

Striking Competition Rules

Eight-Bell Striking Competition (Used for the Annual Inter-District Competition)

- 1) Each District may enter up to 2 teams of 8 ringers, all of whom must be bona fide Sunday service ringers at towers within the District and paid up members of the Guild. Scratch teams made up of Ringing Members and Honorary Life Members may take part at the discretion of those Executive Committee members present at the competition. A draw for position will be made at the start of the competition.
- 2) No one team may include more than three ringers from the same tower.
- 3) Each team must ring 224 changes of Triples or Major of their choice, details of the piece, including calls, to be supplied to the judge prior to commencement. Bands will be expected to ring a method commensurate with their ability.
- 4) Rounds at either end will not be judged, up to one minute of rounds being allowed before commencement of changes.
- 5) A period of 1 minute will be allowed to try ropes and adjust if necessary.
- 6) A period of 5 minutes maximum will be allowed for practice.
- 7) Readiness to ring the test piece will be signified by a few whole pulls on the treble.
- 8) Scratch bands will be judged, but will not be placed in the Competition
- 9) The Judge's decision will be final.

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Six Bell Ringing Competition Rules

The purpose of this competition is to encourage ringers and bands within the Diocesan to improve their ringing for divine service.

- 1) Entry of a band will be for a tower within a District of the Guild. Members of a band must be Sunday service ringers at that tower, or joint bands which regularly ring together on Sundays, especially where insufficient numbers would prevent a single tower entry.
- 2) Where a band has insufficient regular service ringers to comprise a team they may supplement their team by one other Ringing Member or Honorary Life Member. No ringer may ring for more than one band under this rule.
- 3) Scratch bands made up of Ringing Members and Honorary Life Members may take part at the discretion of those Executive Committee Members present at the Competition. Scratch bands will be judged, but will not be placed in the competition.
- 4) All bands must include at least 4 ringers who are not ringing with another band.
- 5) All members of each band MUST be paid up Ringing Members or Honorary Life Members.
- 6) The order of ringing will be determined by the District/General Secretary, or the Ringing Master.
- 7) Each team will ring either Call Changes or Method (not rounds only):
 - (a) The method test piece shall consist of 120 changes of any method; either doubles with a cover, or minor. Simple callings may be obtained in advance from the Ringing Master, on stating which method is to be rung. Those bands lacking a conductor may ring plain courses only.
 - (b) Call change teams will ring 120 rows. There must be at least 8 calls. The changes may be called either by changing a single pair of bells, or by changing whole rows. A chart of simple call changes will be made available on request in advance. The Steward in the tower will periodically inform the ringers of how many changes have been rung.
- 8) Bands are expected to ring consistently with their ability, and within the spirit of the competition.
- 9) The bells will be rung 3 times by each team:
 - (a) For up to one minute to assess rope lengths.
 - (b) For up to two minutes for the ringers to become acquainted with the 'go' of the bells.
 - (c) The test piece, preceded by not more than one minute of rounds.The tenor bell is to be rung a few blows between (b) and (c) to inform the judge(s) of the team's intention to start the test piece. A Steward is to be present in the tower to inform the team when these times have been reached.
- 10) Judging will be for the test piece only, and will not include the opening and closing rounds. In the case of call changes, 120 changes other than rounds should be rung and no change rung more than 20 times consecutively, although changes can be repeated. Judging will be on these 120 changes only and not on any rounds. The Steward will advise at regular intervals on the number of changes rung.
- 11) Penalty points will be awarded by the judge, and the team with the lowest score will be declared the winner. Change ringing teams who do not ring a true test piece, fail to return to rounds, and/or fire out will, so long as at least 100 changes have been rung, have 20% as penalty points added to their score. (Therefore they should not stand the bells on realisation that a miss-call or shift in course has occurred).

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