QUEEN ELISABETH COMPETITION

QUEEN ELISABETH INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION OF BELGIUM

VOICE 2027: RULES

1. This document contains the rules of the Voice Competition that the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium organises from 9 to 22 May 2027. In this text, when we use the masculine by default, we are addressing all genders (f/m/x).

I. ENTRY CONDITIONS

2. The Competition is open to singers of all nationalities, who are ready to embark upon an international career and who are aged at least 18 and have not yet reached the age of 32 on 31 December 2026 (i.e., they must be born after 31 December 1994 and before 1 January 2009).
3. This competition is not open to laureates of a previous Queen Elisabeth Voice Competition. A candidate may not take part more than twice in the public rounds of the Competition in the same discipline.

A. Applications

4. All applications must be made using the form available on the Queen Elisabeth Competition website (www.queenelisabethcompetition.be). No other method of submission will be accepted.
5. The application form, including all requested documents and videos, must be submitted online by 12 noon (GMT) on Wednesday 25 November 2026 at the latest.
6. An incomplete application form cannot be submitted. Candidates will receive an e-mail confirming that their application has been submitted. They will also receive an overview of their application by e-mail.
7. It is the candidate's responsibility to take all the necessary steps so that the application can be submitted by the deadline and to keep a copy of the overview of the application. The Competition cannot be held responsible if an application is not received.
8. If a candidate encounters technical problems during the online application, the candidate must inform the Competition secretariat about the problem as soon as possible by sending an e-mail to application@queenelisabethcompetition.be, so that the application can nonetheless be submitted on time. To avoid, as far as possible, any technical problems, it is strongly recommended that candidates start uploading the videos at least 48 hours before the deadline for applications. Candidates who do not follow this recommendation cannot be guaranteed that their application will be accepted if a technical problem of any kind arises.
9. The application fee of EUR 120 is payable once the application is complete and must be paid via the same online form. It will not be reimbursed under any circumstances.

B. Examination of applications

10. **Applications**
The applications will be examined by the Competition's organisers. If necessary, the Competition will ask the candidates to provide additional information. The videos of those candidates whose applications are not in order within the deadlines determined by the Competition will not be viewed during the preselection round and those candidates, accordingly, cannot be admitted to the Competition.
11. **Programme**
The programme will be examined by an Artistic Committee specially designated for this purpose. This committee will have the right to impose changes to the programme in order to ensure that it complies with the rules and artistic requirements of the Competition. Once the deadline for applications (Wednesday 25 November 2026 at 12 noon GMT) has passed, no change can be made to the programme, except where required by the Artistic Committee or the management of the Competition, as provided for in Article 55.

12. **Copies of music scores**
To ensure the smooth organisation of the competition rounds (accompanying pianists, arranging the appropriate orchestral equipment, recording crews), all candidates admitted to the first round must provide the Competition secretariat with a scanned copy of the scores of all works included in their programme (in the case of the programme proposed for the final, the full score or a piano-vocal reduction are both allowed). Candidates should also clearly indicate any cuts that they wish to insert.

C. Acceptance

13. Once their application has been accepted by the organisers of the Competition and their programme has been accepted by the Artistic Committee, the candidates who have been selected after the preselection process will receive confirmation of their admission to the first round.
14. Candidates may not be rejected on any ideological, linguistic, political, religious, gender related or racial grounds.
15. If a candidate's participation could create a conflict of interest, of any kind, that candidate may be refused access to the Competition.

II. TIMETABLE

16.

25 November 2026 12 noon GMT	deadline for applications
06 May 2027	arrival of the candidates
07 May 2027	drawing of lots
09 > 10 May 2027	first round
12 > 13 May 2027	semi-final
14 > 19 May 2027	preparation and rehearsals for the final
20 > 22 May 2027	final
25 May 2027	awards ceremony
26 & 27 May 2027	recitals of the unranked laureates
26 May > 30 June 2027	rehearsals and concerts with the first six laureates (see Article 57)

III. ROUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

A. General provisions concerning the rounds of the competition

17. The public rounds of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition are preceded by a video preselection round behind closed doors.
    a. The purpose of the preselection round is to eliminate candidates who have not attained the level required to participate in the public rounds of the Competition and to reduce the number of candidates taking part in the first public round.
    b. The purpose of the first round is to choose the 24 candidates who will be admitted to the semi-final round.
    c. The purpose of the semi-final is to determine the 12 finalists.
    d. The purpose of the final round is to rank the top six laureates.
18. In the different public rounds, the candidates will perform in the order established by the drawing of lots.
19. Each of the candidates will be entitled to the same amount of rehearsal time with the orchestra.
20. Each candidate admitted to taking part in the public rounds undertakes to participate in those rounds, unless prevented from doing so by illness or accident.
21. All rounds, including the preselection, take place under the supervision of the ministerial official (as defined in Article 143 and following).

