

11. Awards & Recognition

All participants receive a Certificate of Participation

- Top 3 winners in each category awarded medals and certificates
- Featured in Pythian Games official media
- Invitations to international art exchange and cultural forums
- Opportunities for mentorship and exhibitions

Poetry Competitions

(For Online & Offline Events)

1. Introduction and Historical Significance

Poetry is a timeless and powerful form of human expression that blends language, rhythm, and emotion to convey thoughts, stories, and experiences. From ancient epics to modern spoken word, poetry has united people across cultures and centuries.

In ancient Greece, poetry held a central place in the original Pythian Games, celebrated in honour of Apollo, the god of music and poetry. Alongside music, dance, and theatre, poetry was used to narrate myths, praise virtues, and inspire societies.

The Modern Pythian Games proudly continue this heritage. As the world's only dedicated cultural and traditional multi-art Games, they offer a global, democratic platform for artistic expression. Poetry competitions under this framework celebrate both traditional and contemporary voices, aiming to foster peace, understanding, and cultural preservation across nations.

2. Purpose and Vision

The Pythian Games aim to:

- Recognize poetry as a cultural sport on the global stage.
- Encourage poets of all ages and backgrounds to participate in a competitive yet inclusive environment.
- Bridge civilizations through the universal language of verse.
- Showcase diverse poetic traditions from across regions and generations.
- Promote global cultural dialogue and creative freedom through a structured and fair competition format.

3. Global Presence and International Names of Poetic Forms

Poetry is practised across almost every country in the world, though forms, styles, and names vary. Here are some internationally recognised names and equivalents of poetic traditions:

- India: Doha, Ghazal, Nazm, Chaupai, Haiku (adopted), Muktak, Kavita
- Russia and Slavic Nations: Stikhi, Balada, Duma, Bylina
- France: Ballade, Villanelle, Rondeau
- Japan: Haiku, Tanka
- China: Shi, Ci, Fu
- Greece: Ode, Epic, Dithyramb
- Middle East (Arabic Nations): Qasida, Ghazal, Ruba'i
- Africa: Praise Poetry, Griot Verse, Oral Epics
- USA/UK/Canada: Sonnet, Slam Poetry, Spoken Word, Narrative Verse
- Latin America: Décima, Verso, Copla
- Tribal and Indigenous Regions Globally: Oral chants, ceremonial verse, epics
- Today, poetry competitions are actively practised in over 120 countries, with both written and performance-based formats gaining popularity in schools, festivals, literary events, and digital platforms.

4. Age Categories

- Children's Poetry (8–12 years) – Rhymed verse, haiku, acrostic, visual poetry
- Youth Poetry (13–18 years) – Free verse, spoken word, limerick, sonnet
- Adult Poetry (19–59 years) – All poetic forms welcome
- Senior Citizens' Poetry (60+ years) – Ode, doha, narrative, philosophical verse
- Open Category – Any age group, any language or style permitted
- Each participant may submit only one entry per category.

5. Unified Eligibility Criteria

- For national/state-level events: Participants must be citizens or residents of the country for at least one year.
- For international events: Open to participants from any country.
- Valid age and ID proof is mandatory for all participants.
- For minors, consent from a parent or guardian is compulsory.
- Participants must carefully read and follow eligibility instructions for each event.

6.Participation Rules

1. Submission Mode

Online:

- Register through the official Pythian Games website or app.
- Upload poems in PDF or DOC format (for written entries).
- Upload MP4, MOV, or WAV files (for performance poetry).
- Submit supporting documents:
 - Bio-data and poet's note
 - Signed consent and originality declaration
 - Age and ID proof

Offline:

- Submit typed or handwritten entries along with the registration form.
- Attach USB/DVD for performance recordings.
- Use only a unique entry code (no poet name on the poem).

2.Language Guidelines

- Entries may be in any Indian or global language.
- Accepted Indian languages include: Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Bengali, Malayalam, etc.
- Global languages include: English, French, Spanish, Greek, Russian, Arabic, Mandarin, and more.
- Tribal and indigenous languages are encouraged.
- If not in English or Hindi, an English translation must be submitted alongside.

7. Categories of Participation

By Form:

Rhymed verse, free verse, haiku, limerick, sonnet, narrative

Spoken word, slam poetry, acrostic, visual/concrete poetry

By Theme:

Peace, unity, and global harmony

Environmental awareness and nature

Identity, mental health, and personal journeys

Patriotism and national pride

Youth, women's empowerment, and justice

Cultural diversity and folk traditions

By Language:

Entries accepted in Indian, global, tribal, and multilingual forms.

Translation (if needed) must be submitted in advance.

8. Judging Panel

Each entry is judged anonymously by a panel of 3 to 5 experts, including:

- Lead Literary Judge (renowned poet, academic, or editor)
- Performance Judge (for spoken entries)
- Language and Translation Expert
- Guest Judge (optional)

Judges must declare any conflict of interest and will assess based solely on entry codes.

9. Judging Criteria (100 Marks Total)

- Originality and Creativity – 25 marks
- Language and Expression – 20 marks
- Theme Relevance – 20 marks
- Artistic and Emotional Impact – 20 marks
- Structure and Form – 15 marks

Additional (for spoken entries):

- Voice Control, Modulation, and Delivery – 10 marks
- Audience Engagement (only for live finals) – Optional

Tie-breaks may be resolved by the Head Judge or audience voting (if announced in advance).

10. General Rules and Legal Safeguards

- Only original, unpublished poems allowed.
- Strictly no hate speech, violence, or vulgar content.
- Late, incomplete, or plagiarised entries will be disqualified.
- Judges' decisions are final and binding.
- Organizers reserve the right to reject any entry without explanation.

11. Copyright, Consent, and Disqualification

Copyright:

- Copyright remains with the poet.
- Poets grant non-exclusive rights to the organizers to:
 - Publish poems in official anthologies and souvenirs
 - Promote and showcase entries with full attribution

Required Statement:

"This is my original work. I grant the organizers non-exclusive rights for publication, performance, or promotion with due credit."

Disqualification Grounds:

- Plagiarism or misrepresentation
- Hate speech or impersonation
- Breach of anonymity or judging process
- False age category entries

Disputes:

- Resolved under the jurisdiction of the host city/state.
- A dedicated ethics and grievance committee will handle complaints.

12. Awards and Recognition

- Certificates and Medals for top performers in each age and language category
- Selected entries to be published in official anthologies, e-books, and cultural magazines
- Invitation for live performances at national/international Pythian cultural festivals
- Digital promotion through official Pythian channels and partners

13. Safety and Best Practices

- Use anonymous codes during judging
- Ensure all judges are disclosed in advance
- Keep all submission and evaluation records secure
- Collect consent forms digitally
- Appoint grievance redressal officers at each event level
- Judges should not assess entries from their own students or close associates

14. Sample Themes for Events

- Voices for Peace – Poetry for unity and conflict resolution
- EcoVerse – Celebrating nature and the environment
- Youth Inked – Young voices and their reflections
- Women Write the World – Feminist and gender-equality poetry
- Patriotic Pulse – Celebrating cultural and national identity
- Tribal Echoes – Indigenous poetic forms and folklore
- Visual Verse – Poems inspired by paintings or photographs
- Wisdom Verse – Reflections from senior citizens