

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE 2025/26

The Jack Petchey Glee Club Challenge is a singing, performance and dancing education project and competition. At all stages of the competition, entrants will be judged by a panel of judges selected by The Jack Petchey Foundation. The Jack Petchey Foundation is completely neutral in this and our overriding concern is to provide the young people with the best performance and educational experience possible.

At all stages of the competition the judges' decision will be final and no correspondence, appeals or negotiation will be entered into.

The Jack Petchey Glee Club Challenge is open to all schools, organisations and groups based within any London Borough and the county of Essex.

Groups may choose to enter **ANY ONE** of the semi-finals and **ANY ONE** of the semi-final Bootcamps. Participation in both is compulsory. When completing your entry form you will be asked to name your first and second choice Semi-Final/Bootcamp – we will do our best to meet your first choice requirements but cannot guarantee this.

NOTE: If your school/group is unable to attend a semi-final Bootcamp, we will arrange for one of our Artistic Team to visit you for a workshop alternative.

Once groups have selected a Semi-Final/Bootcamp, and this has been confirmed, that cannot be changed.

Your group must consist of no fewer than 10 and no more than 35 members.

Every member of your group must be between the ages of 11 and 25 on 1st of September 2025. Proof of age may be required.

Your group's regular meeting and rehearsal space must be located in London or Essex.

Getting your School/Group involved:

To get your school or group involved, please complete the online application form <https://www.gleeclubchallenge.org/how-to-enter>

The organisers will acknowledge receipt of all applications within 72 hours of receipt so please contact us if you have not heard within that time.

Once your application has been processed:

When we've received your application form, we will select up to 12 groups for each of the Semi-Finals. As spaces are limited, early application is recommended.

All groups selected for the Semi-Finals will be encouraged to attend a Glee Club 'Boot Camp'. At the Semi-Finals groups will perform two **contrasting** numbers – those numbers should be in a reasonable performance state to be presented to the artistic team at Bootcamp. On this day you will get to meet and work with a professional choreographer, performance and singing coach. You will also get to perform your chosen numbers for the final and receive tips and coaching to improve your performances.

If your school/group is unable to attend a semi-final Bootcamp, we will arrange for one of our Artistic Team to visit you for a workshop alternative.

[Dates and locations for all the Bootcamps and the Semi-Finals can be found here.](#)
[You can indicate your preferred bootcamp date and your preferred Semi-Final date in your application. We will do our best to accommodate your request.](#)

There will be four Semi-Finals in London and Essex. Groups must ensure that they are available to attend a Semi-Final date prior to application.

Groups will be expected to perform 2 contrasting numbers at the Semi-Finals (one in Act One and the other in Act Two of the show).

Progression:

The top scoring groups from each of the Semi-Finals will go through to the Grand Final.

In the event of a tie at a Semi-Final for the top qualifying places the group that has received the highest marks from the Chief Judge will be selected.

Once the Grand Finalists have been announced a second 'Bootcamp' will be held for Grand Finalists. This 'Bootcamp' is compulsory.

The Grand Final venue and date are detailed on the Challenge website.

Groups will be expected to perform 2 numbers at the Grand Final. They can repeat their original final numbers or they can perform different numbers. Groups can choose their own numbers to perform, although the final decision rests with the organisers.

At the Grand Final the winners of The Jack Petchey Glee Club Challenge will be announced.

Any cash prize offered will be in the form of a purchase of either services or equipment for the winning groups by The Jack Petchey Foundation.

The Jack Petchey Glee Club Challenge Programme Director will arrange for up to 2 tickets to be made available, free of charge, for family members of young participants who are in receipt of free school meals.

Technical considerations:

Music backing tracks must be sent to us well in advance of the shows. Backing tracks must *not* include any vocals.

At the Semi-Finals each group will have access to a maximum of EIGHT head-set wireless microphones per performance. There will also be various "pick-up" microphones on stage for ambient sound. Groups should ensure that their song choices, and the division of solo lines, take this into account.

During the technical rehearsals in the theatres for both the Semi-Finals and Grand Finals the Jack Petchey Glee Club Challenge programme director has full responsibility and final say on any artistic and/or technical decisions regarding any and all performances.

Chaperones:

Regardless of the age of the entrants, each group must have at least two adult chaperones

that are responsible for the conduct and organisation of the group. These adults must hold Enhanced DBS checks. Failure to provide chaperones at either the boot camp or finals will result in the group being disqualified. The maximum number of chaperones per group allowed backstage at any venue or at any Bootcamp shall be three.

Judging Criteria:

Each Semi-Final and the Grand Final shall be judged by a panel of Judges invited by The Jack Petchey Foundation. The artistic team that groups meet at the Bootcamp days will not be part of the judging panel and will have no say whatsoever in the final result of either the Semi-Final or Grand Final. The decision of the judges is final.

The panel of Judges will score each group against the following criteria:

Vocal (30%)

Sound quality, Projection and pitch, Balance and blend, Diction, Rhythmic precision, Dynamics and Harmonies

Visual (30%)

Overall stage presence and performance, Relationship between movement and lyric, Dance technique and execution, Use of costume and props.

NOTE – all choreography should be original.

Team (20%)

Working together, Well-rehearsed and drilled, Imaginative group staging, Engaging all members of the group

Entertainment Value (20%)

Overall Entertainment value of the piece regardless of any of the above.

COMPLAINTS AND PRIVACY

The Jack Petchey Glee Club Challenge complaints and privacy policies can be found on the Glee Club Challenge website.

Other points to note:

Tickets for the semi-finals and the grand final will be on public sale. The public sale date for all tickets will be communicated to each group. The organisers do not make any guarantees as to the availability of tickets for friends and family members of finalists or anyone else.

The organisers reserve the right to update or change these Notes for Guidance at any time and will make every effort to communicate any changes as soon as possible.