

# NEW ZEALAND ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

The New Zealand member of the Confédération International des Accordéonistes - IMC-UNESCO



## South Pacific International & New Zealand National Accordion Championships & Festival 2026 Prospectus Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May & Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026

---

COMPETITION ENTRIES CLOSING DATE 17 APRIL 2026

---



### President's Welcome

On behalf of the New Zealand Accordion Association, I am delighted to welcome all accordionists in New Zealand and around the world to join us for the 2026 South Pacific International and New Zealand National Accordion Championships and Festival. In this year's prospectus, we have reintroduced competitive duet, trio, ensemble and orchestra categories. We reserve the right to make amendments to it if required, to reflect current circumstances. Do not miss this opportunity to connect with fellow accordionists and enthusiasts to celebrate our instrument and to enjoy an unforgettable weekend of music and friendship.

Sonja Palinich  
President  
New Zealand Accordion Association



## South Pacific International Solo Classes

For 2026 There are no Test Pieces – all are own choice.

New Zealand residents entered in the following classes will be automatically entered into the equivalent New Zealand Solo Championship Class dependent upon their eligibility as set out in this Prospectus. New Zealand entrants play only once and pay one entry fee for the two classes, even though that one performance may result in winning both the New Zealand and South Pacific (SP) Championship titles.

Class Number	Class Description	Time Limit	Entry Fee
SP249	9 and Under (NZ Championship Solo Class C3)	5 minutes	\$50
SP250	12 and Under (NZ Championship Solo Class C6)	10 minutes (total for 2 pieces)	\$50
SP251	15 and Under (NZ Championship Solo Class C9)	12 minutes (total for 2 pieces)	\$50
SP257	New Zealand Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Championship, 18 Years and Under (NZ Championship Solo Class C11)	Music requirements as per the “Junior Virtuoso Intl. Coupe Mondiale” category at <a href="http://www.coupemondiale.org">www.coupemondiale.org</a>	\$50
SP259	New Zealand Junior Solo Championship, 18 Years and Under (NZ Championship Solo Class C12)	Music requirements as per Round 1 of the “Junior Intl. Coupe Mondiale” category at <a href="http://www.coupemondiale.org">www.coupemondiale.org</a> (Round 1)	\$50
SP258	New Zealand Virtuoso Entertainment Solo Championship, 32 Years and Under (NZ Championship Solo Class C15)	Music requirements as per the “Intl. Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music” Coupe Mondiale category at <a href="http://www.coupemondiale.org">www.coupemondiale.org</a> (Round 1)	\$50
SP252	New Zealand Accordion Solo Championship, 32 Years and Under (NZ Championship Solo Class C16)	Music requirements as per the “Masters Coupe Mondiale” category at <a href="http://www.coupemondiale.org">www.coupemondiale.org</a>	\$50

**Note:** Failure to observe the minimum and maximum playing times may result in a penalty. Please ensure that you have read all parts of this Prospectus relevant to your class, especially the “*Regulations and Modus Operandi*”, before sending in your entry.

## New Zealand Championship Solo Classes

For 2026 There are no Test Pieces – all are own choice.

Please note: New Zealand residents entered in the following classes will be automatically entered into the equivalent South Pacific International Solo Class, as per information above. The South Pacific classes are noted next to the NZ Championship Class numbers below.

Class Number	Class Description	Time Limit	Entry Fee
C1	7 and Under	2 minutes	\$20
C2	8 and Under	3 minutes	\$20
C3 (SP249)	9 and Under	5 minutes	\$50
C4	10 and Under	5 minutes	\$20
C5	11 and Under	5 minutes	\$20
C6 (SP250)	12 and Under	10 minutes (total for 2 pieces)	\$50
C7	13 and Under	5 minutes	\$20
C8	14 and Under	6 minutes	\$20
C9 (SP251)	15 and Under	12 minutes (total for 2 pieces)	\$50
C10	16 and Under	6 minutes	\$20
C11 (SP257)	New Zealand Junior Virtuoso Entertainment Championship, 18 Years and Under	Music requirements as per the “Junior Virtuoso Intl. Coupe Mondiale” category at <a href="http://www.coupemondiale.org">www.coupemondiale.org</a>	\$50
C12 (SP259)	New Zealand Junior Solo Championship, 18 Years and Under	Music requirements as per Round 1 of the “Junior Intl. Coupe Mondiale” category at <a href="http://www.coupemondiale.org">www.coupemondiale.org</a> (Round 1)	\$50
C13	Open Free Bass	Own Choice, 8 minutes	\$50
C14	Open Electronic	Own Choice, 5 minutes	\$50
C15 (SP258)	New Zealand Virtuoso Entertainment Solo Championship, 32 Years and Under	Music requirements as per the “Intl. Competition for Virtuoso Entertainment Music” Coupe Mondiale category at <a href="http://www.coupemondiale.org">www.coupemondiale.org</a> (Round 1)	\$50
C16 (SP252)	New Zealand Accordion Solo Championship, 32 Years and Under	Music requirements as per the “Masters Coupe Mondiale” category at <a href="http://www.coupemondiale.org">www.coupemondiale.org</a>	\$50

