

# THE REGULATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF HIGHLAND FOLKLORE

## § 1

The International Festival of Highland Folklore is a cultural event of international character. During the festival amateur folklore groups from all over the world have a chance to present their achievements in the field of music, singing, dance, rituals and customs including the richness of traditional folk culture and art from different mountainous regions. The overriding objective of the festival is to popularise and protect those values which influence the consolidation of national identities, as well as to reinforce traditions and interpersonal bonds. The festival has an educational, scientific and promotional dimension. In addition, it is also a celebration of highlanders

## § 2

The participants of the festival can be groups with their permanent headquarters in a mountainous region who cultivate the folkloric traditions of their ethnographic region. An exception may be highlander ethnographic groups who are homogeneous in character but are presently living outside their region. Groups from lowlands performing in a programme based on a mountain folklore do not meet the requirements of the festival.

## § 3

The festival is a competition. Its participants are groups who are willing to compete. The participating groups are judged by the international jury in three equally ranked categories:

**I – TRADITIONAL**

**II – FOLKLORE IN ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENT**

**III – STYLIZED**

### GROUP CATEGORIES

The basic criterion of categorizing is the level of visual arrangement of the traditional highlanders' folklore represented by a certain group.

#### **I category. Traditional groups:**

The groups present a programme based on their local highlander folklore consistent with the tradition of their ethnographic region. The presentation of rituals, customs, costumes, music and singing must relate to one historic period. The musical instruments, music, singing, dance and all of the props used have to be consistent with tradition (they have to be authentic/original or reconstructed). The presentation has to avoid overly complex spoken dialogues. The performed dances, music, rituals and customs preserve the traditional form and can be only be adapted to the necessary extent of the stage requirements.

#### **II category. Groups presenting folklore in an artistic arrangement:**

The groups present a programme based on highlander folklore from their ethnographic region or neighbouring regions. Creating choreography and musical arrangements is allowed unless they significantly distort the highlander folklore of the presented region. The use of non-traditional musical instruments, foreign motives in dancing, music, singing and costumes is

not permitted.

### **III. category. Groups presenting a stylized folklore.**

The groups present a programme based on the folklore of the mountainous regions of their own ethnic groups or nations. The presented programme must be a creative, original interpretation in which every single aspect of the presentation is inspired by traditional highlander folklore. These aspects are dance, music, singing and costumes. The use of mechanical music is not permitted.

#### **§ 4**

**4.1** The following groups are excluded from participation in the festival's competition:

- groups from non-mountainous regions
- professional groups, namely, groups whose members receive fee for their work in the group. This restriction does not include instructors and management.
- children groups under 16 years
- groups using mechanical music (playback)

The participation of children in the 3rd category regarding stylized folklore presentations is not permitted.

**4.2.** Groups use only microphones provided by the organizers. Use of headset microphones (microports) is allowed in all the categories.

#### **§ 5**

The groups participating in the Festival are judged by an International Jury. The chairman presides over the jury sessions. Both the members of the jury and its chairman are appointed by the Festival's organizer each year.

#### **§ 6**

Every group participating in the competition is obliged to specify in the participation form the category in which they are going to perform. Should the programme presented by the group not correspond with the chosen category in terms of its character, the jury has right to move the group to another category while judging. Substantiation of such a decision must be put in the final report.

#### **§ 7**

The organizers envisage to hold consultation meetings between the Jury members and the group representatives immediately after presentation of competition programme.

#### **§ 8**

Groups are obliged to submit a detailed scenario of the competition presentation to the organizers no later than 15th July this year (foreign groups) or no later than 10th August this year (Polish groups). Compliance with this requirement determines the admission of a group to the competition.

#### **§ 9**

The total time of the competition performance can be no shorter than 25 minutes and no longer than 30 minutes. A group should have and an additional programme prepared (outside of the competition) for 1-2 minutes, 5-7 minutes and 20-30 minutes. The total number of persons taking part in the competition programme must not be more than 35 and less than 20. The total number of group members including accompanying persons and drivers must not exceed 40 persons. The rules regarding the performance time and the total of the participants also apply to the guest groups and groups performing outside of the competition. For exceeding the time and/or personal limits 5 points are subtracted from the general score.

#### **Criteria of the competition performance:**

1. The choice of repertoire. The ethnographic value of the programme.
  - a) Verity in the presentation of traditional rituals and customs – category I
  - b) The artistic value of folklore developed in an arrangement – category II
  - c) The artistic value of the stylization of a performance – category III
2. Clothing, costumes, props.
3. The composition of the instrumental ensemble and the type of instruments as well as the music repertoire.
4. Artistic value and level of the presented elements of folklore with regard to dance.
5. Artistic value and level of the presented elements of folklore with regard to singing.
6. Artistic value and level of the presented elements of the traditional culture with regard to music.
7. The ability to transmit folk culture on stage, general artistic expression and achieving the proper mood.

