

**19th International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition  
Warsaw, 2–23 October 2025  
Rules of the Competition Jury**

**I**

The Jury acts on the basis of the Competition Rules and the present Rules of the Competition Jury.

**II**

The Jury members are appointed and dismissed by the Competition Director. A Jury member can be dismissed in particular in the event of a violation of the Competition Rules or the present Rules of the Competition Jury.

**III**

The task of the Jury is to award prizes and distinctions to the best participants in the Competition and to take decisions in other cases covered by the Competition Rules and the present Rules of the Competition Jury.

**IV**

1. The Chair of the Jury is appointed and dismissed by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage on the recommendation of the Competition Director.
2. The duties of the Chair include directing the work of the Jury and representing the Jury.
3. At their first meeting, the Jury members will elect from among their number a Vice-Chair of the Jury.
4. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall assume their duties and responsibilities.

**V**

Unless otherwise stated in the Competition Rules or the present Rules of the Competition Jury, the Jury shall take decisions by open vote with a simple majority. The presence of at least half of the Jury members is required. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall have the deciding vote.

**VI**

1. The Competition Director appoints the Secretary of the Jury, who is not a member of the Jury.
2. The Secretary of the Jury is tasked with coordinating the organisational and technical aspects of the evaluation process and documenting the Jury's proceedings.

## **VII**

1. The Jury members shall refrain from any contact with active participants during the Competition.
2. Until the conclusion of the Competition, members of the Jury shall refrain from disclosing their assessments of participants or the results of each round.

## **VIII**

1. The deliberations of the Jury are confidential and minuted. They may be attended by the Director of the Competition, the Secretary of the Jury and persons authorised by the Director of the Competition.
2. The scores awarded by the Jurors shall remain confidential until the conclusion of the entire Competition.

## **IX**

1. It is the duty of the Jury members to listen to and evaluate every participant of the Competition and to attend the Jury meetings
2. In exceptional cases, the Competition Director may excuse the absence of a Jury member.

## **X**

1. For the purposes of establishing the order in which the Competition participants are to perform, they will be arranged in alphabetical order based on the first letter of their surname. The following letters of the Latin alphabet are used: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z. Letters with diacritical marks are considered variants of the corresponding Latin letters.
2. The Competition participants will perform, in principle, in alphabetical order, which may be modified by the Competition Organiser to reduce the movement of pianos on the stage or in the event of unforeseen circumstances affecting the Competition participants.
3. The participants' performances in round one shall begin with the participant whose surname starts with the letter drawn by lot.
4. Performances in subsequent rounds will begin with the letter shifted by 6 positions for each round. For example, if the performances in the first round start with the letter G, then in the second round the performances will begin with the letter M, in the third round with the letter S, and in the fourth round with the letter Y.

## **XI**

1. The task of each Jury member is to assess the interpretative skills of each participant in the Competition.
2. Each Jury member is obliged to assess the Competition participants impartially, in accordance with international standards for evaluating piano performance, and in particular with regard to the unique stylistic characteristics of Fryderyk Chopin's works.
3. A Jury member must not influence the assessment of Competition participants by other Jury members.

## **XII**

1. At the first meeting of the Jury, each member of the Jury shall declare whether any pianists among the Competition participants meet the criteria for a 'student' as defined in point 2 below, and – if so — shall indicate their names.
2. The term 'student' is understood to mean a participant in the Competition who:
  - is currently studying with a member of the Jury, either at school or privately, or
  - has been a regular student of a member of the Jury, either at school or privately, for a period exceeding half a year since the conclusion of the 18th edition of the Competition in 2021, or
  - has a relationship with a member of the Jury that could make a fully impartial evaluation of that participant difficult.
3. The term 'student' does not include occasional contact in the context of masterclasses, including those conducted online.
4. A discrepancy between a member of the Jury's declaration and the actual facts constitutes a violation of the present Rules of the Competition Jury.

## **XIII**

1. The evaluation of Competition participants' performances in each round of the Competition involves the assessment of each performance by each Jury member on a scoresheet using whole numbers on a scale from 1 to 25, with 1 being the lowest and 25 the highest. Guidelines for awarding scores in this range are provided in Appendix 1 to these Rules.
2. Each score awarded by a Jury member applies solely to a Competition participant's performance in that specific round.
3. Jury members shall not evaluate their 'students'. They shall enter an 'S' on their scoresheet next to the name of any of their 'students'.
4. The members of the Jury shall submit their completed scoresheets to the Secretary of the Jury:
  - a) in the case of round one – after its completion,
  - b) in the case of the other rounds - after the end of each audition session.
5. The scoresheets are signed and any amendments are initialled by the member of the Jury.
6. An average score will be calculated for each Competition participant. The average score referred to in these Rules will be determined by dividing the sum of the points awarded by the number of Jury members evaluating the participant (reduced accordingly in the case of an 'S'), rounded to two decimal places, after applying the correction procedure described below in point 7 of this paragraph.
7. If a score awarded by any member of the Jury deviates from the arithmetic mean of all the scores obtained by a given Competition participant in a given round by more than:
  - a) 3 points in round one
  - b) 2 points in rounds two and three and in the final,that score will be adjusted to the nearest boundary value<sup>1</sup> – for example, if the average of all marks awarded to a participant in Round one is 14.35, then scores of 18 and above will be

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<sup>1</sup> A boundary value is the arithmetic mean of all the scores obtained by a Competition participant raised or lowered by 2 or 3 points, depending on the round of the Competition.

adjusted to 17.35 ( $14.35 + 3$ ), and scores of 11 and below will be adjusted to 11.35 ( $14.35 - 3$ ). Scores between 12 and 17 will remain unchanged.

