

10. Special Meetings:

A *“Special Meeting”* of the Guild membership may be called by:

- 1) The President;
- 2) At the request of a majority of Board Officers, or;
- 3) Upon petition by ten members of the Guild.

Notice of a special meeting shall include the reason for the special meeting, time, date, and joining instructions, and be conveyed to the membership at least fifteen (15) days prior to the meeting.

11. Competition Rules

a. Competition Rules for the Ontario Guild of Town Criers

Contents:

1. Entrance & Exit Judges Score Sheet
2. Clarity & Projection Judges Score Sheet
3. Call Content Judge Score Sheet
4. Penalty Judge Score Sheet
5. Judge’s Reminder Sheet
6. Scorer’s Tally Sheet
7. Competition Standings

b. Preface:

The Competition Rules were developed in 1993 to provide guidelines to successfully host competitions on behalf of the Ontario Guild of Town Criers. Further revisions were passed in 2004, 2005 and 2021.

To maintain standards, these rules are developed for the OGTC Provincial Championship and

other Guild sanctioned competitions to provide a standard framework for the competitors, judges, scorers and organizers.

c. Order of Criers Competing:

The order of Criers shall be determined by a draw using one of the following methods:

- 1) Names of the competing Criers are printed on separate sheets and drawn by a neutral party.

- 2) Names of the competing Criers are printed on separate pieces of paper. Numbers corresponding to the number of Criers, are printed on separate pieces of paper. One name and one number are randomly drawn one or two neutral parties, and matched. This procedure is repeated until all the names and all the numbers have been selected to determine the Criers' positions.

- 3) Separate draws shall be made for each cry within the competition.

- 4) Each winner must have competed in all cries within the competition.

- 5) Each Competitor must be prepared to cry when they are called. After three requests at ten second intervals, with no response, the Crier is disqualified. A penalty of two marks shall be deducted after each announcement of the Crier.

- 6) The deduction of these points shall be the responsibility of the Penalty Judge.

d. Officiating

- 1) Any dispute while interpreting the rules shall be adjudicated by the Host Crier as final.

- 2) The Host Crier shall ensure adequate training and instructions are provided to the Judges verifying their knowledge of the Rules.

- 3) There shall be one Judges for each score sheet.

- 4) A scorer shall be appointed to tabulate all Judges marks in an appropriate method.

e. Judging

- 1) Judges shall not confer with one another while marking.
- 2) The Scorer shall sit apart and not communicate with the Judges, except for the purpose of clarification, or in the event of discussing a tie score. Only winners will be divulged to the Host Crier for awards.
- 3) If there is a tie score, the Host Crier shall make a decision to either ask the judges to adjust their scores or present double winners as required.
- 4) All ties shall be kept confidential.
- 5) All winners' marks must be verified by the Scorer prior to awards.
- 6) Judges shall be advised in advance, of the subject or theme of each cry.
- 7) Judges should be selected on the basis of their ability to perform their duties and learn the skills required for each section assigned to be judged and they should be proficient, enthusiastic volunteers.
- 8) A non-competing Crier shall be appointed to present a bench mark cry to commence each of the cry topics, thus permitting the judges to set a standard mark for themselves.
- 9) Judges shall be instructed to leave leeway above and below the Bench-mark scores to permit reasonable adjustments of marks for the various criers' abilities.
- 10) Each Judge shall have one score sheet per Crier per cry. Upon judges' completion of marking, a runner shall collect the score sheets and bring them to the Scorer.
- 11) A bell, or article left on stage by a Crier, shall be removed immediately upon completion of the cry and the erring Crier shall be penalized two marks by the Penalty Judge.
- 12) One mark, to a maximum of ten, shall be deducted by the Penalty Judge for each time the Crier's voices cracks.
- 13) Awards are generally presented to the three top scoring criers, but awards may be given also for themed ideas such as:
 - a) Most Humorous Cry
 - b) Best dressed Crier/Escort/Couple
 - c) Best Ambassador
- 14) Any appeals by a Crier shall be directed to the Host Crier, who, in consultation with the Judges, shall make a final decision.

f. Marks Assigned for Judging Criteria

The four areas of Judging with the total marks are as follows:

