

Sonning Deanery Branch 6-bell Striking Competition, organisation and rules, 2017 (amended 2024)

Document history

1. The draft rules were circulated to Sonning Deanery branch officers in December 2014 for comment
2. These rules were agreed by Sonning Deanery branch on 21/2/2015
3. Modified rules that permit youth teams to compete were agreed by Sonning Deanery branch on 18/2/2017
4. (This change) – Modified to bring the 6-bell rules into line with the 8-bell rules and encourage participation.

Organisation of the striking competition

The organiser (usually the Ringing Master) shall be responsible for:

1. Checking that a suitable tower is booked for the competition
2. Booking the judge(s)
3. Notification of the competition at least 6 weeks in advance to the branch's bands. Contact details for the organiser, and the rules of the competition, shall accompany the notification
4. Appointing two stewards from the branch for the duration of the competition ringing (stewards' duties below)
5. Making the draw for the order of ringing of the teams in the competition
6. Notifying the judges of the team numbers of those teams that have elected to ring either call changes or rounds only
7. Organising a vote of thanks to the judge(s) and providing them with a gift.

Teams

1. The names of the team members and the conductor shall be notified to the organiser before ringing.
2. Every ringer in a team must be a resident ringing member, a life member or an honorary ringing member of the Branch.
3. No person should ring for more than two teams, but in extreme cases this rule may be waived,
4. The competition shall be open to the following types of team:
5. A **band team** whose members usually ring together at the same tower or towers for Sunday services, and the team shall be chosen by the band in any way it thinks fit. One substitute member per **band team** shall be permitted regardless of how many teams the band enters.
6. A **Combined Team** whose members are from up to three bands of the same Branch. A combined team cannot use substitute members.
7. A **Youth Team** of young ringers from the branch, ie ringers under the age of 22 or still in fulltime education. One substitute branch member who is not a young ringer shall be permitted in a Youth Team.
8. An **Elementary Team** consisting mainly of inexperienced ringers who attend the Elementary Practices.

Ringing

1. The bells will be up.
2. Only the *test piece* will be judged and scored.
3. Open handstroke leads will be assumed unless otherwise stated beforehand.
4. The order of ringing of the teams shall be drawn at the start of the competition. If there is good reason (for example, ringing for a wedding) why a team needs to ring early or late in the order, the team shall request this before the day of the competition and the organiser (at his/her discretion) will attempt to satisfy the request.
5. All teams must be ready to ring when the draw takes place, except those teams that requested in advance to ring late in the order of ringing.
6. Two minutes practice shall be allowed to each team prior to the *test piece*. The steward shall notify the conductor when the two minutes are nearly up. The steward and conductor shall reach agreement on the signal and timing of the notification. The two minutes of ringing may be paused by the conductor (for example, to adjust rope length) and the steward shall ignore the duration of any such pauses.

7. The *test piece* shall be one of the following types:
 - a) *Method*; this shall consist of rounds for one minute; the steward shall notify the conductor when the minute is nearly up. The rounds shall be followed by 240 changes of any method of Doubles or Minor. Plain courses shall be acceptable. The *test piece* finishes immediately the team returns to rounds.
 - b) *Call Changes*; the *test piece* shall consist of ten minutes of call changes. At least 30 changes must be called and at least five different bells must lead. The steward shall notify the conductor when the ten minutes is nearly up. The team shall not be penalised if it does not return to rounds at the end of its ringing. Any team intending to ring call changes must notify the organiser at the time of entry.
 - c) *Rounds*; the *test piece* shall consist of ten minutes of rounds. The steward shall notify the conductor when the ten minutes is nearly up. Any team intending to ring rounds must notify the organiser at the time of entry.
8. Any duration of ringing defined in these rules may be a few seconds shorter or longer than the specified duration (for example, two whole pulls) without penalty to the team that is ringing.
9. Any team failing to obey any of the rules of team composition and ringing rules 5, 6, 7 and 8 above may be disqualified at the discretion of the organiser.
10. The competition will be judged on striking alone.
11. The judges' decisions on what constitutes a fault and the quality of striking will be final.

Stewards' duties

There shall be two stewards for the duration of the ringing, one to supervise entry of teams into the tower and the other to take charge in the ringing area.

Tower steward

The duties of the tower steward are:

1. Know the order of the teams taking part.
2. Marshall the next team near the tower, ready to compete.
3. Ensure that members of any previous team have left the tower before the next team enters.

Ringling steward

The duties of the ringling steward are:

1. Before each team starts, establish whether it intends to ring call changes or rounds only.
2. Know the rules of the competition and remind a team of the relevant ones if asked.
3. Time the two minutes practice session and notify the conductor with some seconds to go; the steward and conductor shall reach agreement on the signal and timing of the notification.
4. When the team is ready to start its *test piece*, get the treble to ring a handstroke and backstroke as a signal to the judges.
5. For a *Method* ringing team, time the one minute of opening rounds and notify the conductor with some seconds to go; the steward and conductor shall reach agreement on the signal and timing of the notification.
6. For a *Call Changes* or *Rounds only* team, time the ten minutes of the test piece and notify the conductor with some seconds to go; the steward and conductor shall reach agreement on the signal and timing of the notification.

General points

1. The tower band of the highest placed team will go forward to the next ODG 6-bell striking competition (rounds only is not permitted under ODG rules and nor are teams drawn from multiple tower bands).
2. Teams should notify their intention to enter at least a week in advance, together with numbers for tea. The organisers may at their discretion accept late entries (if they are unavoidable) up to and including the day of the competition.
3. The band of the host tower for the competition usually provides a tea (chargeable, to cover costs).

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