#### XIV

1. The score of a Competition participant on the completion of a given round is the average of the scores given by the Jury members in that round, after the application of the correction procedure described in paragraph XIII, point 7, accumulated<sup>2</sup> from the given Competition participant's scores from the previous rounds, taking account of the weightings specified in Appendix 1 to these Rules.
2. On completion of each of the three rounds and following the necessary calculations, the Secretary of the Jury shall present the members of the Jury with the scores of the Competition participants after the given round, arranged in order from highest to lowest – without the participants' names. On this basis, and following any discussion, the Jury shall decide on the number of Competition participants with the highest scores to be advanced to the next round.
3. In principle, no more than 40 participants shall be admitted to round two, no more than 20 participants to round three, and no more than 10 participants to the final.
4. The names of the Competition participants advanced to the next round will be disclosed by the Secretary of the Jury, including to the members of the Jury, in alphabetical order only, without the arithmetic means referred to above, which shall remain confidential until the conclusion of the Competition.
5. After round three, if at least two-thirds of the Jury members so request prior to making a decision on qualification for the final, the names and arithmetic means of the four participants on the threshold of the ranking list – those placed 9th to 12th – may be disclosed to the Jury. Qualification for the final requires the approval of two-thirds of the Jury members.
6. After the final performances, the Secretary of the Jury shall present to the Jury the scores of the Competition participants ordered from the highest to the lowest, together with the names of the finalists. On this basis, after any discussion, the Chair of the Jury will propose a verdict determining the award of the main prizes and submit it to a vote. The verdict will be valid if it is approved by at least two-thirds of the members of the Jury.
7. Subsequent to a motion from any one of the Jury members, the Jury shall have the right – by a majority of at least two-thirds of its members – to change the position of the Competition participants in the final ranking, with the proviso that the final position of each participant shall not differ from the position resulting from the cumulative results referred to in point 6 above by more than one place. Any change in the position of a participant by two places requires the acceptance of at least three-quarters of the Jury members.
8. The Jury shall have the right – by a majority of at least two-thirds of the Jury members – to change the number and distribution of prizes provided for in § XV of the Competition Rules, with the proviso that the overall sum allocated to the main prizes and distinctions can only be increased with the consent of the Director of the Competition.

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<sup>2</sup> The process of cumulation involves summing up the scores for a given round and earlier rounds in proportions corresponding to the weightings of given rounds.

#### **XV**

- 1) For each of the special prizes specified in § XV (3) of the Competition Rules, each member of the Jury shall submit a list of three Competition participants, with the first receiving 3 points, the second 2 points, and the third 1 point.
- 2) In relation to the list mentioned in point 1 above, the following principles apply:
  - a) all Competition participants may be put forward, including those who have not advanced to the final.
  - b) each member of the Jury may vote for any participant; in this case, restrictions related to the 'student' status do not apply.
- 3) The special prize shall be awarded to the Competition participant who obtains the highest number of points, provided that the number of points is at least twice the number of members of the Jury voting (for example, 34 points in the case of 17 Jury members).
- 4) If none of the participants receives the required number of points or two participants are tied with the most points, the Chair of the Jury shall conduct a vote to select the winner out of the two participants who received the highest number of points. The special prize shall be awarded to the Competition participant indicated by an absolute majority of the Jury members (more votes for than votes against and abstentions). If none of the Competition participants receives an absolute majority of the Jury votes, the special prize shall not be awarded.

#### **XVI**

The decisions of the Jury are final and not subject to appeal.

#### **XVII**

Issues that cannot be resolved on the basis of the present Rules shall be subject to discussion and an open vote by the members of the Jury. Any solution adopted shall be subject to approval by the Director of the Competition.

#### **XVIII**

The Rules of the Competition Jury have been drawn up in both Polish and English. In the event of any doubts or discrepancies, the Polish version shall prevail as the sole authentic text.

## **Appendixes**

### **Appendix 1. Rating scale**

Members of the Jury should use the full scale of 1 to 25 points to evaluate the participants and adopt the following rating categories:

- a) a rating of 25: Perfect
- b) a rating of 23–24: Exceptional
- c) a rating of 18–22: Very good
- d) a rating of 16–17: Good
- e) a rating of 12–15: Average
- f) a rating of 6–11: Below average
- g) a rating of 1–5: Poor

### **Appendix 2. Weightings and Principles Governing the Cumulation of Scores**

When calculating cumulative scores for round two, the individual rounds have the following weightings:

Round one – 30%

Round two – 70%

When calculating cumulative scores for qualifying for the final, the individual rounds have the following weightings:

Round one – 10%

Round two – 20%

Round three – 70%

When calculating cumulative final scores, the individual rounds have the following weightings:

Round one – 10%

Round two – 20%

Round three – 35%

Final – 35%