



Piping & Dancing Association of New Zealand PDANZ

Relevant rules and laws for PDANZ members to keep in mind

Introduction

Piping & Dancing Association of New Zealand ("PDANZ") was formed in 1908 to promote piping and highland dancing. As part of that vision, PDANZ is responsible for the organisation and conduct of competitions in highland and national dancing and solo piping.

Anyone who would like to compete or adjudicate in solo piping or highland and national dancing competitions must hold a membership with PDANZ. Qualifications for adjudicating and teaching highland dancing are obtained from The New Zealand Academy of Highland and National Dancing.

This information sheet has been put together to assist members who compete, adjudicate and teach to understand the relevant rules and laws which govern how they should conduct themselves.

Internal PDANZ By-Laws, Policies and Guidelines

The Council of PDANZ has developed a number of policies and guidelines to assist with the conduct of competitions. These include the following documents which can be viewed at www.piping-dancing.org.nz/guidelines.htm.

- Bylaws of Competitions.
- Guidelines Hosting & Conducting the New Zealand Championship Dancing Events.
- Alternative Dancers Policy.

Rules 18-28A of the Bylaws of Competitions provide specific information on how competitors should conduct themselves and rules 29-35 provide specific information on how adjudicators should conduct themselves. There are also further rules for dancing competitions and piping competitions.

It is important to comply with the rules set by PDANZ because a breach of the rules may

result in a censure, suspension or disqualification of a member.

Other laws

As well as complying with internal rules, members of PDANZ should keep in mind other laws which may affect how they conduct themselves.

In particular, members should keep in mind the Human Rights Act 1993 ("HRA"), the Privacy Act 1993 ("PA"), the Fair Trading Act 1986 ("FTA") and the Consumer Guarantees Act 1993 ("CGA").

Human Rights Act

The purpose of the HRA is to protect people from discrimination. Discrimination occurs when a person is treated unfairly or less favourably than another person in the same or similar circumstances based on a number of factors including the following.

- Age.
- Colour.
- Disability.
- Ethical Belief (lack of religious belief).
- Ethnic or National Origins (includes nationality and citizenship).
- Family Status.
- Sexual Orientation.

The HRA should be kept in mind by PDANZ members who adjudicate competitions. Adjudicators should ensure that the decision of who the winner of the competition is, is based on the quality of the piper or dancer's performance. The adjudicator should not treat a competitor unfairly or base their decision on something other than the skill of the competitor.

Lynda Duncan Secretary

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Privacy Act

The purpose of the PA is to control how certain entities and individuals collect, use, disclose, store and give access to personal information. There are a number of privacy principles provided in the PA and they are quite detailed. In brief, some of the main ones to keep in mind are as follows.

- People should generally be informed of the fact that personal information is being collected and the purpose of collecting the information.
- Personal information should be reasonably protected against loss, access, use, modification, or disclosure, and other misuse.
- Personal information that was obtained for one purpose generally should not be used for any other purpose.

PDANZ members who are teachers should keep the PA in mind because they generally collect personal information about their students. The collection, storage and use of that personal information should comply with the privacy principles in the PA.

Fair Trading Act

One of the main purposes of the FTA is to prohibit conduct that is likely to mislead or deceive. Conduct is likely to be misleading or deceptive if it suggests that something has a particular characteristic, when in fact it does not.

The FTA should be kept in mind by members who teach piping and highland dancing. In particular, teachers should ensure that:

- they have all the necessary qualifications to teach
- their students understand when they qualify for certificates
- their students understand whether their studies will result in certain entitlements (for example, qualifying to adjudicate competitions).

Consumer Guarantees Act

The purpose of the CGA is to give consumers guarantees, automatically provided by a seller when the consumer obtains services for personal use. Sellers cannot contract out of their obligations under the CGA.

The CGA should be kept in mind by PDANZ members who teach piping and highland dancing. In particular, teachers should ensure that their services are:

- provided with reasonable care and skill
- provided at a reasonable price, if no price or pricing formula was previously agreed.

Further information

We hope this information has been useful. If you have any other questions please feel free to contact us.

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