

MALANKARA SYRIAN ORTHODOX SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

Regional Competition General Rules

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION

In order to maintain and ensure the integrity and true spirit of competition, 'Student status' and 'age' are the two criteria that determine the eligibility for participation in the regional competitions.

1 Student Status:

Only students currently enrolled in Sunday school (SS) grades from Kindergarten to Class X (10th grade) in the churches under the direct jurisdiction of the Malankara Archdiocese of The Syrian Orthodox Church in North America are eligible to participate in the competitions. Students who have completed the Class X (whether they have passed, failed, or pending Exam re-take status) in previous years will not be eligible to take the competition.

(Following apply ONLY to those regions with churches conducting 11th and 12th Grades)

Effective calendar year 2016 students who have passed SS 10th grade exam and are **age 18 or less** may be allowed to participate in competitions, **based on regional preference**, as long as those students are still part or SS in student status (11th/12th grade) and/or serving in substitute teacher role.

2. Age:

Students up to age of 18 years (please see the 'date of birth' stipulations below for the year 2017 competition) only will be eligible to participate in the Regional Competitions.

A participant can participate only in his/her own 'age group' including for group items except for 'Quiz' competition.

Age groups: The groups are divided strictly based on the age of students as given below. There will no longer be classifications made on the basis of Sunday school class or Regular School class.

Age groups: based on previous years' guidelines – regions may follow these for 2017:

- a) **K.G:** Born between 01/01/2011 and 12/31/2013
- b) **Primary:** Born between 01/01/2009 and 12/31/2010
- c) **Sub- Junior:** Born between 01/01/2006 and 12/31/2008
- d) **Junior:** Born between 01/01/2004 and 12/31/2005
- e) **Intermediate:** Born between 01/01/2002 and 12/31/2003
- f) **Senior:** Born between 01/01/1999 and 12/31/2001

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3. Age and Student Status' Certification:

For the student to meet eligibility requirements, the Sunday school Headmaster/Headmistress of the participating churches must attest the 'current student status', 'age' and 'age group' of their respective Sunday school students by providing a registration document signed by both the Headmaster/Headmistress and the Vicar of the church. The date of birth of each participant should be provided 'mm/yyyy' format.

Following Sections are General Guidelines – Regions may adopt it as is or make modifications to fit “General Practice” in your region

****except** Elocution/Story Telling Topics – Regions must use the same topic as listed in #5 below.

4. Competition Items for the different age groups

K.G and Primary

- a) Aradhana Single
- b) Aradhana Group
- c) Devotional Single
- d) Devotional group
- e) Story telling

Sub-Juniors

- a) Aradhana single
- b) Aradhana group,
- c) Devotional Single
- d) Devotional group
- e) Instrumental single
- f) Elocution
- g) Bible Verse writing
- h) Bible Test/Quick Bible reading
- i) Quiz Competition

Junior, Intermediate & Seniors

- a) Aradhana single
- b) Aradhana group
- c) Devotional Single
- d) Devotional group
- e) Instrumental single
- f) Elocution
- g) Bible Verse writing
- h) Bible Test/Quick Bible reading
- i) Quiz Competition

5. Elocution Competition:

Based on a thoroughly considered decision by the Sunday School board, an amendment to the Elocution Competition Rules has been incorporated from year 2012 onwards. The change is as follows:

All Elocution participants are eligible to refer to a "cue card" (index card) with the following parameters:

1. Cue Card must be a standard 3x5 inches index card
2. Only one side of the index card may be used to keep speech notes
3. The index card should be used strictly as a reference and should not be used as a source to read directly from



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4. No other written or electronic aides will be allowed during the Elocution competition
5. The judges may choose to review index cards of all participants before the Elocution competition commences

The change is effected to allow participation of more students in the elocution competition. The use of a cue card enables the orator to take the emphasis off from complete memorization of the speech and thus allows speakers to concentrate more on the speech delivery, body language and voice projection.

Note: The determination of points and final scoring will be at the judge's discretion

Elocution/Story Telling Topics:

2017 Regional competition Elocution & Story telling topics:

Seniors

Commitment of Christian Life - explain your role .

Galations 6:2 -"Carry each other's burden in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ .

Intermediate

Luke 22:19- Do this in remembrance of me "-The importance of "The Holy Qurbono", the Queen of Sacraments .

Junior

Psalms 103:1-2 - " Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me, Bless His Holy Name; Bless the Lord O my Soul and forget not all His Benefits"

Sub-Junior

" Isaiah 41:10"- Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not be dismayed, for I am your God".

Primary

Daniel 9:9 " The Lord our God is Merciful and forgiving even though we have rebelled against Him"

KG

David and Goliath

6. Story telling guidelines:

Do not read the story. But memorize and tell it. Speak loud enough so the listeners can hear well. Use tones to reflect a character's attitude. Tell the events in chronological order as the events happened. Tell accurate facts, locations and names of persons in the story. After telling the Bible story, tell one or two Life Lessons (Bible truth) taken from the story.



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Step 1: Tell the story and life lesson

Example of life lesson: We should be thankful to God for what He has done for us.

Step 2: Explain

Example: The man went to the Temple praising God for healing him.

Step 3: Apply

Example: Let us remember to thank the God for each blessing He gives us.

