



# CONTEST RULEBOOK

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## **About**

OGAE currently organises three inter-club contests during the year. All national clubs are encouraged to participate where possible, but participation is not compulsory. Only fully-paid up active and associate members of OGAE International may participate in OGAE contests.

### **CONTEST RESPONSIBILITIES**

Many clubs take the OGAE contests very seriously and arrangements for the various contests can become complicated. The winning OGAE club is – by tradition – responsible for organising the next edition of the relevant contest. Whilst each club is encouraged to innovate and make their own mark on the contests they organise, they must follow the relevant contest rules as approved by the OGAE Presidents and as posted on the OGAE International website.

### **NEW CONTESTS**

New OGAE contests may only be created with the express approval of the majority of OGAE national club presidents. Any new proposal should be submitted by a member club to the Bureau which will review the application and make a recommendation to the Presidents.

A contest may only use the OGAE name if it has been formally approved by the Presidents.

## Contest Coordinator

The OGAE International Bureau will appoint a contest coordinator (usually from among its members). The Contest Coordinator is responsible for overseeing all OGAE contests, for coordinating with host clubs and bringing any issues or requests for clarification to the attention of the Bureau and – where necessary – to the Presidents.

The Contest Coordinator will be responsible for:

- Maintaining the up-to-date contest rules on the OGAE International website
- Reviewing or developing any rule changes or clarifications
- Proposing such rule changes to the Bureau and Presidents for approval
- Establishing procedures and timelines relating to each contest
- Contacting winning clubs and asking them to confirm their willingness to organise the next contest.
- Formally appointing clubs as contest hosts in the beginning of the current year.
- Announce a timetable for OGAE Contests before the end of March.
- Coordinating with contest organisers
- Dealing with any rule clarification requests
- Reviewing and approving the host club's contest proposals before any announcement is made to the Presidents
- Reviewing and approving the timing and delivery method of the host club's results
- Posting contest details and links on the OGAE International website and other relevant social media
- Updating the contest histories on the OGAE International website

### CONTEST RULES

The rules to the various OGAE contests are maintained by the OGAE International Bureau and all changes must be approved by a majority of the OGAE national presidents. The OGAE International Contest Coordinator (see above) will have responsibility for maintaining the up-to-date rule book and shall post the rules on the OGAE International website.

All contests must be conducted in accordance with the published rules. In the event of ambiguity, clarification should – in the first instance – be sought from the Contest Coordinator.

**TIMETABLE**

The OGAE contests are designed to provide club members with Eurovision-based activities during the "off-season" between the Grand Final and the start of the national selection process. It is important that the contests take place during this period and host clubs should ideally arrange their contest timetable fitting to the following dates:

- OGAE Second Chance Contest
  - voting period: between 1 July and 31 August
  - reveal of the results: 30 September
- OGAE Song Contest
  - voting period: between 1 September and 15 October
  - reveal of results: 31 October
- OGAE Video Contest
  - voting period: between 15 October and 30 November
  - reveal of results: last weekend before Christmas

The OGAE Second Chance Contest, OGAE Song Contest and OGAE Video Contest must have voting periods of at least 30 days, subject to the above dates.

Host clubs and the OGAE International Contest Coordinator shall, by March 15th, agree the precise dates of:

- date of opening applications to each contest
- submission deadline
- voting deadline (ensuring a voting period of at least 30 days)
- date of results reveal

It is not recommend to open a voting period of one contest ahead of the results of the previous contest being revealed. However, if absolutely necessary, this may be done with the approval of the OGAE International Contest Co-ordinator.

Any deviation from the above schedule must be requested at least two months in advance by contacting the Contest Coordinator and providing a written explanation of why the deadlines cannot be met. The Bureau must agree any proposed changes to the voting period and the results reveal dates.

## OGAE Second Chance Contest

The OGAE Second Chance Contest (SCC) is organised by OGAE to give a “second chance” to songs which were part of a national public selection process for the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC) that involved at least two songs, but which failed to be selected to represent their country. The main purpose of the OGAE SCC is to promote the music, performers, authors of music and lyrics from these national selections.

All participating clubs and the organiser club must ensure that they comply with relevant copyright laws and regulations. All the materials used in OGAE Second Chance Contest are used for promoting the artist(s) on the fair use basis.

### GENERAL RULES

1. In order to be eligible to participate in the OGAE SCC songs must meet the following criteria:
  - They must have been part of the relevant club’s national public song selection process for that year’s Eurovision Song Contest, and that selection process must have involved at least two songs;
  - They must not have been selected to participate in the Eurovision Song Contest;
  - They must not have been disqualified or otherwise declared ineligible either from the national selection process or the Eurovision Song Contest itself;
  - They must have been part of an open, transparent selection process, not an internal, closed selection run by the relevant broadcaster. More particularly, songs which were not publicly revealed as having been part of the selection process prior to the announcement of the selected song are not eligible for the OGAE SCC.
2. Participating OGAE national clubs may only nominate songs which participated in their own country’s national selection process. (*Except Rest of the World – see Special Rules*)
3. All OGAE national clubs submitting a song to the OGAE SCC must vote in the contest.
4. Participating clubs shall ensure that all their members have an opportunity to participate in the contest voting.
5. Those clubs whose country did not hold an eligible national selection process or did not participate in that year’s ESC may also participate in the voting as a “guest jury”. These clubs have the opportunity to vote on the competing songs without any own entry.

