

The Preliminary Round of the Eighteenth International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition  
Warsaw, 12–23 July 2021

Rules of the Preliminary Round Jury

**General Provisions**

I

The Jury comprises outstanding Polish and foreign musicians who enjoy international recognition. The Competition Director appoints and dismisses members of the Jury.

II

The Jury acts on the basis of the Competition Rules and the provisions of the present Rules of the Preliminary Round Jury.

III

The task of the Jury is to assess the interpretative skills of the pianists who have qualified for the Preliminary Round of the Eighteenth International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition and to admit the best of them to the Competition.

The Jurors will take into account the challenges which Fryderyk Chopin's music poses to pianists.

IV

The Competition Director appoints the Chairperson of the Jury.

The duties of the Chairperson include presiding over the Jury's work and representing the Jury.

During their first meeting the Jurors will elect Vice-Chairperson from their number.

In case of the Chairperson's absence the Vice-Chairperson takes over his/her responsibilities.

V

The Jury will make decisions by an absolute majority of votes in open voting unless the present Rules provide otherwise. Voting is valid if at least half the Jury members are present. In case of a split vote the Chairperson has the decisive voice.

VI

The Competition Director appoints the Trustee of the Jury whose job is to co-ordinate the assessment proceedings organisationally and technically.

VII

While the Competition is in progress, the Jurors are obliged not to make known their opinions about the competitors.

## VIII

The deliberations of the Jury are confidential and recorded. They are attended by the Trustee of the Jury and the Competition Director, and by the persons the Competition Director has authorised to attend.

The Jurors' assessments will be kept confidential until the conclusion of the Competition.

## IX

Each Juror is obliged to listen to and assess all Preliminary Round participants and to take part in the Jury's meetings. In exceptional circumstances the Competition Director may sanction a Juror's absence. In the case of a gross violation of these regulations, the Director of the Competition may dismiss the jury member.

### **Assessment Method**

## X

During the Jury's meeting, ending the Preliminary Round, at the latest each Juror is obliged to make a statement whether among the participants are pianists who meet the 'student' criteria specified in § XI of these Rules, and if so, give their names.

## XI

The term 'student' is understood to mean a participant who

- currently is a Juror's student, or
- was a Juror's regular student in a school or had regular private lessons with a Juror for more than a year since the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> Competition, or
- had private lessons with a Juror after 1 December 2018, or
- stays in close private relations with a Juror.

The term 'student' does not apply to the case of sporadic contact between a participant and a Juror during and in connection with master classes, also online.

## XII

In principle, the Jury will admit no more than 80 Preliminary Round participants to the Competition.

This number will be reduced by the number of pianists admitted to the Competition according to Competition Rules § III item 2.

## XIII

After each session of performances the Jurors will hand over the completed assessment sheets to the Trustee of the Jury. Next to the name of each assessed participant a Juror will write 'YES' or 'NO', expressing his/her opinion about accepting the participant to the Competition, and the number of awarded points, without decimals, on a scale of 1 to 25, with 1 being the lowest score and 25 the highest. The YES rating requires a point score not lower than 18 points; rating NO – no higher than 18 points

The Jurors cannot assess their 'students'. They will write the letter 'S' next to the name of their 'student'. In such case both the average of the awarded points and the indices, described in §§ XIV and XV, will consequently reflect the smaller number of the assessing Jurors.

The Jurors have to sign their assessment sheets and to initial every correction they have made.

#### XIV

If the number of points awarded by a Juror differs from the arithmetic mean of the score gained by a pianist by more than 3 points, a second average of the pianist's score will be calculated. In this case the assessments differing from the first average by more than 3 points will be corrected to fall within the allowed range. (E.g. if the average of all awarded points is 14.35, the assessments higher than 17 points will be corrected to 17.35 and those lower than 12 points will be altered to 11.35. Assessments of 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 points will not be changed.) The second average obtained in this way will provide the basis for the assessment procedure described in the following paragraph.

#### XV

During the meeting after the performances are over, the Trustee of the Jury will show the Jurors the joint results in the form of a percentage index of the YES votes (i.e. the numbers of the YES votes divided by the numbers of the Jurors who assessed), arranged from the highest to the lowest, given with the average of the points gained by each participant but without the participants' names. Acting on this basis the Jury, after deliberations if needed, will make decision on admitting participants to the Competition. The names of successful participants will be disclosed, also to the Jurors, in alphabetical order only, without the indices and arithmetic means described above, which will remain secret until the end of the Competition.

### **Final Provisions**

#### XVI

The Jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

#### XVII

All issues which cannot be solved on the basis of the present Rules will be subject to discussion and open voting by members of the Jury. The solutions thus accepted will be subject to the Competition Director's approval.

#### XVIII

The Rules of the Jury have been written in Polish and English. It is agreed that the Polish language version constitutes the original text, which will be used in clarifying any possible doubts arising out of or in connection with these Rules.