## Qualified Solo Classes

### Entry fee: \$10

Qualified Category contestants perform one Own Choice piece only.

Qualified Category classes are regulated by actual age.

Please ensure that you have read all parts of this Prospectus relevant to your class, especially the "*Regulations and Modus Operandi*", before sending in your entry.

<b>Class Number</b>	<b>Class Description</b>	<b>Time Limit</b>
Q201	5 years and under solo	2 minutes
Q202	6 years solo	2 minutes
Q203	7 years solo	2 minutes
Q204	8 years solo	2 minutes
Q205	9 years solo	2 minutes
Q206	10 years solo	3 minutes
Q207	11 years solo	3 minutes
Q208	12 years solo	3 minutes
Q209	13 years solo	3 minutes
Q210	14 years solo	5 minutes
Q211	15 years solo	5 minutes
Q212	16 years solo and over	5 minutes
Q213	12 years and under, Free Bass	3 minutes
Q214	13 to 15 years, Free Bass	5 minutes
Q215	16 years and over, Free Bass	5 minutes
Q216	12 years and under, Own Composition	3 minutes
Q217	Own Composition Open	5 minutes
Q218	10 years and under, Light Classical	3 minutes
Q219	11 and 12 years, Light Classical	3 minutes
Q220	13 to 15 years, Light Classical	5 minutes
Q221	16 years and over, Light Classical	5 minutes
Q222	10 years and under, Original Accordion Composition	3 minutes
Q223	11 and 12 years, Original Accordion Composition	3 minutes
Q224	13 to 15 years, Original Accordion Composition	5 minutes
Q225	16 years and over, Original Accordion Composition	5 minutes
Q226	10 years and under, Entertainment	3 minutes
Q227	11 and 12 years, Entertainment	3 minutes
Q228	13 to 15 years, Entertainment	5 minutes
Q229	16 years and over, Entertainment	5 minutes
Q230	10 years and under, Ethnic	3 minutes
Q231	11 and 12 years, Ethnic	3 minutes
Q232	13 to 15 years, Ethnic	5 minutes
Q233	16 years and over, Ethnic	5 minutes
Q234	12 years and under, Accordion Solo with Self Vocal	3 minutes
Q235	Open Accordion Solo with Self Vocal	5 minutes
Q239	Open, Improvisation	5 minutes
Q244	Open, Sight Reading	3 minutes

## New Zealand Championship Duet, Trio, Ensemble Classes

### N.Z. Championship Duet Classes

Entry Fee: \$30 Championship. A duet shall consist of two performers, and if two accordions, then each accordionist must play both treble and bass. The age of the eldest duet partner shall decide which age class a duet is eligible to enter. All times listed are maximum playing times. Please ensure you have read all parts of this Prospectus relevant to your class, especially the "*Regulations and Modus Operandi*", before sending in your entry.

<b>Class Number</b>	<b>Class Description</b>	<b>Test Music</b>	<b>Time Limit</b>
C31	12 years and under duet	Own Choice	5 minutes
C33	17 years and under duet	Own Choice	5 minutes
C34	Open Duet	Own Choice	8 minutes
C35	Open Entertainment Accordion duet, (may include 1 Electronic accordion)	Own Choice	5 minutes

### Qualified Duet Classes

Qualified Category contestants perform own choice music only. Entry Fee: \$25

<b>Class Number</b>	<b>Class Description</b>	<b>Time Limit</b>
Q260	10 years and under duet	3 minutes
Q261	12 years and under duet	3 minutes
Q262	Open duet	5 minutes
Q263	12 years and under Accordion with Vocal	3 minutes
Q264	Open Accordion with Vocal	5 minutes
Q266	12 years and under, Accordion with other instrument	3 minutes
Q267	Open Accordion with other instrument	5 minutes

## Trio/Ensemble Classes

Entry Fee: \$35 Championship.

