

## The Scottish Primary School Glee Challenge 2026

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

*Please, read the rules and regulations carefully. All choir chaperones and members participating in The Glee Challenge must adhere to the specified rules and regulations without exception.*

Please note that these rules supersede all previous rules.

### REGISTRATION

- Registration will open on **Monday 12th May 2025**. Registration forms are available on the website. **Please check website for listings**
- Registration will close at midnight **Friday 26th September** or earlier should the available slots in individual regions be filled.
- Registration forms received after midnight **Friday 26th September** will not be considered.
- Where an individual region has closed early, i.e., **before 26th September**, due to oversubscription schools may be offered the opportunity to join a heat in a neighbouring region.
- Where due to their geographic location it would be easier for a choir to attend a heat in a neighbouring region, e.g. North-East Fife – Dundee, areas of West Lothian – Motherwell, we will endeavour to accommodate this.
- Registration will only be complete when the entry fee of £50 (early bird) or £60 standard is received. Schools are allowed to enter more than one choir. The entry fee for an additional choir is £25. On receipt of payment for your choir(s) you will be notified and access to the member pages provided.
- Entry fees will not be refunded unless there are insufficient entries.
- When registering please provide an email address that will allow quick communication to the choir.
- The Challenge is based on live events in all areas however, we recognise that there may be circumstances where this may not be possible, and we reserve the right to amend the Challenge if required. Full notification of any changes will be notified via our social media pages.
- **Venue costs represent a significant financial commitment and late cancellations may have a significant impact. As a result, we have had to introduce a late cancellation fee.**
  - **Cancellation within 6 weeks of the event will incur a cancellation fee of £150**
  - **Cancellation within 4 weeks of the event will incur a cancellation fee of £250**

- All updates and further information will be available via our social media pages. Please make sure you keep checking
- Please use [gleechallenge@frissonfoundation.org.uk](mailto:gleechallenge@frissonfoundation.org.uk) for all communications otherwise your query may be missed.

## **HEAT REQUIREMENTS**

### **The Choir**

- Each choir must not exceed 40 members.
- Schools may enter more than one choir. However, for fairness, the choirs should sing different second songs.
- We would like, if possible, for our choirs to give themselves a name rather than just the school's name. Here are some from last year *"Haysie Glee Squad"*, *"Musical Mile End"*, *"Birkie Glee Crew"*, *"Borrowfield Beats"* and *"Craigiebarns Connections"*
- Each choir should choose a presenter to introduce their choir at the live shows and to tell everyone the name of the second song and why the choir chose that particular song. This does not have to be a member of the choir, but it must be a pupil from the school.
- The choir introduction should take place as the choir is setting up for the first song.
- Please note that chanting is discouraged as several schools and parents have indicated that they feel this may be perceived as aggressive and judges have been advised that they may deduct points from scores for chanting.
- For GDPR purposes, if children from the choir are bringing phones, please advise them these should be turned off and kept in bags for the duration of their time in the theatre including during rehearsals and the show.

### **Vocal Performance**

- All choirs will be expected to perform two songs; the set song (based on the backing track provided) and a song of their own choice. **Please note that a medley of songs is not permitted. A mash up of two songs will be allowed.**
- The second song should reflect the chosen theme for this year's Challenge.
- The suitability of the chosen song will be taken into consideration, as part of the scoring criteria, by the judges. **Please check the lyrics and meaning ascribed to the song.**
- All choirs must sign some aspect of the set song. This can be a verse, chorus, or an individual signing at the side of the stage. We will provide signing instructions to assist.

- The combined length of the songs/performance time, including any spoken dialogue, must not exceed **NINE** minutes. Points may be deducted from performances that exceed the time limit.
- All choirs **must** use the backing track provided for the set song. Acapella for the set song is **not** allowed.
- For their second song, choirs are expected to sing along to a pre-recorded accompaniment or backing track. The track must not contain any vocals and must be wholly instrumental.
- Choirs may sing their second song Acapella, should they wish.
- As part of the performance children may use instruments e.g. percussion instruments. However, these should be occasional or incidental to the backing track and should not play a dominant role, the use of instruments will not be included in the judging criteria. No other accompaniment will be allowed.
- The choir leader must not sing or perform with the choir.