B. General remarks concerning programmes

22. Candidates are expected to treat each performance as a recital and should therefore put together their programme with this in mind. The jury will look at each performance as a whole.
23. For all the rounds, the tuning of the piano and the orchestra is A-442.

24. All works must be sung from memory – except for oratorio arias – in the original language and key (certain adjustments are possible for works originally composed in a different pitch). For lieder and songs with piano accompaniment, only transpositions that have been published will be accepted.
25. Candidates may ask to perform some contemporary works using a score. The Artistic Committee has the authority to allow this. A request of this kind must be sent to application@queenelisabethcompetition.be by 9 March 2027 at the latest.
26. Repeats are left to the discretion of the candidates, but candidates must take them into account when working out the timing of their programmes.
27. Candidates may not include in their programmes works that they themselves have composed or arranged.

C. Preselection round: viewing of the videos

28. The number of candidates is not predetermined.
29. When it comes to viewing the videos, only those of candidates whose applications are in order will be considered (see Article 10).
30. The candidates will be informed individually of the results of the preselection process by 15 March 2027 at the latest.
31. **Programme**
    - Via the online application form on www.queenelisabethcompetition.be, the candidates must upload good-quality video recordings (audio and video) of recent performances of themselves (see Article 33).
    - They have to record three pieces in at least two different languages, from at least two different periods, with piano accompaniment. Pieces performed with orchestral accompaniment are not accepted.
    - The works performed in the preselection videos may be included in the programme for the public rounds of the Competition.
32. **Upload information**
    - The candidates must upload one file per piece.
    - In the application form, the candidates must provide information on the place and date of recording for each file.
    - In the application form, the candidate must tick a box confirming the authenticity of each recorded file, that he is the soloist, that the recordings have not been edited and are not subject to copyright restrictions.
33. **Technical requirements**
    - Each piece must be recorded in a single take.
    - It is strongly recommended that the camera angle should be fixed.
    - The candidate’s chest and face should be clearly visible at all times when he sings.
    - It is strongly recommended that the sound should be recorded professionally.
    - The videos may be recorded in different places and on different occasions.
    - These recordings should not have been made more than one year before the application deadline (Wednesday 25 November 2026 12:00 GMT). The candidate must be able to provide proof of the registration date if requested by the Competition organisation.
    - A video whose quality, visual and/or audio, does not allow the jury to evaluate the candidate’s abilities will be rejected (see Article 104 and following).

D. Drawing of lots

34. **Date**: 07 May 2027

    Venue: Flagey (Studio 1) - Brussels
35. The purpose of the drawing of lots is to establish the order in which the candidates will perform. Candidates admitted to the first round will be assigned an individual place in the order of appearance, which will apply to the three public rounds of the Competition.
36. The drawing of lots will take place in the presence of the ministerial official, who will ensure that everything is done according to the rules and will record the result. At the request of the Competition’s organisers, the ministerial official will, first of all, ensure that a letter of the alphabet is drawn by lot, starting from which individual candidates will draw in turn, by alphabetical order, to establish their order of performance.
37. All candidates are required to attend the drawing of lots and will be duly summoned by email.
38. Candidates who cannot attend the draw owing to circumstances beyond their control must justify the absence in time (at least 48 hours before the draw). At the candidate's express and written request, the ministerial official or a person designated by the candidate will draw lots on the candidate's behalf. Candidates are requested to find

out immediately after the draw from the Competition secretariat the date and time at which they must present themselves for their performances for the first round.

39. Except for the situation provided for in Article 40, the order of appearance as determined by the draw may only be changed due to exceptional and unforeseeable circumstances, for which the candidate will have to provide justification. The Competition's organisers will consider the reasons given and make a decision, which shall be final. Any alteration decided upon will only be valid for the round in question.

40. Candidates wishing to obtain an exemption from the order decided on because of a professional engagement, must make this request to the secretariat of the Competition and provide justification by 9 March 2027 at the latest. The Competition's organisers will consider the reasons given and make a decision, which shall be final. An exemption may only be obtained for the first round.

E. Registration of the candidates

41. Candidates who are admitted to the first round will receive an individual registration document.

42. The candidates must carry this document throughout the competition and present it whenever requested to do so by the Competition's administrative services. Subject to availability, on presenting this document, they will be given an entry ticket for the rounds of the competition.