Topic	Total Marks
1) Entrance & Exit	20
2) Clarity and Projection	25
3) Call Content	35
4) Penalties	20

g. Particulars of Each Cry

- 1) The length of a cry shall be from one-hundred words minimum to one-hundred and twenty-five words maximum.
- 2) The number of words shall be counted from the first oral sound to the last oral sound.
- 3) For the purpose of Word Counts, the year shall be counted as one word as listed below:

e.g.	1993	- Nineteen Ninety Three	1 word
	1,993	- One Thousand Nine Hundred And Ninety Three	1 word
	\$700,000	- Seven hundred thousand dollars.	2 words
	George III	- George the Third - Roman numerals count as one	2 words
	Municipality or historic group the crier represents		1 word
	The Town of Happy Valley		4 words
	The Town of The Blue Waves		4 words
	The Village of Green Hills and Golden Vales		4 words
	Proper names count as individual words.		
e.g.	His Worship Mayor Bill Green		5 words
	Mayor Helen Brown		3 words
	Arthur Redenbacher		2 words
	Hyphenated words (six-pack or)		1 word
	Any individual oral sound or grunt, etc.		1 word
	Abbreviated words "CTV" or "PEI"		1 word

h. Submission of Cries

- 1) All cries shall be submitted on time in a manner determined by the Host Crier.
- 2) One mark, to a maximum of ten, shall be deducted for each word that violates the word limits.
- 3) One mark to a maximum of ten, shall be deducted for each word deviating from provided cry.

i. General Rules

- 1) Competing Criers must have current dues paid prior to the OGTC Provincial Competition.
- 2) Introduction of Criers must include names and town/organization they represent.
- 3) A host crier may provide additional information but must not mention of previous crying awards.
- 4) Assistants to the Crier (Escort, Page, Apprentice, bird, animal, etc.) may be limited to a specific area to stand while the Crier performs.
- 5) Any assistance may be provided as permitted by Human Rights for special needs, including Federal and/or Provincial laws and guidelines and for safety reasons are permitted.
E.g., Service dogs, wheelchairs, etc.
- 6) No marks will be deducted by the Judge for Entrance & Exit, if a Crier has special needs.
- 7) A stand shall be on stage for the convenience of both left and right-handed Criers if required.
- 8) The Judges shall be located at a suitable distance from the criers to permit proper vision and hearing.
- 9) Criers shall be in the assigned position by the start of the preceding crier's cry.
- 10) Criers shall not wear paraphernalia that may be inappropriate or influence judging.
- 11) In the case of a disruption during the cry, the crier may choose to do one of the following without penalty:
 1. Continue crying.
 2. Stop and wait until the disruption ceases and then resume.
 3. Commence the cry again without leaving the stage for re-entry.
- 12) Competition for Loudest Cry should be judged by the use of an electronic decibel level device.

- 13) Any attempt to encourage/or use audience participation will result in a disqualified cry, unless specifically permitted by the host crier.

j. Additional Comments for Judging & Competitions

- 1) Each crier will have his/her own unique way of approaching and exiting the stage; use of their attention getting device, whether they ring it a lot or a little, on their way to the stage or from the stage; or in the delivery of their cry, whether they say Oyez or not, or God save the Queen.

There is no “*correct*” or “*wrong*” way left for Judges to determine its appropriateness for marks.

- 2) The judge should interpret how effective the crier is, while getting the attention of the audience.
- 3) Criers are always trying to improve themselves. Therefore, it is appreciated and expected Judges make helpful comments on the score sheets.
- 4) The host crier shall allow Judges sufficient time to complete each score sheet.
- 5) Although Judges vary in their scoring techniques, it is important to be consistent in scoring.
- 6) The Crier’s escort is not to be judged as part of the crier’s performance.

k. Judging Guidelines

i. Entrance & Exit

Attention Getting Device:

The Attention Getting Device, whether a bell, drum, horn, gong or any other device, is the first notification to the audience that a Crier has a message.