### **Visual Performance**

- Props may be used but they must be kept to a minimum. We do not have appropriate storage space in many of our venues and props often end up blocking fire escape routes etc. Banners/placards often interfere with the drop mics on stage and as such can only be handheld i.e. not on an extended pole. Too many or overly large props may result in a deduction of points.

Acrobatics in the performance are allowed only if a risk assessment is provided.

- The assessment must verify that the manoeuvre is within the performing child(ren)'s capabilities.
- A chaperone from the staff with appropriate qualifications and first aid training for gymnastics must be present.
- Potential injury risks, including safety of the other participants, must be thoroughly assessed.
- The submitted risk assessment must be signed and handed in a week before the performance. Please note that acrobatic elements will not be scored by the judges due to it being outside their expertise, we encourage the exploration of alternative movement forms.
- Bare feet are not permitted in any theatre.
- The use of glitter or glitter sprays are not permitted in any theatre.

## **REGIONAL FINALS**

- Each regional final will consist of 6-9 choirs which will include individual heat winners and the top scoring choirs from across the regional heats.
- There will be 6 regional finals will be as per Table 1 above. (*Please note this may be subject to change depending on entry levels.*) The venues have been chosen on the basis of capacity, cost, and ability to host multiple choirs. Again, this may be subject to change.
- There will be a different set song for the Regional Finals. The rules outlined above set song 1 will apply to set song 2.
- The winning choir from each Regional Final will go forward to the National Final along with three of the top scoring choirs from across all regions.

## **NATIONAL FINAL**

- The National Final will be held in the \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_
- Schools may sing either of the set songs for their set song performance.
- Logistics for the National Final will be announced nearer the time.

## **JUDGING**

- This is a show choir (Glee) Challenge and therefore performances will be judged across four broad areas
  - Vocal e.g. Intonation, tone quality, diction, ensemble, balance, blend, interpretation of music and text, dynamics, phrasing and communication
  - Visual e.g. choreography, precision/execution, authenticity, appearance, communication, use of stage, signing BSL, SSE or Makaton (set song only)
  - Teamwork e.g. energy, group dynamics, engagement of whole group
  - Performance e.g. fit with theme, overall impact/entertainment and originality and creativity
- A copy of the scoring frame will be available on the website (members zone)
- Judges may also apply scoring penalties for over running the allocated time, chanting and inappropriateness of song lyrics.
- A summary of the judges scoring/comments will be provided after the event to each school.
- The organisers will appoint a panel of 3-5 judges depending on event size and availability. Please note that all our judges give of their time voluntarily.

- The judges' decisions **are final. No correspondence** will be entered into regarding the decisions or results.

## **GENERAL**

- **The child/adult ratio when attending any of the live performances is 1:10** other than for children who may have additional support needs. Where there is a need for additional support, please advise us directly. All additional adults out with the ratio and not supporting ASN pupils will have to pay full ticket price – we cannot guarantee that additional staff will be seated beside the choir
- Martyn's Law for The Glee Challenge. All participating teachers/chaperones must wear provided lanyards in the theatre, names of all accompanying chaperones must be submitted to The Glee Challenge at least 2 weeks before the event, in adherence to terrorism prevention measures.
- Schools are expected to take all appropriate steps regarding photographic permissions of all participating children. Please note choir photographs and video footage may be used as part of our marketing strategy.
- Schools are responsible for all photography permissions and safeguarding issues in respect of their choir. The Frisson Foundation does have a Safeguarding Policy in place for all events (see website)
- No photography/videography will be allowed at any of our live events other than that approved by the Frisson Foundation.
- Anyone taking photographs/videos during the performances will be asked to leave
- It is anticipated that the school will encourage families/friends of the choir to attend and buy tickets for the performances and we will, as far as we can, maintain our ticket prices as low as possible.
- Schools are encouraged to explore ways and where possible action routes to raise funds to help the school participate e.g. help with bus travel costs to the live events. We have created a fundraising pack to help.
- Details of the finals are to follow – all events will commence at 18. 15/30 pm except for the National Final which will be held on the afternoon of \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Finally**

- By entering the Challenge, participating schools agree to be bound by the rules and regulations of the Challenge.

- No correspondence will be entered into regarding comments, results or rules and regulations by either judges or organisers.
- **The organisers reserve the right to review and adjust these rules as required and will advise all participants appropriately should this be necessary.**