F. First round

43. **Dates**: 09 > 10 May 2027

Venue: Flagey (Studio 4) - Brussels

Number of participants: determined by the preselection round

Duration of the performance: maximum 10 minutes

44. In the first round, candidates will perform two pieces of their own choosing (opera arias, oratorio arias, Lieder or art songs) in different languages and of different periods, with piano accompaniment. One of the pieces must be an opera or oratoria aria. The two pieces must both be performed; the total length of the two pieces must not exceed in total 10 minutes. The candidates will choose the order in which they perform them.

45. Number of candidates admitted to the semi-final: 24

G. Semi-final

46. **Dates**: 12 > 13 May 2027

Venue: Flagey (Studio 4) - Brussels

Number of participants: 24

Duration of the performance: about 20 minutes

47. **Programme to be prepared**:

- An unpublished work (lasting about 3 minutes) for voice and piano, written specially for this year's competition. This work will be communicated to the candidates after the definitive acceptance of their application. This work may not be performed in public in advance of the competition.
- Two coherent recital programmes with piano accompaniment, each containing maximum 18 minutes of music, made up of pieces of the candidate's choice, different from those performed in the first round. One work from the proposed repertoire, with a maximum duration of 9 minutes, may be common to both programmes. Neither of the two recital programmes may contain more than two pieces by the same composer (cycles and parts of cycles are considered to be a single piece).

48. **Programme to be performed**:

Each candidate will play the compulsory unpublished work as well as one of the two recital programmes proposed. The choice of recital programme will be made by the jury and will be communicated to the candidate +/- 29 hours before the performance, that is to say, at 10 a.m. the day before for those candidates due to play in the session starting at 3 p.m. and at 3 p.m. the day before for those due to play in the session starting at 8 p.m. The candidates will choose the order in which they will play the different works on programme.

49. Number of candidates admitted to the final: 12

H. Preparation and rehearsals for the final

50. During the period leading up to the final, the selected finalists must take part in the meetings with the conductor and the rehearsals planned by the Competition's organisers. No exemptions will be granted. Finalists who do not fulfil their obligations in this respect may be denied access to the final.

51. No persons other than the candidates or people specifically authorised by the organisation of the Competition can attend these rehearsals.

52. During this period, specific moments will be allotted to press interviews and shoots with radio and television crews of footage that will be inserted in the broadcast of the final. A photoshoot might also be scheduled.

I. Final

53. **Dates**: 20 > 22 May 2027

Venue: Brussels Centre for Fine Arts (Palais des Beaux-Arts)

Number of participants: 12

54. In the final, candidates will sing three to five pieces of their own choice (about 20 minutes of music) with orchestra accompaniment, including at least one opera aria, and in at least 2 different languages. Each of these pieces must be different from those performed in the semi-final. A candidate may perform no more than two pieces by a particular composer.

55. In the event that the orchestral material of a piece is not available, the candidate may be asked either to provide the orchestral material or to choose a different piece from his repertoire. It is also possible that the candidate may be asked to change his programme if the available orchestral forces do not make it possible to perform it in the context of the Competition.

J. Awards Ceremony

56. **Date:** 25 May 2027

Venue: Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel

The presence of the 12 laureates at this ceremony is mandatory.

K. Laureates' concerts

57. The laureates are required to take part in rehearsals, concerts and recitals arranged by the organisation. The fee for these concerts is fixed by the Competition's management. Some of these concerts will be organised in cooperation with the organisers of the Competition; others are agreed in advance with Belgian and foreign organisations. A list of these obligatory concerts will be given to the candidates whose applications are accepted. In the case of non-compliance with these commitments, laureates may be deprived of all or part of the benefits related to their prize. Other concert proposals will potentially be submitted to the laureates after the proclamation.

58. The laureates must be able to perform other pieces (solo, duo, trio) than those performed during the competition.

IV. PRIZES, HONOURS, AND AWARDS

59. A number of prizes, honours, and awards will be shared out among the laureates and the semi-finalists.

60. There are six prizes:

FIRST PRIZE: QUEEN ELISABETH INTERNATIONAL GRAND PRIZE

Queen Mathilde Prize

EUR 25,000

SECOND PRIZE: Prize of the Belgian Federal Government

EUR 20,000

THIRD PRIZE: Count de Launoit Prize

EUR 17,000

FOURTH PRIZE: Prize of the Governments of the Belgian Communities

EUR 12,500

FIFTH PRIZE: Brussels-Capital Region Prize

EUR 10,000

SIXTH PRIZE: City of Brussels Prize

EUR 8,000

61. The six unranked laureates will each receive the sum of EUR 4,000 (donated by the National Lottery) and a recital. They will also receive the title of laureate of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium, Voice 2027.
62. The prizes, awards, and certificates, signed by the Chairperson and the members of the jury, will be presented to the laureates at the Awards Ceremony, which they are required to attend.
63. A sum of EUR 1,000 will be given to each of the twelve candidates in the semi-final who have not been selected for the final round.
64. The Executive Committee of the Competition is empowered to accept gifts, grants, and concert offers on behalf of the candidates and laureates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

I. THE CANDIDATES

65. By applying to take part in the Competition, candidates indicate their acceptance of these rules. This agreement is a condition sine qua non to be admitted for participation in the Competition.