Marks should be assigned according to the following criteria:

1. Effectiveness of attention getting device to attract attention.
2. Suitability for the occasion – e.g. A small dinner bell may not be appropriate out-doors.
3. Originality of style and/or device - A bell handled in an unusual manner, or an unusual device.
4. Appropriateness of the device to Crier – Is the device unwieldy, awkward or inappropriate.
5. The ability to use the device - Is bell rung effectively, or can the Crier blow a horn properly.

Deportment:

The judging of deportment begins when the Crier is introduced and ends when the Crier has left the stage.

The following criteria should be considered when marking:

1. Confidence – Is the Crier's presence positive and self-assured.
2. Appearance – Is Crier wearing an ill-fitting uniform or ill-suited clothing.
3. Appropriate movement – Appropriate to Crier's uniform – move in a military manner, etc.
4. Overall image - Even when using the above criteria, deportment is largely subjective and judgmental. The feeling that the Judge senses from the beginning to the end of the cry should weigh heavily.

ii. Clarity & Projection

Clarity:

To have the Cry understood, the content must be heard clearly. The following criteria should be taken into account:

1. Enunciation – Is Crier slurring words, or excessive voice affectations, is it difficult to understand.
2. Diction and Phrasing - Are pauses or breaths helping to provide a flow of the cry.
3. Loss of Voice or Hoarseness - A Crier must sustain clarity without signs of strain.
4. One mark, to a max. of ten, shall be deducted by the Penalty Judge each time the Crier's voice cracks.

Sustained Volume:

Although the "Oyez's" may be louder than the body of the cry, the Crier must be heard throughout the cry. Consistency of a sustained volume must be maintained, except where fluctuations have been purposely used for emphasis or style.

iii Call Content:

The message is the most important part of the cry. The following criteria should be helpful:

1. Adherence to required subject - The Crier should not digress from the assigned theme of the cry.
2. Effective use of appropriate language - Unless otherwise justified by the content, the language should remain consistent and appropriate to the historical period depicted.
3. Continuity and flow - The cry should flow smoothly and logically.
4. Overall literary effectiveness - The Crier may be given marks for effectively using literary and oratorical devices to arouse the listener's interest in the message.
5. Comprehension - The meaning of a cry that is disjointed or is grammatically incorrect, may be lost. The point of the message must be understood and should be marked accordingly.

iv. Penalties – Summarized and Other items not mentioned previously:

Note: Full Marks (20) Will Be Scored For The Cry Unless Any of the Following Occur:

1. Voice crack – 1 mark for each crack.

One mark, to a maximum of ten, shall be deducted for each time the Crier's voice cracks.

The deduction of these marks shall be the responsibility of the Penalty Judge.

2. Deviation from script of cry – 1 mark for each offence.

One mark to a maximum of ten, shall be deducted for each word that deviates from the submitted script. The deduction of these marks shall be the responsibility of the Penalty Judge

3. Deviation of set word limit – 1 mark per word to a maximum of 10. The deduction of these marks shall be the responsibility of the Penalty Judge/Cry Auditor.

4. Failure to be at designated starting point when name called – 10 marks. The deduction of these marks shall be the responsibility of the Penalty Judge.

5. Articles Left on Stage Area – 2 marks

A bell, or any other article left on stage by a Crier, shall be removed immediately upon completion of the cry. The erring Crier shall be penalised two marks for that cry. The deduction of these marks shall be the responsibility of the Penalty Judge.

6. Use of, or encouragement of, audience participation will result in a disqualified cry.

v. Suggestions and Recommendations:

1) Escorts should be recognized/acknowledged, especially in major competitions, for their contributions, such as dress, participation and public relations. Another option is to present a gift to all participating escorts.

2) Organizers should attempt to eliminate stairs, or if stairs are necessary, to provide handrails. Ramps, low stages, graduated risers and curtained waiting areas are other possible solutions to the stair problem.

3) Organizers should attempt to eliminate obstacles above Criers' heads.

4) Water and cups should be available to Criers prior to each cry.

5) The order of Criers competing for each cry should be posted and distributed to each crier.

6) Host Crier should provide the names and titles of dignitaries who are anticipated to be present.

7) Tables, chairs, clipboards, water, pens, etc. should be provided for Judges and Scorers in a shaded area.

8) An Assistant is useful to the Host Crier for such items as retrieving articles left on stage, stage set-up, adequate water facilities, posting of lists, etc.