Each element of specific criterion is awarded 1 to 5 points by the jury. The total score awarded by the jury is a basis for discussion on the final evaluation of every group's performance.

### **§ 10**

#### **AWARDS AND PRIZES**

In each category the jury grants main prizes and awards founded by the Polish Minister of Culture and National Heritage:

- **“Złota Ciupaga (Gold Highlander Axe)” - the first place prize**
- **“Srebrna Ciupaga (Silver Highlander Axe)” – the second place prize**
- **“Bronzowa Ciupaga (Bronze Highlander Axe)” – the third place prize**
- **as well as statutory distinctions in form of “Parzenica góralska (Highlander heart-shaped pattern)”**

Also non-statutory awards and gifts for the groups are provided which are sponsored by institutions and organisations cooperating in the process of Festival's preparation. For the winners of the “Gold Highlander Axe” the organisers provide cash prizes amounting to 5000 PLN.

### **§ 11**

The programmes presented at the festival are recorded for purposes of scientific and promotional documentation. The festival participants cannot assert claims for copyright. The

decision on the recording rights is the responsibility of the organisers. The performers hereby give their consent for their concerts to be recorded by audio-video technology. In addition, they give their consent for their image to be used in public distribution as well as giving license to the Festival's Organizers to use copyrights of the recorded works of art and images in the following way:

- a) To reproduce recorded works of art,
- b) To market copies of reproduced works,
- c) To record and reproduce works of art on multimedia and digital devices,
- d) To present, display and play reproduced works in public,
- e) To let or lease a recorded work of art,
- f) To make digital version of a recorded work of art in order for it to be shown on the Internet as a form of distribution/marketing...
- g) To place recorded works of art in their own electronic database in the original form, in whole or part, and to market them on the Internet.

## § 12

1. If the group uses their own coach to travel, the organisers partially cover the fuel costs incurred whilst travelling in Poland in the amount of up to 700 Polish zlotys (seven hundred Polish zlotys). These cost must result from participating in the festival. This relates to Polish and foreign groups. The organisers do not cover costs incurred with regard to the operation and use of the vehicle such as: technical inspections, vehicle crashes, repairs, etc. as well as additional group excursions.

2. If the group travels by plane or train, the organisers provide transport in Poland from the nearest international transportation hub. The groups are required to arrange reservation of return tickets on their own.

3. Maintenance and accommodation costs (tourist standard) incurred in Poland are covered by the organizers of the festival.

## §13

The deadline for sending in applications and complete documentation expires on 28th February. It is necessary to enclose a CD and DVD with the group's programme and also group's photos with full information about the group, repertoire and represented region.

## § 14

The Festival also holds:

**The International Competition of Folk Bands, Singers and Instrumentalists** in the following 4 categories:

- **Folk instrumental groups (bands)**
- **Folk instrumentalists (soloists)**
- **Folk singers (soloists)**
- **Singing groups**

The groups participating in the Festival are judged by an International Jury. The chairman presides over the jury sessions. Both the members of the jury and its chairman are always appointed by the Festival's organizer .

Participation in at least one category of the International Competition of Folk Bands, Singers and Instrumentalists is compulsory for the groups taking part in International Festival of Highland Folklore. Winners of other contests and national reviews who are not competing in the International Festival of Highland Folklore are allowed to participate in the International Competition of Folk Bands, Singers and Instrumentalists. A group may select not more than one representative for each category, that is, one singer soloist and instrumentalist soloist as well as one band and one singing group.

## § 15

1. The repertoire of the instrumental band, singing groups and soloists must be connected with the folklore of the region from where the group comes.
2. The time of the performance of a band and singing group must be no shorter than 8 minutes and no longer than 10 minutes.
3. Soloists (singers and instrumentalists) perform 3 melodies in 5 minutes.

## § 16

### AWARDS AND PRIZES

The prizes awarded in the International Competition of Folk Bands, Singers and Instrumentalists are as follow: “**Zbyrkadła**” (The Sheep Bells) and distinctions in the form of tangible awards. The participants receive certificates of participation.

The first-prize winners in the bands and singing groups category receive a cash prize in the amount of PLN 500.

The first-prize winners in the soloist singers and instrumentalists category receive a cash prize in the amount of PLN 200.

## § 17

### SPECIAL PRIZE

Since 2011 a special prize “**Sabałowe Geśle**” (The Sabała’s Fiddle) has been awarded to the best instrumentalist. The prize in a form of statuette is given for verity to tradition with regard to the playing style, instrumentation and presented repertoire.

## § 18

Since 2013 the International Competition of Folk Bands, Singers and Instrumentalists has been given the patronage of Władysław Trebunia-Tutka, an outstanding folk musician and fine artist of the Podhale region.

Zakopane, Poland, March 2013