66. By applying for the Competition, candidates agree to participate in all the rounds as well as in all ceremonies and concerts for which they will be selected by the jury or the organisers of the Competition. They will receive a detailed calendar when their application is accepted.

67. During the application process, the Competition collects detailed personal data on the candidates: this data is necessary for the various procedures of the Competition. The data is stored in a secure database and the following information is made public: family name, first name, date of birth, place of birth, nationality, biography, photographs, personal website, and social media pages. The unpublished information is not transmitted to third parties. Candidates have the right to view their data. They can, in writing, have their data amended or refuse permission for its use once the competition has ended.

68. Candidates shall not be required, in the framework of the Competition, to make any financial contribution other than the registration fee.

69. If it is established, at any time, that a candidate does not fulfil the conditions for application to the competition, that candidate will be immediately excluded from it by the Competition's organisers. Appeal against this decision could be formed by the candidate before the Legal Committee.

70. The candidates will not engage in any malicious behaviour that could in any way damage the reputation of the Queen Elisabeth Competition and/or of the organisation's sponsors, donors, or partners. If a candidate becomes involved in an event that brings the Queen Elisabeth Competition into disrepute, its Executive Committee will have the right to take, from the preselection round on, any steps it judges to be appropriate; its decision will be final. Candidates may be disqualified from the Competition and/or be deprived of any benefits that may have been conferred on them. Should any damage be caused, the candidates agree to absolve the Queen Elisabeth Competition of all responsibility and undertake to indemnify the Competition.

71. **Travel expenses**
The 24 candidates selected for the semi-final round will be reimbursed 50% of their travelling expenses (a return journey to Brussels, subject to a maximum of EUR 500) upon presentation of documentation of their expenses. For candidates who travel by car, the expenses will be calculated based on a per kilometre rate. The organisation of the Competition strongly encourages candidates to favour environment-friendly means of transport to travel to Brussels.

72. **Accommodation**
The Competition will arrange free accommodation for the candidates who request it, subject to availability, with families in and around Brussels. These families cannot provide accommodation for relatives or friends of the candidate. Subject to these conditions and bearing in mind these restrictions, a maximum number of candidates will be accommodated during the first round. Thereafter, only those candidates who are admitted to the semi-final and to the final will be able to continue to benefit from this assistance.

73. **Pianists to accompany the candidates**
Pianists designated by the organisers of the competition are at the disposal of the candidates. Candidates may, nonetheless, have a personal accompanist, in which case the Competition will pay him EUR 150 for taking part in the first round and EUR 250 for taking part in the semi-final. These sums include payment for all rights to recordings. The pianists may also be accommodated by a host family as long as their candidate is still in the competition or until the end of the semi-final at the latest. The Competition will also pay 50% of the accompanist's travel expenses (a return journey to Brussels, subject to a maximum of EUR 500) if the candidate is admitted to the semi-final. For pianists who travel by car, the expenses will be calculated based on a per kilometre rate.
A candidate's choice between accompaniment by a Competition pianist or by a personal pianist will be valid for all rounds of the competition. Candidates who choose for an official Competition pianist will be put in contact with the pianist in question after the drawing of lots. As far as possible, this pianist will accompany the candidate in all rounds. Nevertheless, for organisational reasons, a candidate may be allocated a different accompanist from one round to another. An official Competition accompanist may not accompany a candidate in a private capacity.

74. **Broadcasting**
The first round, semi-final, and final, as well as the laureates' concerts, are recorded. Except in exceptional circumstances, they are also broadcast live and/or in pre-recorded broadcasts on radio, television, and the Internet. These recordings may be released in various formats: CD, DVD, etc.

75. If possible and upon request, the semi-finalists and finalists will each receive recordings of their performances from the semi-final on. These recordings may not under any circumstances be broadcast in any way whatsoever

without the agreement of the Competition. The candidate is responsible in relation to others with rights in the recording in the event of any unapproved use.