9) Where possible, sufficient time and distance should be given to the Crier, so that the Judge may better judge deportment.

vi. List of Judging Sheets:

1. Judge's Score Sheet for Entrance and Exit

To be used by Judge to record scores given to each competitor, transported to Scorers for recording.

2. Judge's Score Sheet for Clarity and Projection

To be used by Judge to record scores given to each competitor, transported to Scorers for recording.

3. Judge's Score Sheet for Call Content

To be used by Judge to record scores given to each competitor, transported to Scorers for recording.

4. Judge's Score Sheet for Penalties To be used by Judge to record scores given to each competitor, transported to Scorers for recording.

5. Judges' Reminder Sheet

For use by Judge to keep track of marks given to each competitor.

6. Scorer's Tally Sheet

Scorer to keep track of competitors' marks and totals for each Cry.

vii. Use of Props: Guidelines for Sanctioned Events

Table of Contents

1. Preamble
2. Attention Seeking Devices
3. Items Not Considered Attention Seeking Devices
4. Definition of Prop
5. What Are Considered Props
6. Exceptions
7. Penalties
8. Exemptions

1. Preamble

The use of props in an Ontario Guild of Town Crier sanctioned competition is generally discouraged and in most cases is prohibited, unless otherwise directed by the Host Crier, and announced to all Criers prior to the competition.

2. Attention Seeking Devices

An attention-seeking device shall be considered to include, but not be limited to, the following:

- a. Bell
- b. Horn
- c. Gun
- d. Drum
- e. Cymbal or Gong
- f. Chimes
- g. Triangle and Striking Instrument
- h. Pot or Pan and Striking Instrument
- i. Any portable device that produces sound and/or the audience attention

3. Other Devices Permitted (Other Than Props)

Non attention seeking devices when an accessory and adorning to the Crier's uniform shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- i. Swords
- ii. Hat Feathers
- iii. Scrolls, Pamphlets or Books from which the text is read
- iv. Memorandum books, Paper, Note Pads
- v. Electronic devices from which the text is read
- vi. Gloves
- vii. Monocles
- viii. Eyeglasses as required by prescription or for reading
- ix. Pouches
- x. Sheaths
- xi. Other utility holders or belts

The purpose of this rule is to allow Criers who, by nature of their uniform, are required to replace items on their person or need to be able to read their scroll.

Since scrolls are not necessarily or always time appropriate, other items from which to read should be accepted.

4. Definition of a Prop

A prop, theatrically, is defined as stage, theatre or tangible object that is touched or referred to by a performer. This may also be smaller portable or rigid objects as opposed to larger “set designs. Anything that is not considered an attention seeking device, used over and above that which is considered part of a Crier’s uniform, should be considered a prop.

5. What Constitutes a Prop

A prop shall be considered anything not outlined in section three and four above and shall also include the following:

- i. Electronic devices (from which the cry is not read)
- ii. Published books (from which the cry is not read)
- iii. Magazines, newspapers, or pamphlets (from which the cry is not read)
- iv. Packages, parcels or bags
- v. Vendor products
- vi. Live animals
- vii. Puppets, Mannequins or marionettes
- viii. Other battery or electrically run items (which are not part of the uniform)
- ix. Jars, bottles, plastic containers or ceramics
- x. Caricatures, time inappropriate crests, cartoons or logos
- xi. Hidden items that could be used during cries
- xii. Chairs, benches, stools or similar item
- xiii. Any magnifying device
- xiv. Tinted or clear eyewear except as required
- xv. Propellers
- xvi. Extraordinarily long scrolls

The purpose of this rule is to not allow phones, computers, breakable items, fans, lights, magnifying glasses or anything that will detract from the Crier or uniform.

6. Exceptions

Notwithstanding the above, the following exceptions should be allowed.

1. Wheelchairs or similar item for the chronically disabled Crier
2. Large print scrolls for the visually challenged
3. Seeing eye dogs for the visually impaired
4. Cochlear implants and/or hearing aids or speech altering devices to assist the speech impaired
5. Criers
6. Medical items designed to assist with a Crier's diagnosed disability
7. Other eyewear not listed above
8. Cries written in Braille

These exceptions enable any Town Crier in good standing to participate as an equal.