7. TIME LIMITS

All Music items (Individual, Instrumental, and Group): **3 minutes**

Elocution & Storytelling: **5 minutes**

OTHER INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Point assignment will be as follows - 3pts for First, 2pts for Second & 1 pt for Third.
2. Individual championships will be awarded to the student with maximum points in each group.
3. Only individual items will be counted for Individual championship.
4. The rating of performance will be a 1 -10 scale by the panel of judges. The decisions of the judges are final and binding. There shouldn't be any complaints directed to any of the judges at any instance. Kindly refrain from interfering the scoring process or tabulation. All complaints shall be directed to the Regional Director.
5. Instead of disqualifying a contestant, negative points to the extent of 1.50 point per 30 seconds for exceeding time limit will be levied.
6. The songs can be in English, Malayalam or Syriac. For elocution, it shall be either in English or Malayalam – *Regional preferences apply*.
7. All trophies and certificates for the winners are for them to keep. The Regional Ever Rolling trophy can be kept by the winning Sunday school for one year. The trophy becomes the property of that Sunday school after 3years of consecutive winning.



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8. Bible Verses:

- a) Only complete Verses including the name of the book, chapter and verse will be counted- No partial credits. Spelling errors may be considered. Abbreviations are allowed
- b) Use only the selected golden verses given by the Sunday School Association (which is a list of short and easy to remember verses, posted on the Sunday School page of the Archdiocesan website)

However, the Regional Directors can add on additional Bible verses to the Golden Verses document and/or specified portions from the Bible for the competition depending on the need of the region. The regional churches should be given advance notice a minimum of 45 days prior to date of competition) about the changes to enable the students to prepare well for the competition.

9. Group Songs:

- a) There shall be a minimum of 2 members and a max of 6 members in a team. All members of the group must be listed. No one can be in more than one group for the same item.
- b) If there is any clarification needed in determining what songs can be used in Aradhana song competition, please confirm with your Parish Vicar or Regional Director.

10. The Sunday school receives points from group as well as individual items. Individuals will not receive points from group items.

11. If time permits, Sunday schools may present an item for entertainment at the end of the competition for pure fun and show of talent. Please inform the H.M and the Regional Director about the event and the time required for it.

12. **Single Items:** Only **2** participants per church per item ***except for Bible Verse Writing***

13. **Group Songs:** One group per church with a max number of 6 in a group.

14. **Bible Verse writing:** There can be participants from SUB-JUNIOR, JUNIOR, INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR, and GROUPS from each church on an individual basis.



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15. **Quiz Competition:** There can be only **one team per church**, **a maximum of three students representing a Sunday school** (members need not be from the same age group).
16. Microphones are permitted. Unless there is an emergency no body other than the site coordinators and the contestants are allowed to use the microphone during the competitions.
17. The decisions of the President and Director or Regional Director shall be final and binding in case of disputes or clarifications made on the general rules.
18. Regional Director will inform Sunday Schools if there are any updates made in the General Rules.

Please check our website www.malankara.com/sundayschool regularly for new information and news.
19. The names of at least 3 judges and participants from each Sunday school should be sent to your Regional Director well in advance. He will verify and confirm the participant list with each Sunday school and will inform the host Sunday school.
20. The Regional Director reserves the right to assign judges from the panel available.
21. The format and guidelines for the Quiz competition and Bible test is attached.
22. Format of the forms to send names, scoring sheet for judges, grouping of students by items is attached. We do have some regions automated the tabulation & certificate writing – please contact the SS director for more information.
23. The President and Regional Director shall sign the Certificates.
24. Each region shall make arrangements to collect participant and registration fees as applicable to meet expenses of the competition

25. Instructions for the Judges

There should be separate score sheets for each items in order to provide effective tabulation and reference. All judges should write their name and sign the score sheet.

Elocution: Deduct 1.50 point for every 30 seconds over 5 minutes from total.



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Subject matter relevance (12/30) Organized thoughts & ideas (6/30) Audibility & Voice modulation (6/30) Preparation & effort (3/30) Gestures and expressions (3/30)
Total _____ Deductions_____. Net Total_____

Instrumental Music: Deduct 1/2 point for every 30 sec over 3 minutes
Chords/complexity (3/10) Correct notes (3/10) Rhythm (2/10) Preparation & effort (1)
Style of Presentation (1) Total Deductions. Net Total

Single Songs: Deduct 1.5 point for every 30 sec over 3 minutes: Pleasing sound quality (9/30) Ability to maintain pitch (9/30) Complexity (6/30) Preparation & effort (6/30)
Total_____ Deductions_____. Net Total_____

Group Songs: Deduct 1.5 point for every 30 sec over 3 minutes. Pleasing sound quality (9/30) Ability to maintain pitch (9/30) Complexity (6/30) Preparation & effort (3/30) Style of Presentation (3/30) Total _____ Deductions_____. Net Total_____

26. Sequence of the Competition

Please note that this is only a suggestion, the actual sequence will depend on the number of participants and facilities available at the host church.

- 1) Bible Verse Writing: (15 minutes) Will begin immediately after Registration. Primary Group Competitions can begin parallel to this as they are not writing Bible Verse
- a) 2) Aradhana Single 3) Aradhana Group 4) Devotional Single 5) Devotional Group
6) Elocution 7) Bible Quiz 8) Instrumental Music Single 9) Quick Bible Reading/ Bible Test

27. Some general suggestions:

Please refrain from clapping after the performance of each participant. A general round of applause can be done after each item is over.

Designate one person for each session to assist the judges, by supplying them with participant lists, collecting the scoring sheets, and general facilitations.

A team of not less than 5-6 people to evaluate the bible verse

A dedicated team to compute the results (2-3) at a time is ideal.

A team for writing the certificates - explore the possibility in automating Certificates.