76. **Cession of rights**
By participating in the Competition, the candidates give the Competition permission to have them filmed (audio and video) and photographed during the rounds of the Competition, the laureates' concerts, and the awards ceremony. They agree that the photographs taken by the Competition's photographers may also be used by third parties. The candidates cede to the Competition the right to record, archive, reproduce, arrange for the reproduction of, and distribute their performances in the Competition and at the concerts, as well as the photographic material, on disc, CD, SACD, sound track, audio cassette, video cassette, video disc, CD-ROM/CDI, DVD, minidisc, or any other existing or future medium, including in digital format, as well as the right to communicate their performances to the public by any televised or radio broadcast means, including broadcasting via the Internet, cable networks, and terrestrial or other broadcasting, live or pre-recorded, linear or on-demand, whether involving free or paid downloading or not, in Belgium or abroad. This cession of rights applies to all performances during the Competition and to the laureates' concerts and the awards ceremony and is granted for the full duration of the protection of the rights in question, subject to the laws in force at the time and in the future.

77. **Scores**
Candidates are expected to use the original scores of the works they perform. The Queen Elisabeth Competition cannot be held responsible for any fraud committed by candidates in this regard (public use of illegal copies). Candidates must be able to supply copies of the scores of the works performed in their programme to the Competition organisers.

78. **Laureates' concerts and recordings**
For a period of four months, beginning on the day of the announcement of the results, the laureates may not give public performances or agree to recordings without the authorisation of the Competition.

II. THE JURY

79. The Executive Committee of the Competition has the exclusive authority to appoint the members of the jury. The number of members is not limited. They are chosen for their international renown in the world of music, without regard to any racial, ideological, political, religious, gender related or linguistic considerations. The composition of the jury may vary from one round to another.

80. Unless otherwise explicitly set out in these rules, the jury's sole mission is to rank the candidates according to the procedure established by these rules. The jury has no administrative function.

81. The jury is chaired by a member of the Executive Committee or by such other person as the Executive Committee may designate.

82. Members of the jury may not vote for a candidate with whom they have a close connection. In such cases, Article 127 of these rules applies. Having "a close connection" in this context means that a member of the jury and a candidate share a dwelling or are related (up to the fourth degree of kinship) or are spouses or are cohabiting.

83. Members of the jury may not vote for a candidate who is, or has been, one of their pupils. In such cases, Article 127 of these rules applies. By 'pupil' is meant any candidate who has taken more than five lessons (excl. masterclasses) with the jury member in question. In case of doubt, those concerned will refer the matter to the organisers, whose decision shall be final.

84. Candidates are not entitled to object to a member of the jury, but they have the right to lodge a complaint with the Legal Committee, if they believe that Articles 82 and 83 have not been observed.

85. A list of the names of the candidates will be given to each member of the jury.

86. A list of the names of the members of the jury will be given to each candidate before the first public round.

87. Each member of the jury will furnish the secretariat of the Competition with the following declaration, duly signed:

I, the undersigned, member of the jury of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium 2027, hereby declare that I have read the rules of this year's Competition and declare that I accept them, including the collection, processing, and transmission of my personal data. I acknowledge that, in the event of a dispute, only the French and Dutch texts of these rules are legally binding. I agree to abide by these rules and declare that

..... is (has been) my pupil (see Article 83) or has a close connection with me (see Article 82 of these rules).

88. Before the public rounds of the Competition, each candidate will furnish the secretariat of the Competition with the following declaration, duly signed:

I, the undersigned, admitted to the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium 2027, declare that I have read the rules of the Competition and declare that I accept them, including the provisions of Article 67 in relation to the collection, processing, and transmission of my personal data. I acknowledge that, in the event of a dispute, only the French and Dutch texts of these rules are legally binding. I agree to be bound by the rules and

declare that
..... is (has been) my teacher (see Article 83) or has a close connection with me (see Article 82 of these rules).

89. If the declarations in articles 87 and 88 are shown to be untrue, the signatory will be excluded from the jury or from the Competition.

90. Throughout the entire competition, the members of the jury shall refrain from having any contact, direct or indirect, with the candidates.

91. Jury members shall also refrain from making any statements about the candidates, the activities of the jury, or the organisation of the competition.

92. The jury decides the programme to be performed by the candidates, in accordance with the provisions of these rules.

93. The decisions of the jury in each round will be recorded in minutes signed by the ministerial official.

94. The jury will vote by secret ballot. The members of the jury must not, under any circumstances, inform each other of the points they have awarded.

95. The Competition has made it a principle to rely on the personal, individual judgement of each member of the jury. Accordingly, the members shall refrain from any form of consultation.

96. Jury members can only judge those rounds for which they have been expressly appointed. If members of the jury are unable to attend one or more sessions due to circumstances beyond their control, the Competition organisers will be authorised either to cancel the points awarded by those members for the whole of the round in question or to attribute to those candidates whom those members of the jury have been unable to judge the weighted average as defined by Article 127.

97. Only the President of the Executive Committee and/or a representative may be present at any of the operations pertaining to the various activities of the jury.