7. Penalties

As a penalty for violating these rules, the Crier should have a deduction of two points per violation from their score to a maximum of six points.

In case a dispute should arise, the decision of the hosting Crier shall be final.

8. Exemptions

The hosting Crier may request from permission from the Guild's Board of Directors to be exempt from this policy. Exemption will be granted only if all Criers attending the event are aware of the exemption being granted and the purpose for which it has been granted. A suitable exemption would be for the purposes of a "promotional cry" in which an item from a business or group being promoted could be incorporated into the cry at the Crier's discretion.

If a Crier is in doubt as to what may or may not be a prop, it is suggested that the Crier speak to the host

Crier who shall make the final decision. The host Crier may consult with the judges but may not consult with other competing Criers.

The Crier would be told as soon as that decision has been made.



#1. "Entrance and Exit"

(Judge's Score Sheet)

Cry #: _____

Competition Name: _____

Date: _____, ____, 202__

Competitor's Name: _____

Judging Criteria: - Entrance and Exit

1) Attention Getting Device: *(Bell, drum, talking stick, etc.)*

1. Effective use
2. Suitability of device for occasion.
3. Originality of use.
4. Appropriateness of device to crier.
5. Ability to use device.

2) Confidence of crier:

3) Appearance: *(neat /unkempt)*

4) Appropriate movements: *(Walk, march, gestures)*

5) Image of presentation:

Maximum Score: 20

Judge's Score: _____

Judge's Comments: *(Congrats/suggestions/concerns)*

Judge's Signature: _____

Notes:

- 1) Judge to sign sheet & give to scorer prior to next competitor's introduction.
- 2) Set marks adjusted up or down from the "Benchmark Cry"



#2. "Clarity & Projection"

(Judge's Score Sheet)

Cry #: _____

Competition Name: _____

Date: _____, ____, 202__

Competitor's Name: _____

Judging Criteria: - Clarity & Projection

- 1) **Enunciation:** *(clear, properly pronounced)*
- 2) **Diction and Phrasing:** *(vocabulary, phraseology)*
- 3) **Loss of Voice / Hoarseness:**
- 4) **Sustained Volume:** *(maintains volume from start to finish unless for special effects)*
- 5) **Volume:** *(suitable to hear by audience)*

Maximum Score: 25

Judge's Score: _____

Judge's Comments: *(Congrats/suggestions/concerns)*

Judge's Signature: _____

Notes:

- 1) Judge to sign sheet & give to scorer prior to next competitor's introduction.
- 2) Set marks adjusted up or down from the "Benchmark Cry"



#3).. **"Cry Content"**
(Judge's Score Sheet)

Cry #: _____

Competition Name: _____

Date: _____, 202__

Competitor's Name: _____

Judging Criteria: - Cry Content

- 1) Adherence to the assigned topic/subject:
- 2) Effective use of appropriate language:
- 3) Continuity of the subject and flow of cry:
- 4) Overall literary effectiveness
- 5) Comprehension of subject

Maximum Score: 35

Judge's Score: _____

Judge's Comments: (Congrats/suggestions/concerns)

Judge's Signature: _____

Notes:

- 1) Judge to sign sheet & give to scorer prior to next competitor's introduction.
- 2) Set marks adjusted up or down from the "Benchmark Cry"



#4. "Penalties"

(Judge's Score Sheet)

Cry #: _____

Competition Name: _____

Date: _____, ____, 202__

in

Maximum Penalties: 20

Judge's Score: _____

Judge's Comments: *(Congrats/suggestions/concerns)*

Judge's Signature: _____

Notes:

- 1) Judge to sign sheet & give to scorer prior to next competitor's introduction.
- 2) Set marks adjusted up or down from the "Benchmark Cry"



#5. "Most Humorous"

(Judge's Score Sheet)

Competition Name: _____

Date: _____, ____, 202__

Judging Criteria: - Most Humorous Cry

1) This is strictly the judge's sole decision... using his/her own funny bone as a guide!
Please provide the host crier with the name of one winner only.
This score sheet is for judge's convenience only. Scores are not tabulated nor distributed.