A performance by 3 to 6 players. Trio/Ensemble Category contestants perform Own Choice music only. All times listed below are maximum playing times. The age of the eldest member of a trio/ensemble shall decide which age class a group is eligible to enter.

Please ensure, you have read all parts of this Prospectus relevant to your class, especially the "*Regulations and Modus Operandi*", before sending in your entry.

## N.Z. Championship Trio/Ensemble Classes

Class Number	Class Description	Time Limit
C50	12 years and under Trio/Ensemble	5 minutes
C51	17 years and under Trio/Ensemble	8 minutes
C52	Open Trio/Ensemble	8 minutes
C53 & SP260	Open Entertainment Ensemble (may include 1 electronic Accordion/ Vocalist or other instrumentalist).	8 minutes

## N.Z. Championship Orchestra Class

Entry Fee \$35 per entry

An orchestra is defined as a group of not less than 7 performers excluding the conductor. In all orchestra classes, at least 60% of performers excluding the conductor must use acoustic accordion.

Open to all players. The programme will be judged on its general public entertainment appeal.

All music is Own Choice. All times listed below are maximum on/off stage.

All performers, whether or not they play the accordion, must be members of the NZAA.

Please ensure, you have read all parts of this Prospectus relevant to your class, especially the "*Regulations and Modus Operandi*", before sending in your entry.

Class Number	Class Description	Time Limit
C63	Open Entertainment Accordion Orchestra	20 minutes

## Festival Items

For 2026, All festival Items are \$10.00 per entry.

# Regulations and Modus Operandi

NEW ZEALAND ACCORDION ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED  
OFFICIAL RULES FOR CONTESTS

## NAME:

1. These are the rules for the competitions conducted by the New Zealand Accordion Association Incorporated and shall be known as "The New Zealand Accordion Association Incorporated Competition Rules."

## DEFINITIONS:

2. Unless the context otherwise requires:  
"Accordion" means an acoustic accordion without using amplification or electronic attachment.

"Contest Year" means that period of time starting at 9 June in one year and running to 8 June of the following year.

"New Zealand Accordion Championships and Festival" (henceforth referred to as the "NZAA Competitions") means the competition organised and conducted by the Association for duly qualified competitors being financial members of the New Zealand Accordion Association.

"NZAA Competitions Secretary" means the person appointed by the New Zealand Accordion Association Incorporated Committee.

"Orchestra" means a group of not less than seven performers. At least 60% of the performers, excluding the conductor, must use acoustic accordions.

"Playing time" means actual playing time only. It excludes breaks between movements and pieces.

## DESCRIPTION:

3. The NZAA Competitions conducted by the New Zealand Accordion Association Incorporated shall be open only to financial members of the Association, whose names are entered in the National Register.
4. The NZAA Competitions shall be divided into the categories outlined in Rule 5 hereinafter, and shall be further divided into such classes as the Committee decide from time to time, PROVIDED THAT by the first day of December the Committee must publish a full list of the classes available for the following Contest Year.

5. PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES:

**South Pacific International Championship**

Championship classes which are open to entrants from all nations or territories. Regulated by contestants' actual age as at 8 June of the Contest Year.

All place getters of International Championship classes are presented with certificates.

**New Zealand Championship**

Championship classes are limited to New Zealand citizens or New Zealand permanent residents. Regulated by contestants' actual age as at 8 June of the Contest Year. All place getters of N.Z. Championship classes are presented with certificates.

**Qualified**

Classes open to entrants from any nation or territory. Regulated by contestants' actual age as at 8 June of the Contest Year and/or playing experience.

All place getters of the qualified classes are presented with certificates.

**Festival**

Open to entrants from any nation or territory. Performances that are not adjudicated.

6. ELIGIBILITY RULES:

Entries are to be made on the official entry form and must reach the NZAA Competitions Secretary or other designated person on or before the required date, accompanied by the appropriate fee.

All entry forms, fees and correspondence to be sent to the NZAA Competitions Secretary or other designated person.