III. CHAIRPERSON OF THE JURY

98. The role of the Chairperson of the jury is to direct the operations of the competition. This person is assisted in this task by a Secretary. Neither takes part in the voting.

99. In relation to the choice of works and parts of works to be performed, it is the responsibility of the Chairperson of the jury to ensure that the jury prescribes programmes of equivalent nature and importance for every candidate.

100. The Chairperson's remit includes overseeing the rounds. To this end he has to take all necessary steps to ensure that the jury's work is carried out correctly. If the Chairperson deems that a member of the jury has committed a serious breach of the rules, the Chairperson has the power to suspend that member immediately or to submit the matter for the urgent consideration of the Executive Committee, which may, where appropriate, start proceedings before the Legal Committee.

101. In the event of illness or absence due to unforeseen circumstances, the Chairperson of the jury will be replaced, for the entire Competition or for a part of it, preferably by a member of the Executive Committee designated by the President of that Committee or, by default, by an individual appointed by the Executive Committee of the Competition.

102. The Chairperson of the jury announces the results of the rounds, faithfully reflecting the decisions of the jury.

103. If the Legal Committee is called upon to pronounce judgement on a matter implicating a member of the jury, it is obliged to hear that member and the Chairperson of the jury.

IV. POINTS: PROCEDURES AND CALCULATION

A. Preselection round: screening of the videos

104. A technician will check all the videos in advance and will be present during the viewing in order to avoid, as far as possible, any technical problems. The technician may, under the supervision of a member of the Executive Committee, give a ruling on the inadmissibility of a video because its poor technical quality makes it impossible to view.

105. If the technical quality, makes it impossible to view a video, it is up to the Chairperson of the jury or, by default, another member of the Executive Committee together with the President of the Executive Committee to judge whether it is appropriate to request the candidate to submit a new copy of the file in question.

106. If a video cannot be viewed because of a temporary technical problem, its viewing may be postponed to a later date.

107. The secretary of the jury, or a person mandated by the Executive Committee, will check beforehand that each video meets the requirements of Articles 31 and following articles of these rules, in order to ensure that the recording is genuine and that it provides the information the jury needs to evaluate the candidate's ability. The secretary has the right, under the supervision of a member of the Executive Committee, to rule on the admissibility of a video.

108. The members of the preselection jury will view all the videos that meet the technical requirements and those of the Artistic Committee.

109. For this round, the members of the jury will have a ballot on which appear the names of the candidates. For each candidate, the members of the jury will indicate whether they wish to admit that candidate to the first round ('YES' or 'NO'). If in doubt, the jury member may qualify this judgement by attributing a 'yes, if necessary' or a 'no, if necessary'. The ballot, signed by the members of the jury, will be given to the ministerial official or the person mandated by the official.

110. The ranking of the candidates will be determined by the number of 'YES' votes obtained, with a 'yes, if necessary' counted as a half 'YES' vote and a 'no, if necessary' counted as a quarter 'YES' vote. In the event of a tie, the number of 'YES' votes will be decisive.

111. Depending on the results, and without being aware of the names of the candidates in question, the Executive Committee will decide where to establish the cut-off point between the candidates admitted and those rejected, in such a way that a reasonably acceptable number of candidates is admitted to the first round.

B. First round

112. For the first round, the members of the jury will receive a ballot paper on which appear the names of the candidates. They will attribute to each candidate a mark of between 0 and 100 points in line with their evaluation of the performance. This mark expresses the evaluation by the jury member of each candidate's performance as a whole.

    In addition to awarding a mark, the jury members will each indicate whether or not they wish the candidate to proceed to the semi-final, by indicating 'YES' or 'NO' under the heading 'May proceed to the semi-final'. There is no limit to the number of 'YES' responses by each member of the jury.

    The ballot papers, signed by the members of the jury, will be given to the ministerial official (or a person mandated by that official).

113. The candidates will be ranked according to the total number of points awarded to each by the members of the jury.

114. Only the first 24 candidates will be admitted to taking part in the semi-final. This number may in some cases be reduced by a decision of the Executive Committee. If the number of candidates in the first round is less than 24, the organisers may decide that only those candidates who have obtained at least 60% of the maximum number of points will be admitted to the semi-final.

115. If the difference between the points obtained by the candidate ranked 24th and the points obtained by the candidate or candidates who in the ranking immediately follow the candidate ranked 24th is less than or equal to 3%, all of these candidates will be considered to be tied (ranked equally).

    This system of equal ranking can also apply to candidates who in the ranking precede the candidate ranked 24th, including all candidates who would have obtained up to 3% more than the candidate involved in the tie with the lowest score. In these cases of equal ranking, the candidates ranked equally will be separated according to the percentage of 'YES' votes they have obtained in relation to the number of jury members who have taken part in the vote.