	Crier	Score	Score	Score
		Cry #1	Cry #2	Cry #3
1)				
2)				
3)				
4)				
5)				
6)				
7)				
8)				
9)				
10)				
11)				
12)				
13)				
14)				
15)				

FINAL WINNER IS: _____

Judge's Signature: _____

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#6. "Best Ambassador/Escort/Couple"

(Judge's Score Sheet)

Competition Name: _____

Date: _____, ____, 202__

Judging Criteria: - Best Ambassador or Escort or Couple (As announced by host)

1. Dress 2. Demeanour 3. Support to the Crier 4. Interaction with audience

1) This is strictly the judge's sole decision... using his/her own opinion!

Please provide the host crier with the name of one winner only.

This score sheet is for judge's convenience only. Scores are not tabulated nor distributed.

	Crier	Escort	Score
1)			
2)			
3)			
4)			
5)			
6)			
7)			
8)			
9)			
10)			
11)			
12)			

FINAL WINNER for Best _____ is: _____

Judge's Signature: _____



7. List of Attendees Cries & Bio Received

Competition Name: _____

Date: _____, ___, 202__

	Crier	Escort	Town/City	Received Cry #1	Received Cry #2	Received Cry #3	Received BIO
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							
9.							
10.							
11.							
12.							
13.							
14.							
15.							
16.							
17.							
18.							
19.							
20.							



Judges' Assignments

Competition Name: _____

Date: _____, ___, 202__

	Judges	Cry #1	Cry #2	Cry #3
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.		Best Ambassador	Best Escort	Best Couple
10.		Score	Score	Score

Awards:

- 1) 1st Place
- 2) 2nd Place
- 3) 3rd Place
- 4) Best Ambassador or Best Escort or Best Couple
- 5) Most Humorous

Direction to Judges



Competition Name: _____

To ensure fair, consistent and organized judging for this Town Crier competition, please read the following directions for judges.

1. Each Crier's name has been drawn prior to the competition for order of cries.
2. A "*Benchmark Cry*" shall be given as an example to set your scoring.
Leave sufficient room to adjust marks above or below your benchmark score.
3. The example of the Benchmark Crier for "*Entering and Existing*" must be adhered to by all competitors.
4. Each judge shall complete one judging sheet per crier.
5. Assign a mark as determined by the criteria for your judging category.
6. Sign as the officiating judge
7. Once sheet is completed with mark and any comment(s) turn in immediately.
8. Do not:
 - a. Deduct points unless there is a specific section for doing so.
9. Ask if any concerns interpreting rules/ marking sheets prior to commencement.
10. The host crier may add or ignore certain criteria for a competition. It will be announced if any changes from the regular rules will be permitted.
11. All cries must be between 100 words minimum & 125 words maximum.
12. Combination of words that are counted as one word only are:
 - a. Numbers e.g. (2019) - Two Thousand and Twenty-One (one word)
 - b. Official names of communities - e.g., "*District of Muskoka*" (one word)
 - c. Unofficial names of communities - "*Magnificent Muskoka*" (two words)
 - d. Proper names or titles - Queen Elizabeth II or Mr. Bo Beep (one word)
13. "*Attention Getting Device*" does not necessarily have to make noise but must properly gain attention of the crowd.
14. Encouraging audience participation is not allowed unless permitted by the host crier.
15. Judges may not deduct or add any points, if not specifically permitted in rules.

Order of Cries



Name of Competition _____

As drawn by: _____ & _____ on _____, 202__

	Crier	Cry #1	Cry #2	Cry #3	Humour	Best Escort
1)						
2)						
3)						
4)						
5)						
6)						
7)						
8)						
9)						
10)						
11)						
12)						
13)						
14)						
15)						
16)						
17)						
18)						
19)						
20)						



Format for Cry Submission

Date: _____, 202__

Crier's Name:

Representing:

Cry Topic: _____

Cry # _____

Cry:

Word Count: _____



Crier's Bio

Competition Name:

Date:

Crier's Name: *

Representing / Town Crier of: *

Escort's Name: *

Address: *

Telephone: *

Email: *

Bio: (100 words) *