



Young Farmers'  
Clubs of Ulster

Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster  
475 Antrim Road  
Belfast  
County Antrim  
BT15 3BD

<b>Competition</b>	<b>Arts Festival</b>
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Competitors are required to perform as part of a group (minimum of three people), a contribution based on a theme drawn from the field of music, humour, song, dance, mime and the spoken word. Competitors attend a local centre organised by YFCU HQ where assessors nominate Clubs to go forward to a Gala performance. Venues will be determined by entries at the time of Competition Deadline.

The Arts Festival is open to members between the ages of 11 and 30 who hold a valid membership card. Only club members who are of competition age are allowed on the stage. At least one producer from each competing Club, must complete a Google form document distributed by HQ, confirming they have made themselves familiar with all rules and corresponding mark scheme, as well as the importance of audience appropriate content.

Two experts will attend and assess each performance, taking into account the following aspects:

- Content (variety, balance and artistic merit)
- Presentation (including costumes, make-up, pace, time taken, economy and effect in use of props)
- Technical competence
- Audience appeal
- General effect
- Song choices
- Accompaniment
- Arrangement
- Presentation

- Vocal qualities
- Choral ensemble
- Technical ability
- Overall appeal and effect

To deter groups from running over time, a deduction scale will operate. Recommended time of 15 minutes.

- Up to 17 minutes No deductions
- 17 min 01 sec – 18 min 5 points deduction
- 18 min 01 sec – 19 min 8 points deduction
- 19 min 01 sec – 20 min 10 points deduction
- 20 min 01 sec – 21 min 15 points deduction
- 21 min 01 sec – 22 min 20 points deduction
- 23 min or over 30 points deduction

Time will commence when the curtains open and will conclude when the curtains close. Where performances commence while the curtains are closed, time will be taken from the point of first line delivery. The mark scheme, timing requirement and relevant penalties will remain unchanged throughout both the heat and Gala levels. Proficiencies are awarded at area level.

### **Discipline**

Appoint one person in the Club who will be responsible for their Club members' behaviour during the Festival. They will be responsible on vacating the dressing room and ensuring that it is left in proper order and condition. Noise while waiting to go on stage will not be tolerated and litter in any form is unacceptable.

### **Prizes**

NFU Mutual certificates will be awarded for contributions of Outstanding Merit and a Certificate of Distinction will be awarded to members who are instrumental accompanists. Additional awards will be given at the adjudicator's discretion to those members whose Club have not made final selection.

All prizes will be given out at the Arts Festival Gala:

- Most Amusing Moment: Plaque

- Most Imaginative Theme: Plaque
- Best Choral Piece: Plaque
- Best Choreography: Plaque
- Most Innovative Musical Moment: Plaque
- Best Newcomer: Plaque
- Overall Performance of the Night: Plaque

### **Additional Information**

Contributions should be based on quality material drawn from the fields of humour, music, song, dance, mime and the spoken word (storytelling, poetry, prose readings, short sketches but excluding plays). Clubs should refrain from using inappropriate material that may offend and will be penalised at the adjudicator's discretion under the Content section of the mark scheme. HQ staff members will be present at each dress rehearsal to monitor all aspects of the performance and to approve before continuing to heats and Gala level. HQ hold the right to amend scripts, costumes, makeup, set design and choreography.

Scenery, hand and other props (e.g. chairs, tables, etc.) may be used so long as:

- they are provided by the Club
- the scene can be set in 4 minutes
- the stage can be cleared in 1 minute

The reason is twofold:

- consideration for the audience
- to encourage planning, speed, teamwork and effective and artistic use of the simplest materials.

There will be no official accompanist. Each Club is required to provide a lighting plot and while every effort will be made to meet the lighting requirements of the Club, no responsibility can be accepted by the Association if the stage electrician cannot do so. It shall be the responsibility of the Club to provide any special props, lighting effects or equipment that it requires, subject to the conditions above. Clubs are advised to make every effort to attend a dress rehearsal approximately one week before performances. Dress rehearsals must take place behind closed doors with only the cast, stage crew and other authorised personnel

present. Dress rehearsal time is limited to a 45-minute period only- this time allows for setting up, practising and leaving the premises. The members of a Club may make their arrangements to inspect and assess the potential of the venue before the performance. Each Club must provide, connect and operate whatever sound equipment it requires. If a Club has insufficient members wishing to take part, YFCU HQ will encourage and facilitate proposals for amalgamating with another Club.

For a Club to be classified as a Newcomer, it was agreed by Executive that all awards be brought into line, and Clubs could be classified as a newcomer for 2 years. To requalify as a Newcomer, the Club would have to miss 3 consecutive years but could compete in the 4th year again for the Newcomer award. Two Clubs can join for the Newcomer Award but if one of the clubs was an established Club they couldn't be classed as a newcomer. The Executive Committee of the YFCU reserves the right to cancel or amend any of the foregoing rules as it may consider necessary.