    If the percentage of 'YES' votes is equal for several candidates who are ranked equally, the candidates in question will be ranked according to the number of points obtained. If the points obtained by the equally ranked candidates in question are equal, the organisers of the competition may decide that all or none of these candidates will, exceptionally, take part in the semi-final.

C. Semi-final

116. For the semi-final, the members of the jury will receive a ballot paper on which appear the names of the candidates. They will attribute to each candidate a mark of between 50 and 100 points. Any mark below the minimum (50) will not be taken into consideration. Article 127 will apply in this case.

    In addition to awarding a mark, the members of the jury will each indicate whether or not they wish the candidate to proceed to the final, by indicating 'YES' or 'NO' under the heading 'May proceed to the final'. There is no limit to the number of 'YES' responses by each member of the jury.

    The ballot papers, signed by the members of the jury, will be given to the ministerial official (or a person mandated by that official).

117. The candidates will be ranked according to the total number of points awarded to each by the members of the jury.

118. If the difference between the points obtained by the candidate ranked 12th and the points obtained by the candidate or candidates who in the ranking immediately follow the candidate ranked 12th is less than or equal to 3%, all of these candidates will be considered to be ranked equally.

This system of equal ranking can also apply to candidates who in the ranking precede the candidate ranked 12th, including all candidates who would have obtained up to 3% more than the candidate involved in the tie with the lowest score. In these cases of equal ranking, the candidates ranked equally will be separated according to the percentage of 'YES' votes they have obtained in relation to the number of jury members who have taken part in the vote.

If the percentage of 'YES' votes is equal for several candidates who are ranked equally, the candidates in question will be ranked according to the number of points obtained in the semi-final round. If these candidates have obtained the same number of points, the candidates in question will be ranked by taking into account the points obtained in the first round.

119. Only the 12 candidates with the highest rankings in this round will be admitted to taking part in the final round.

D. Final

120. After they have heard all the finalists, the members of the jury will receive a ballot paper, on which will appear the names of the 12 finalists. Each member of the jury will attribute to each name a mark of between 60 and 100 points. Any mark below the minimum (60) will not be taken into consideration. Article 127 will apply in this case.

In addition to awarding a mark, the members of the jury will each rank the 12 finalists in order of preference, starting with their first choice (no two candidates may be ranked equally). Members of the jury who have or have had one or more pupils (see Article 83 or a candidate with whom they have a close connection (as set out in Article 82) among the finalists will not rank their own pupil(s) or the candidate with whom they have a close connection.

The ballot papers, signed by the members of the jury, will be given to the ministerial official (or a person mandated by that official).

The ranking will be established based on the totals obtained by adding up the points attributed to each candidate by all the members of the jury (see Article 127 and following articles).

121. If the difference between the points obtained by one of the finalists and the points obtained by the finalist who follows him in the ranking is less than or equal to 3%, these finalists will be considered to be ranked equally. This system of equal ranking can also apply to two or more finalists who precede in the ranking and who would have obtained up to 3% more than the candidate involved in the tie with the lowest score.

122. Candidates ranked equally will be compared and ranked in relation to each other based on the preferential ranking attributed by the members of the jury. The preferential ranking attributed by those members of the jury who have one or more pupils (see Article 83) or a candidate with whom they have a close connection (as set out in Article 82) among the finalists will only be taken into account for the separation of those equally ranked finalists who have not been their pupils and with whom they do not have a close connection.

If there are several equal rankings, each equal ranking will be dealt with individually, starting with that involving the most highly ranked candidates.

If, after considering the result of the preferential ranking, two or more finalists are still ranked equally, candidates will be ranked according to the number of points obtained in the final round. If these candidates have obtained the same number of points, they will be ranked according to the number of points obtained in the semi-final. If these candidates obtained the same number of points in both the final and the semi-final, they will be ranked according to the number of points obtained in the first round.

123. All finalists will receive the title of laureate. The six most highly ranked finalists will receive the title of 'laureate, winner of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th prize'.

V. COUNTING THE VOTES

124. The members of the jury may not exchange comments about the candidates before the end of the proclamation of the results. Any discussion concerning the candidates during a sitting of the jury will lead to the suspension of the member who has caused it.

125. The President of the Executive Committee will be responsible for counting the ballot papers, given to the ministerial official by each member of the jury, and for tallying the points. The ministerial official will supervise this process with the assistance of the Secretary of the jury. Neither the Chairperson nor the members of the jury may enter the room where the ballot papers are being tallied.

126. Any correction on a ballot paper must be initialled by the jury member and by the ministerial official.

If the reading of a ballot paper presents difficulties that could result in an error, the ministerial official, through the Secretary of the jury, may ask the jury member to complete a new ballot paper.

