

Rules of the Competition 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 Competition Jury.

III

The task of the Jury is to assess the interpretative skills of each participant in the Competition, taking especially into account the challenges which Fryderyk Chopin's music poses to pianists, and to award prizes and distinctions to the best competitors.

IV

The Minister of Culture and National Heritage appoints and dismisses the Chairperson of the Jury at the formal request made by the Competition Director.

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 and the results of a particular stage.

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 participants at each stage of the Competition 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 after the first stage at the latest each Juror is obliged to make a statement whether among the Competition participants are pianists who meet the 'student' criteria specified in § XI of the Jury 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 17th 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 pass no more than 40 participants into the second stage, and no more than 20 into the third stage.

The Jury will admit no more than 10 participants to the final.

XIII

Assessment of the participants in the Competition first, second and third stage is based on two systems: a point awarding system and a YES-NO system. In neither system can a Juror assess his/her 'student' and will in such case only write the letter 'S' on the assessment sheet.

XIV

The point awarding system assesses a participant's performance on a scale of 1 to 25 (without decimals), with 1 being the lowest score and 25 the highest.

The arithmetic mean of a pianist's score, mentioned further in these Rules, will be calculated to two decimal places by dividing the total sum of awarded points by the number of the Jurors who did the assessment (appropriately lower in the case of 'S') and after applying the corrective procedure described in § XV.

XV

If the number of points awarded by a Juror differs from the arithmetic mean of the score gained by a pianist in a given stage by more than:

- 3 points in stage I,
- 2 points in stages II and III

a second average of the pianist's score will be calculated. In this case the assessments differing from the first average by more points than shown above will be corrected to fall within the allowed range. (E.g. if the average of all points awarded in stage I 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 further paragraphs.

XVI

In the YES-NO system a Juror expresses his/her opinion about acceptance to the next stage. The YES rating requires a point score not lower than: 18 points in stage I, 19 points in stage II and 20 points in stage III; rating NO – no higher than 18, 19 and 20 points respectively.

XVII

After each session of performances in stages I-III the Jurors assess every participant's playing on this session on the assessment sheets, taking into account his/her performances in the preceding stages (if applicable), and hand over the assessment sheets to the Trustee of the Jury.

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

XVIII

After stage I and II performances are over and the calculations are completed, the Trustee of the Jury will show the Jurors the 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 voted), arranged from the highest to the lowest, given with the average of the points gained by each participant (after applying the adjustment procedure described in § XV, accurate to the second decimal place) but without the participants' names. Acting on this basis the Jury, after deliberations if needed, will make decisions on passing participants into the next stage.

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.

XIX

The procedure after stage III will be analogous to that described in the preceding paragraph with one exception: should a majority of the Jurors wish to learn the participants' names in the section of the list arranged by the YES vote indices including places 9 to 12, these participants' names may be disclosed together with the indices and arithmetic means before the Jury makes its decision on admitting participants to the final.

A 2/3 majority of the Jurors present is required to make the decision on acceptance into the final.

XX

After the final performances the Jury assesses the participants using natural numbers on a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being the highest score and 10 the lowest. Just like in the preceding stages, Jurors will not assess their 'students'. The assessments should express the rankings idea and at the same time a Juror's suggestion concerning the Competition final results. A participant's performances in the preceding stages should also be taken into account. The highest score can be awarded to one participant only.

After receiving the assessment sheets (signed, with every correction initialled) and after making the calculations the Trustee of the Jury will present to the Jurors a list of the finalists complete with the averages of their scores, arranged by the average. The adjustment procedure, described in § XV, will be applied with the permitted difference of 2 points.

Based on this list, after deliberations if necessary, the Chairperson will present the Jury's proposed verdict and will put it to the vote. The verdict will be valid if at least two thirds of the Jurors present vote in favour.

If the proposed verdict fails to receive such an approval, the Jurors will vote to award each main prize in writing, beginning with first prize. The order of voting will be determined by the aforesaid list, showing the averages of the scores. If a majority of the Jurors authorised to vote (those to whom the 'S' relationship does not apply) votes in favour of awarding the prize concerned to the pianist according to the list, the prize will be awarded, and the Jury will vote to award the next prize. In the opposite case an analogous vote will be held to award this prize to the next pianist on the list. If a majority of the authorised Jurors votes 'Yes', the prize will be awarded. In the opposite case, the Jurors will decide by an open vote whether to award this prize at all.

A Juror may abstain from any round of voting described in § XX.

XXI

The Jury will have the right to change by a 2/3 majority the number and classification of main prizes, specified in the Competition Rules § XV, with the proviso that the total amount of prize money, including the distinctions, will not be increased and that the individual main prizes and distinctions will not be lower than provided for in the Competition Rules.

XXII

Each Juror may put forward in writing the name of one candidate for each of the special prizes specified in Competition Rules § XV item 3. The 'student' restriction will not apply in this case. The prize will be awarded to the candidate who receives the greatest number of votes with the proviso that more than half of the Jurors present vote in his/her favour.

If the first vote fails to produce the winner of a prize, after the results are disclosed successive rounds of voting by ballot will be held for the persons indicated in the first round to eliminate the candidates who receive the lowest number of votes, until the desired result is achieved. In the event that only two candidates are left and neither receives the votes of a majority of the Jurors, the prize will not be awarded.

A Juror may abstain from any round of special prize voting.

Final Provisions

XXIII

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

XXIV

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.

XXV

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.