The NZAA Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry, in accordance with the NZAA rules. The Competition Secretary may amalgamate classes at their discretion.

7. Where a section is restricted by age, the date of birth shall be stated on the entry form and verified by the NZAA Competitions Secretary. To enter a Class a contestant shall be of the age stated or under that age on 8 June of the Contest Year.

8. Soloists placed first in any previous N.Z. Championship class may not enter the same or lower age N.Z. Championship class in any subsequent NZAA competitions (except classes SP250, SP251, SP252, SP257, SP258, SP259, SP260) which can be won twice consecutively, before the contestant must stand down for one year before re-competing in the same class. Contestants who have been placed first or second in a NZ Championship Solo Class in the previous year are not eligible to enter a Standard Solo class.

A contestant may not in the same year enter both a NZ Championship Solo Class and a Standard Solo Class.

Contestants may enter Qualified as well as Championship Classes in any given year. Each class may be entered once only in any Contest Year.

Duet or ensemble classes may be entered more than once provided that any subsequent entry is with different partners.

Orchestral classes, where conductors may enter more than one orchestra provided each orchestra is comprised of totally different members.

A contestant may only enter the same piece of music once at each NZAA Competitions.

9. Competitors entering sections requiring Own Choice music, must supply to the Competitions Official on the competitions day; a copy of their own choice music, with all coupler and expression marks, additions and omissions clearly marked. Improvisation classes are excluded.
10. A duet shall consist of two performers and if two accordions then both must play treble and bass.
11. In trio and ensemble classes, bass to be played at leader's discretion by a bass accordion and/or accordion bass. One amplified instrument is permitted.
12. Any question or dispute relating to the interpretation of any rule of the Association shall be decided by the NZAA Committee, whose decision shall be final.
13. The categories and rules for orchestras shall be as set in accordance with Rule 4 provided that orchestras who win the New Zealand Accordion Orchestra Championship Class C62 twice consecutively must stand down for one year before re competing.

#### CONDUCT OF COMPETITIONS:

14. The NZAA Committee shall have the general power to conduct the administration of competitions.
15. The Accordion Examination Board of New Zealand Incorporated shall recommend to the NZAA committee, persons suitable to act as adjudicators for the National Championship. The Committee, will select adjudicators for the NZAA Competitions from this list. Adjudicators must be accordionists, or accordion teachers of note, or musicians of suitable stature assisted by an accordionist adjudicator as described herein.
16. The order in which the competitors in each section of the Championship classes shall play at the competitions, shall be decided by a draw, by the official appointed for that purpose, before the competition in that section. The order in which the competitors in all other categories shall play shall be decided by the Committee.
17. Contestants must report where directed, prior to the notified reporting time. The committee shall have the right to decide the merits of a case of unavoidable late arrival of any contestant.
18. No competitor or performer may rehearse or practice at the competition venue during the

competition weekend. Exceptions to this are contestants in classes SP250, SP251, SP252, SP257, SP258, SP259, SP260 and festival items who are permitted 15-20 minutes before their performance in an area designated by the NZAA Committee.

19. Entrants in any class failing to take part in the contest or failing to comply with the rules shall be automatically disqualified, and the contestant's entry fee forfeited.
20. For most classes timing is the responsibility of the MC. It is their responsibility to stop a performance if the contestant excessively exceeds the prescribed playing time limit. Some International Championship and New Zealand Championship classes are subject to time penalties. Refer to the Class Schedule section for these exceptions.
21. The adjudicators' decision in all matters relating to judging will be final.
22. The names of the winning competitors will be announced at the end of each session.
23. Audio and video recorders will be prohibited from the premises where contests are held under the auspices of the New Zealand Accordion Association Incorporated, except with the express permission of the Committee.
24. Only music stands supplied by the New Zealand Accordion Association Incorporated are to be used in the solo and duet sections.
25. Amplification and other electronic attachments are permitted only as specified in accordance with Rule 4.
26. Protests connected with the contests must be made in writing, accompanied by such fee as is determined by the NZAA Committee, to a member of the New Zealand Accordion Association Incorporated Committee within one hour of the results being given. The fee is forfeited should the protest not be upheld by the Committee, or a protest Committee appointed for the purpose, whose decision is final.

