out contrasting pairs of pieces... four parts harder than two, independent rhythms harder than all voices singing the same rhythms at the same time; accompaniment playing the same notes as the singers makes it easier.</i>	20
Accuracy and Intonation (correct notes and how well in tune)	20
Tone Quality and Balance (blend and sound of voices) <i>E.g.: Do the voices blend well? Is the tone quality too harsh, too soft, uneven? Does it suit the song?)</i>	20
Interpretation (how effectively the meaning of the song is conveyed) <i>E.g.: dynamics (volume levels), tempo, clarity of words, emotion</i>	20
Overall Ensemble & Presentation <i>E.g.: How well together and "polished" in singing; credit for effective costume & choreography etc. where appropriate, although no penalties for not including these; slickness of overall performance</i>	20
Total	100

6.1. **Penalties** - time deductions are one mark for each half-minute (or part thereof) over the allocated time. The judges may also deduct marks if the timings are below half of what is expected.

7. Awards

7.1. Trophy and a NFYFC Prize Card to the winning team.

7.2. NFYFC Awards and a Prize Card to teams placed 2 and 3.

7.3. NFYFC Certificates of Achievement will be awarded to teams participating in the NFYFC Final.

8. NOTES

8.1. **IMPORTANT:** Competitors are reminded to read carefully the General Rules relating to NFYFC Competitions if they are taking part in this Competition. These are available from the NFYFC website

8.2. This competition WILL carry points towards the NFU Trophy

8.3. Members will be disqualified if they are not at the Presentation of Awards without prior permission being granted

