

KCACR Inter-District Six Bell Competition Rules

(Existing in black / proposed changes in red / removed rules struck-out)

1. The competition will be open to one band from one tower in each District.
2. The tower to represent a District shall normally be that winning their District striking competition. If no District striking competition is held, or if the winning tower is not able to compete in the County Competition, the District may nominate a tower to represent it.
3. The ringers taking part shall be Members of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers and regular Sunday service ringers at the tower they represent.
4. The test piece shall be 240 changes of Doubles or Minor in any method.
5. ~~Up to two minutes of trial ringing shall be allowed and the bells shall then be set before the test piece is rung.~~ Each practice and test piece shall be allocated a 20 minute slot. Practice should not start early and each band can use the time available as they see fit but the rounds for the test piece must be started before 10 minutes into the slot (i.e. for a slot starting at 3:00, the bells must be in rounds for the test piece before 3:10). Two whole pulls should be rung on the Treble and Two before commencing the rounds for the test piece.
6. Failure to abide by any of these time constraints will be penalised at the discretion of the judges.
67. A maximum of twenty whole pulls of rounds may be rung in the ~~competitive ringing~~ test piece before going into changes, and these rounds shall not be judged. ~~Any excess rounds at the start, the 240 and the rounds at the end will be judged.~~ Any excess rounds at the start and the test piece will be judged. Any rounds at the end are not judged but the bells must be stood within the time limit.
7. ~~If the test piece fires out, the band may decide to withdraw, but they may if they wish start again. In that event, the faults incurred in the first attempt will be added to any which occur in the second attempt.~~
8. ~~Two competent ringers, preferably not resident in Kent, shall be appointed as judges, and their decision is final.~~ There shall be two judges (competent ringers who are not Practising Members of the Association) whose decision in case of doubt will be final.
9. Any question of ~~or~~ doubt concerning the competition shall be settled by the Chairman of the Association or his appointed deputy.

KCACR Inter-District Eight Bell Competition Rules

(Existing in black / proposed changes in red / removed rules struck-out)

1. The competition will be open to one band from each District.
2. The ringers taking part shall be Practising Members of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers.
3. The test piece shall be determined each year by the General Committee at the November committee meeting preceding the competition.
4. ~~Up to two minutes of trial ringing shall be allowed and the bells shall then be set before the test piece is rung.~~ Each practice and test piece shall be allocated a 20 minute slot. Practice should not start early and each band can use the time available as they see fit but the rounds for the test piece must be started before 10 minutes into the slot (i.e. for a slot starting at 3:00, the bells must be in rounds for the test piece before 3:10). Two whole pulls should be rung on the Treble and Two before commencing the rounds for the test piece.
5. Failure to abide by any of these time constraints will be penalised at the discretion of the judges.
56. A maximum of twenty whole pulls of rounds may be rung in the test piece before going into changes and these rounds shall not be judged. Any excess rounds at the start and the test piece will be judged. Any rounds at the end are not judged but the bells must be stood within the time limit.
67. There shall be two judges (competent ringers who are not Practising Members of the Association) whose decision in case of doubt will be final.
8. Any question or doubt concerning the competition shall be settled by the Chairman of the Association or his appointed deputy.

KCACR Inter-District Ten Bell Competition Rules

(Existing in black / proposed changes in red / removed rules struck out)

1. The competition will be open to one band from each District.
2. The ringers taking part shall be Practising Members of the Kent County Association of Change Ringers.
3. The test piece shall be determined by the General Committee **at the November committee meeting preceding the competition.**
4. ~~The draw will be carried out at 2:30pm ready to commence ringing at 2:45pm.~~
5. Each practice and test piece shall be allocated a half hour slot ~~starting at a quarter to and a quarter past the hour.~~ **Practice should not start early and each band can use the time available as they see fit but the rounds for the test piece must be started before 15 minutes into the slot (i.e. for a slot starting at 3:00, the bells must be in rounds for the test piece before 3:15). Two whole pulls should be rung on the Treble and Two before commencing the rounds for the test piece.**
6. ~~Practice should not start early and each band can use the time available as they see fit but they must be in changes for the test piece by the hour or half hour. Two whole blows should be rung on the Treble and Two before commencing the rounds for the test piece. Failure to abide by any of these time constraints will be penalised at the discretion of the judges.~~
6. **A maximum of twenty whole pulls of rounds may be rung in the test piece before going into changes and these rounds shall not be judged. Any excess rounds at the start and the test piece will be judged. Any rounds at the end are not judged but the bells must be stood within the time limit.**
7. ~~The competition shall be judged by ringer(s) from outside of the County whose decision, in case of doubt, shall be final.~~ **There shall be two judges (competent ringers who are not Practising Members of the Association) whose decision in case of doubt will be final.**
8. **Any question or doubt concerning the competition shall be settled by the Chairman of the Association or his appointed deputy.**

Arguments for proposed rule changes

With regard to Rule 4 (Rule 5 for the 6 bell), I believe switching to a twenty (thirty for the 10 bell) minutes per band format, as used in some other competitions including the National Twelve Bell, would be beneficial for the following reasons:

- Twenty minutes per band gives a fixed length for the competition of two hours (or three hours for the 10 bell, assuming all Districts enter a band), which would help simplify organisation and catering.
- After the draw all the bands would know exactly when they were due to start and any lateness would eat into their practice time.
- The judges would have more time to organise their results and get refreshments in between test pieces.
- Two minutes of practice time is too short to be of any use – at the latest 8 bell competition at Chelsfield most bands barely rang a lead of Uxbridge in their practice. This applies equally to the 6 or 10 bell competitions and gives all bands the best chance to produce their best ringing.
- In recent years in the 8 bell competition there has been a trend for the home team to have a disproportionate advantage on their own bells. Twenty minute slots would give each band 5 to 10 minutes practice time to adjust ropes and get used to the bells and would therefore be fairer for everyone.

With regard to Rule 6 (Rule 7 for the 6 bell), I feel only the test piece should be judged (unless bands exceed 20 whole pulls at the beginning). Marking rounds at the end means that bands will be tempted to stand with the first blow of rounds so as not to incur unnecessary faults which always seems an unsatisfactory end to a piece of ringing.

The rest of the changes are aimed at standardising the rules for all the competitions with the best parts, in my opinion, being taken from the current rules of each of the competitions.