**General Rules and Conditions for Competitors**

Please read the rules and conditions carefully. These rules will be enforced.

1. Competitors must be amateurs only. An amateur being one whose income and chosen career does not require them to be classified as ‘professional’.

2. Age shall be reckoned as at 1 September 2017. Competitors must be under 21 years of age and be prepared to produce a birth certificate if required.

3. Entries for all classes must be lodged online or with the secretary on or before August 3. Late entries will be accepted until August 8, and will carry a penalty of $15.00. Any entries received after this date may not be accepted.

4. Order of Performance. Classes will be conducted morning, afternoon and evening, according to the timetable as set out in the programme.

5. Time Limits will be strictly adhered to and not inclusive of title and author. Marks will be deducted for items which run over time.

6. Adjudicator. Communication with the Adjudicator, either by competitors, teachers or other interested parties prior to or during the competitions, is absolutely prohibited and the Executive reserves the right to disqualify a competitor for any breach of this rule.

7. Own Selections. Competitors must provide a typed copy of their own selection for the Adjudicator before the commencement of the Class. All copies must have the class number, competitor’s name and number clearly marked in the top right-hand corner. Copies must be collected at the end of each session. Play title and character must be included on entry form. Competitors will not be permitted to give the same item in more than one class, or to enter an item, which has won them a first placing in a similar section in previous festivals held by this Society.

8. Prompting. No prompting or assistance of any kind may be rendered during a performance, except by the Adjudicator.

9. Properties. Competitors are required to keep properties to a minimum.

10. Stage Access. No other persons, with the exception of officials will be allowed backstage or at the sides of the stage.

11. Prizes. Should there be fewer than three competitors performing in each class, the number of placings given will be at the discretion of the Adjudicator, as will be the awarding of a first or any prize. When two or more competitors tie for the first prize, the first and second prize will be divided between them, and no second award will be given.

The Executive reserves the right to cancel classes when there are insufficient entries.

Scholarships are awarded on aggregate marks. In the event of a tie, the points system will determine the winner. Scholarship money is awarded for further tuition.

Trophies and cups will remain the property of the Society and will be held for one year by the winner. It is the responsibility of the competitor to return the trophy/cup, cleaned and polished, to the Secretary by the 10th August of the following year.

12. Protests. Competitors desiring to enter a protest must lodge the same in writing with the convener, stating the grounds on which the protest is based, together with the sum of five dollars. No protest will be considered unless it is made immediately after the Adjudicator’s results for that class, are announced.

13. Privacy Act/recording. Competitors please note that by submitting your entry you agree to your name being published should you receive an award. You are reminded that IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES may you record, on any device, another performer without their permission. Flash photography is NOT ALLOWED during an item. The Adjudicator’s verbal summary comments MUST NOT BE RECORDED by any means.

14 Liability. Whilst every care is taken to ensure the safety of competitors and members of the public, the Society takes NO RESPONSIBILITY for any unforeseen event; damage to, or loss of, personal property that may occur. Competitors undertake to compete at their own risk and are urged to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves and their personal property.

15 The decision of the Executive is final.