

Uppermill Contest Rules 2026



1. The Contest is open to all adult brass bands with a maximum of **25 performers plus conductor**.
2. **Youth bands** may include up to **35 performers plus a conductor**, of which **no more than four** may be over 18.
3. If the conductor also performs, they will be counted as one of the permitted performers, even if they are a professional musician or conducting more than one band.
4. Bands are expected to pre-register online at **saddleworthwhitfriday.co.uk** no later than the **Wednesday prior to Whit Friday**.
5. Coaches arriving before the contest opens should park where directed.
6. A band representative must sign in at the Booking-in desk on the **Museum car park**. To receive an order of play the **full band must be present**.
 - o Playing numbers will be allocated in order of coach arrival and must be collected from the coach steward before booking-in.
 - o Bands not ready to play at their allocated time must re-register and may lose their original playing order or be withdrawn from the contest.
7. **The contest starts at 4:00 pm**. Booking-in opens at **3:30 pm**. **No registrations will be accepted after 10.00 pm**, or earlier if instructed by the police.

8. UK bands must register in accordance with **British National Gratings**. **Overseas bands** will be accepted in the appropriate section to match their own National Grading. **Unregistered bands** will be eligible only for the Open, Department, University and Most Entertaining prizes.

Street March Performance

9. When directed by the Band Steward, bands must play from the Assembly Point and march along **High Street towards the Hare and Hounds**, preceded by a Board Carrier displaying the band's name.
10. No restriction on the number of players in the march.
11. Percussion and other instruments from the brass band family can be included.
12. Bands will be judged for **Department** and **Most Entertaining Street March** during the march.
13. Counter marching is permitted.
14. Bands must cease playing immediately when instructed by the steward, including beating time.
15. Bands will then be directed to the Contest Arena on the King George V Playing Fields.

Quickstep March Contest Piece

16. For the Quickstep Contest bands must play a **published march of their own choice**. An unmarked copy should be handed to the steward on arrival at the Arena, unless the march appears in the Contest Music Booklet, which would be advised at booking-in.
17. Bands must perform within the designated area.

18. Rotary valve instruments and plastic or composite versions of the standard brass band instruments are permitted.
19. **Percussion instruments are not permitted**.
20. After performing, bands will be directed to re-join their coach further along High Street.
21. No unauthorised person may enter the adjudicator's room or otherwise interrupt the performance of their duties.

Results and Prizes

22. **Section Prizes** are available only to bands holding a valid National Grading for the section in which they compete. Grading checks will be made in the event of any appeal or complaint. A band may win only one prize in the contest.
23. **Open Prizes** will be awarded to the four bands achieving the highest overall marks.
24. **First, Second, Third, Fourth, Youth and University Section Prizes** will be awarded to the highest marked bands in each category. Bands winning an Open Prize are excluded from these awards.
25. **The Local Prize** will be awarded to the band achieving the highest marks and preclude winning any Open or Section Prize. Eligible bands must have a registered headquarters within an 8-mile radius of Uppermill.
26. **The Saddleworth Prize** will be awarded to the band achieving the highest marks and preclude winning any Open, Section or Local Prize. Eligible bands must have a registered headquarters within the Parish Boundary.
27. **Department Prizes** preclude any band winning Open, Section, Youth, University, Local or Saddleworth Prizes.
28. **Best University Prizes** for bands of enrolled students or up to 5 3-year alumni from a UK Higher Education establishment. They are awarded on musical performance and preclude winning any Open, Section, Local or Saddleworth Prize.
29. An award is made for the **Most Entertaining Street March**.
30. All prizes are awarded solely at the discretion of the adjudicator. The adjudicator's decision is final, subject to no valid objections.
31. Only competing bands may raise an objection. Objections must be lodged with the Arena Manager or Contest Secretary on the day of the contest or by midday on the following day, via the contact form on the Saddleworth Whit Friday website. Any concerns regarding prizes must be received on the day after Whit Friday.
32. Results will be announced via the **Saddleworth Whit Friday website**, which will also pass results to 4barsrest. Prize results are deemed final on the Monday following Whit Friday.
33. Prize money, (in £ sterling) and trophies will be presented at a **Presentation Event**, date to be announced. Awards are made only to a bona-fide representative of the winning band.
34. Trophies are held for **eleven months** and returned by **1st May of the following year**, suitably engraved and in good clean condition.
35. The contest organisers can be contacted by email at uppermill@saddleworthwhitfriday.co.uk