127. For the candidates for whom a jury member has not submitted points, there will be added to the total number of their points the average of the points awarded to the candidates in question by the other members of the jury, multiplied by the average of the points attributed by the jury member in question to all the candidates, divided by the average of the points attributed to all the candidates by all the other members of the jury.

128. If, during either the selection rounds or the final round, a jury member awards to one or more candidates a mark that is over 20% higher or lower than the average of the marks awarded by the jury as a whole (including the jury member in question) – except when this jury member's mark has been voided for being below the minimum allowed for the round – that jury member's mark will automatically be replaced by the average mark plus or less 20%, as appropriate.

129. All voting and tallying operations are secret. The only results to be announced are: the designation, without indication of ranking, of the candidates admitted to the first round; the designation, without indication of ranking, of the candidates admitted to the semi-final; the designation, without indication of ranking, of the candidates admitted to the final round; and the ranking of the first six laureates.

130. The ballot papers, signed by the members of the jury and later sealed by the ministerial official, will be kept in the Competition's archives. The seals may only be broken with the permission of the Legal Committee.

VI. THE COMPETITION AUTHORITIES

A. The management of the Competition

131. The Queen Elisabeth Competition is a non-profit association (ASBL/VZW).

132. The Competition is managed by an Executive Committee. This committee is acquainted with all administrative aspects of the Competition and represents the board of directors in relation to third parties in legal and other matters, without prejudice to the exercise of those functions expressly reserved to other authorities by these rules.

133. The Executive Committee is responsible for the smooth running of the competition and for overseeing the application of the rules. In this respect, it may take any measures necessary. If breaches take place, it is authorised to bring these to light and to refer them to the Legal Committee.

134. For all matters pertaining to the administration of the Competition, the Executive Committee is authorised, under its own responsibility, to delegate particular powers or functions to persons not otherwise involved in the Competition.

B. The Legal Committee

135. For each competition a Legal Committee is established, consisting of at least three members. This committee has the task of fairly resolving any administrative, civil, or disciplinary disputes that may arise between the candidates, the members of the jury, the Competition's organisers, or the Executive Committee. The Committee's judgement is final and is not subject to appeal.

136. The members of this Committee will be nominated by the management of the Competition, which will appoint one of them as its Chairperson.

137. The Chairperson of the Legal Committee will appoint a Secretary to assist the Committee in its work.

138. The jury and the candidates will be informed of the names and responsibilities of the members of the Legal Committee. By participating in the competition, the members of the jury and the candidates accept the exclusive jurisdiction of the Legal Committee and accept that any dispute arising within the framework of the competition will come under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Legal Committee. It is this Committee, moreover, that rules on appeals against decisions taken by others.

139. In the event of a dispute being submitted to the Legal Committee, the management of the Competition will designate three arbitrators from among the members of the Legal Committee to form an arbitration board.

140. Should one of the members be unable to serve as an arbitrator for the period for which they have been designated, a new arbitrator shall be appointed by the management, or, if this is not possible, by the other arbitrators.

141. Any complaints or requests for arbitration by the Legal Committee must be addressed to its Chairperson. The Competition's organisers must be notified.

142. In order to be considered, complaints must indicate the name of the person or persons against whom they have been lodged.

C. The ministerial official

143. Chosen from among the bailiffs (*huissiers de justice/gerechtsdeurwaarders*) of the Brussels district, the Competition's ministerial official will be appointed by the management. The official shall keep records of all operations the official may be called upon to carry out and of any facts the official may be asked to establish.

144. In addition to the tasks allocated to the official by these rules, the official will also, in complete independence, supervise any operations the official believes necessary to supervise.

VII. SANCTIONS

145. The authorities of the Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition of Belgium can impose the following sanctions on members of the jury and on candidates:

a. A reprimand
b. An official warning
c. Exclusion from the competition
d. A permanent ban.

146. A reprimand can be issued by the Executive Committee of the Competition. An official warning is issued by the Chairperson of the Legal Committee. The other sanctions can only be imposed by the Legal Committee, with the exception of cases under Articles 69 and 70. The other administrative authorities of the Competition do not have any legal or disciplinary powers.

147. Quite apart from the disciplinary sanctions outlined above, the Legal Committee can also decide on all questions legitimately submitted to it and, in particular, can impose penalties requiring the payment of damages and interest to injured parties.

148. In the event of disputes, only the French and Dutch texts of these rules are legally binding and the Competition's Legal Committee has exclusive authority to make rulings.

These rules are protected by the provisions of Section 5, on copyright and related rights, of Book XI of the Belgian Code of Economic Law. They may not be reproduced in any form, in whole or in part, without the prior and express authorisation of the Competition.

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