

Stand-Up Comedy Competition

(Online and Offline Mode)

1. Introduction:

Stand-Up Comedy is a vibrant and impactful performance art that blends humour, storytelling, social commentary, and personal narrative. As part of the Modern Pythian Games, Stand-Up Comedy Competitions aim to promote global cultural dialogue, inclusion, and freedom of creative expression across all communities, including persons with disabilities.

2. International Naming Variations:

Stand-up comedy is recognized worldwide under various terms:

- United States / UK / Canada – Stand-Up Comedy
- India – Haasya Kala / Hasya Vyangya
- France – Humour sur scène
- Spain / Latin America – Comedia en Vivo
- Germany – Stand-up Kabarett
- Japan – Owarai
- Middle East – Fann Al-Tarfeeh
- Africa (Anglophone regions) – Live Comedy
- Russia – Stendap

3. Eligibility Criteria:

1.Age Categories:

- Juniors: 14 to 17 years
- Youth: 18 to 25 years
- Adults: 26 to 45 years
- Seniors: 46 years and above

2.Open for All Genders and Backgrounds.

3.Special Category for Differently-Abled/Para Artists

- Visual, hearing, mobility impaired, neurodivergent comedians can perform in their preferred medium (spoken word, sign comedy, audio visuals, or aided speech).

4.Languages:

- Participants can perform in their national/regional language. English subtitles may be provided where possible for international audiences.

5.Entry Requirements:

- Submit audition video (online) or register on-site (offline).
- Duration: 3 to 5 minutes for auditions; 5 to 10 minutes for final performances.

4. Competition Types:

1. Solo Performance (Main Category)
2. Duo / Group Comedy Acts
3. Themed Comedy (Social Topics, Satire, Observational, etc.)
4. Improvised Comedy (Live suggestions / audience interaction)
5. Digital Comedy (for Online participants including meme acts or virtual sketches)

5. Judging & Jury Panel:

- **Jury Composition:**

- 3 to 5 members comprising:
 - Professional Comedians
 - Theatre/Performing Arts Experts
 - Public Representative or Cultural Ambassador
 - (For Para category) Disability Inclusion Expert

- **Public Opinion Mechanism:**

- For final rounds, jury can include public opinion through:
 - In-person audience hand-raising vote
 - SMS Voting via registered mobile number
 - Online Voting on official Pythian Games website or Mobile App

Public votes will hold up to 20% weight in the final score, only in designated rounds.

6. Marking Criteria (Total: 100 Marks):

- **Originality & Content – 25 Marks**
 - Unique themes, creativity, script quality
- **Delivery & Timing – 20 Marks**
 - Clarity, pacing, pauses, comedic rhythm
- **Audience Engagement – 15 Marks**
 - Interaction, responsiveness, body language
- **Humour Quotient – 20 Marks**
 - Laughter response, wit, punchlines
- **Language & Presentation – 10 Marks**
 - Effective use of language, expressions, gestures
- **Inclusivity & Creativity – 10 Marks**
 - Respect for diversity, use of innovative style or medium

7. Competition Format:

- Preliminary Auditions: Online video submissions or offline city-based auditions
- Zonal/National Level (Offline/Hybrid): Shortlisted candidates perform live
- International Level: Top finalists compete at Global Pythian Venue or via global broadcast

8. Awards & Recognition:

1. Gold, Silver, and Bronze Pythian Medals in each category
2. Best Emerging Comic Artist Award
3. Para Talent Excellence Award for comedians with disabilities
4. People's Choice Award – Based on public votes
5. Cultural Harmony Award – For theme promoting unity, diversity, or peace
6. Certificates & Digital Badges for all participants
7. Opportunities for Global Tours, Shows & Cultural Exchange

9. Ethical and Creative Freedom Rules:

- No content inciting hate, violence, or discrimination based on race, gender, religion, or disability.
- Satire and humour must adhere to decency and respect principles.
- Offensive acts will lead to disqualification.

10. Accessibility & Support (for Para Artists):

- Sign language interpreters (where needed)
- Ramps and assistive equipment at venues
- Subtitling and screen magnification for online rounds
- Option to pre-record or use assistive tech during live shows