#### JUDGING:

27. Music shall be played and judged as written, except in those classes where the provision of music for the adjudicators is not a requirement.
28. A minimum tempo marking may be put on test music.
29. Adjudicators will be required to allot marks, and may incorporate constructive comments.
30. The adjudicators are not obligated to award first placing in any class, if, in their opinion, first place is not warranted.

#### GENERAL:

31. All accordion cases, stands and miscellaneous equipment must be marked with the competitor's and/or owner's names.
32. There shall be no restriction as to the make of accordion used by the competitors.
33. Trophies offered for competition annually may be held until the next contest. It is the responsibility of the holder to ensure the return of trophies 21 days before that date.

Holders of trophies may arrange at their own cost for their name and the year of their holding to be engraved on the trophy. Lost or damaged trophies will incur a replacement cost.

34. A music selection committee of at least two persons, who shall be accordion players or teachers of note, shall be appointed annually by the New Zealand Accordion Association Committee, and shall determine the test music to be played at any competition.
35. Submission of an entry form shall be deemed as full and complete acceptance and understanding of these competition rules.
36. These competition rules shall only be altered, added to or rescinded by resolution at the annual general meeting or at any special meeting called for the purpose, provided that notice of any such alterations, addition or rescission shall have been circulated to members at least twenty-one (21) days prior to such meeting. Any proposed alteration, addition, or rescission of the rules may be amended at the meeting. A two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote shall be necessary to carry the motion.
37. These rules and regulations known as the New Zealand Accordion Association Incorporated Competition Rules, shall be placed as an appendix to the Constitution and be part of that document.

#### ADJUDICATING

1. The names of the adjudicators will be printed in the Official Programme and they include New Zealand accordionists, plus invited overseas guests.
2. Allocation of Adjudicators to classes is at the discretion of the Adjudicators Co-ordinator, with due regard paid to the type of class, experience, style, other instrument(s), vocals, etc. With particular note given that:  
Adjudicators will be asked if there may be some reason why they are ineligible to adjudicate any of the competitors. As per Coupe Mondiale practice, reasons may include, but are not limited to:
  - teacher/student relationship within the previous two years,
  - close personal or professional relationship,
  - Family Members
3. All classes, including all South Pacific and New Zealand Championship classes, are sight-judged.
4. Two sets of judges operate at the same time to alternate classes. This acts as a time saving measure to reduce the period between each competitor and also to increase the interest for the audience who will not have to listen to several performances in a row of the same piece.

## Assessment Criteria

1. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:  
Classes C6/SP250, C9/SP251, C11/SP257, C12/SP259, C15/SP258, C16/SP252, C53/SP260 and will all be assessed as follows:

Performance	80 marks
Program	10 marks
Stagecraft / Presentation	10 marks

All other classes are to be assessed as follows:

Performance, Program (where applicable) and Stagecraft / Presentation 100 marks

2. DEFINITIONS:  
“Performance” refers to the overall musicianship of the performance, including technical proficiency and performance by memory.

“Program” refers to the degree of difficulty of the selected pieces where applicable consisting of different styles, character and composers.

“Stagecraft / Presentation” means the competitors ability to present himself/herself to an audience as an artist. It includes but is not limited to:

- Introduction
- Dress
- Audience Interaction

## Marking

1. The adjudicators are required to observe a consistent standard of adjudication. Each performance will be marked utilizing the following guidelines:

90 to 100	Excellent
80 to 90	Very Good
70 to 80	Good
60 to 70	Fair
50 to 60	Very poor

2. Awarding of placing:
  - a. For a placing below an equal placing the next placing is not awarded, e.g. if a first equal placing is awarded then 2nd place is not awarded etc.
  - b. As stated in Rule 30: “The adjudicators may award other than first place, if, in their opinion, first place is not warranted”.

## Calculation of Results

1. The calculation of the results from the adjudicator's mark sheets shall be carried out at the Results Calculation Table. If more than one adjudicator, then the marks are to be averaged.
2. The Results Calculation Table personnel shall then calculate and apply any time penalty marks for any failure to follow the maximum or minimum playing time for specified classes.

The Classes for which time penalties may be applied are: C6/SP250, C9/SP251, C11/SP257, C12/SP259, C15/SP258, C16/SP252, C53/SP260

Time penalties are to be calculated as follows:

- a. Timing will be the responsibility of a timekeeper appointed independently of the adjudicators.
- b. Penalty points will be calculated as per the Coupe Mondiale rules.