6. The host club shall set out a timetable for the contest in accordance with the OGAE International contest timetable, allowing at least 30 days for voting.
7. Participating clubs should submit their entries in an appropriate video format to the host club by the specified deadline for submission (as defined by the host club).
8. Entries must be in the version that took part in the relevant national selection, ie. a recording of the relevant live performance or the recording used for the selection. Remixes may not be submitted.
  - If the national final involved a live show, a recording of the final performance of the song should be submitted, not an audio recording.
  - In case of no available video of the live performance, it can be replaced with another version, with the agreement of the host club and the competing club following the priority below:
    - video of any live performance
    - official video clip
    - audio recording
9. The host club shall distribute or make available all entries in an appropriate format to all participating clubs.
10. Participating clubs give points to their 10 favourite entries in Eurovision style (12, 10, 8, 7, ... points; and cannot vote for their own entry)
11. The host club shall collect all votes and produce a results video for release in accordance with the OGAE International contest schedule.
12. All the voting clubs shall also submit their entire ranking to the host club.
13. Participating clubs/juries shall submit a video file of their results in accordance with the host club's requirements.
14. The host club shall produce a results video incorporating the videos submitted by each club/jury. The results video may not be longer than 90 minutes.
15. The method and timing of the release of the results video shall be agreed with the Contest Coordinator and communicated to the participating clubs three days in advance.
16. The host club and participating clubs shall keep the contest winner and individual scores confidential until the results video is released.
17. The winning club will be offered the chance to host the following year's contest.

18. Only current fully paid-up active or associate member clubs of OGAE International may participate in the OGAE SCC. (with or without any competing song).
19. In the event of any questions or disputes, the OGAE International Contest Coordinator shall consult the host club, but the Coordinator will have the final say.

### **SPECIAL RULES**

- **OGAE Rest of the World** may participate and nominate an eligible song from any country which does not have its own OGAE national club.
- If both **German clubs** want to participate, then they must take part together as one club, so Germany can be represented by only one song. The two clubs must vote as one.
- **Disqualification (voting):** if any of the competing clubs fail to submit their results in time<sup>1</sup>, their votes will not be counted. If this is a competing club, their entry must be removed from the contest.
- If a competing club only sends their points but not any requested video file, it is the host club's responsibility to replace it.
- If there is a tie for the leading position, the rules used for previous Eurovision Song Contest shall be used. If two or more entries have the same points in the remainder of the ranking, their position shall be the same.

### **PROCEDURES**

- Each voting club shall be counted equally. In the results video, all of their results shall be shown separately.
- The host club and Contest Coordinator shall agree on the exact dates by 15 March.

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<sup>1</sup> The host club shall consult with the clubs who have not sent any results video after the deadline expires. With the approval of the OGAE International Contest Coordinator, these clubs may be offered a short extension of not more than 10 days for the submission of their votes.



## OGAE Song Contest

The OGAE Song Contest (SC) is designed to promote national music and singers from competing countries, and to give them wider exposure across member clubs.

The OGAE SC is an audio-based competition between songs nominated by member OGAE national clubs. This is not a Eurovision-based contest and songs should not have participated in any national Eurovision selection process.

All participating clubs and the organiser club must ensure that they comply with relevant copyright laws and regulations. All the materials used in OGAE Song Contest are used for promoting the artist(s) on the fair use basis.

### GENERAL RULES

1. In order to be eligible for inclusion, a song must:
  - Have been commercially released prior to the entry submission date;
  - Have been released on any recording material or any public platform now earlier than the start of the previous year of the Contest<sup>2</sup>;
  - Be essentially performed in a/the national language of the nominating OGAE national club; Up to 25% of the total lyrics (by word count) could be in a language other than the relevant national language(s);
  - Be an original version (not a cover or a remix);
  - Be a studio version, not a live recording or part of a film, etc.;
  - The relevant song shall not have participated in the Eurovision Song Contest, Junior Eurovision, OGAE Second Chance Contest or OGAE Song Contest or any related public Eurovision preselections;
  - Be performed by an individual with the nationality<sup>3</sup> of the nominating OGAE national club. For groups, at least one performer must have the nationality of the nominating national club;
  - Be of a maximum duration of 5 minutes.
2. It is the responsibility of the participating clubs to ensure that their nominated song complies with the above conditions.
3. The host club shall set out a timetable for the contest in accordance with the OGAE International contest timetable, allowing at least 30 days for voting.

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<sup>2</sup> e.g. if the current year is 2020, the song has to be released not earlier than 1st of January 2019.

<sup>3</sup> nationality = having the citizenship of the country or their origin of the nation is proven.

4. Participating clubs shall submit entries in audio format to the host club by the defined closing date.
5. Upon receipt of each submission, the host club shall verify that the songs meet the conditions for participation.
6. Any submissions deemed ineligible by the host or any competing club shall be referred to the OGAE International Contest Coordinator. The Contest Coordinator shall make the final decision on eligibility and decide about a new submission date if necessary.
7. Only OGAE national clubs who have submitted an entry for the contest are eligible to vote, and it is compulsory for all competing clubs to submit votes.
8. Participating clubs give points to their 10 favourite entry in Eurovision style (12, 10, 8, 7, ... points; and cannot vote for their own entry)
9. All the voting clubs shall submit their entire ranking to the host club.
10. The host club shall distribute or make available all entries in audio format to all competing clubs and allow at least 30 days for voting.
11. The host club shall arrange to collect all votes and to produce a results video for release in accordance with the OGAE International contest schedule.
12. Participating clubs shall submit a video file of their results in accordance with the host club's requirements.
13. The host club shall produce a results video incorporating the videos submitted by each club. The results video may not be longer than 90 minutes.
14. The method and timing of the release of the results video shall be agreed with the Contest Coordinator and communicated to the participating clubs at least three days in advance.
15. The host club and participating clubs shall keep the contest winner and scores confidential until the results video is released.
16. The winning club will have the right to host the following year's contest.
17. Only current fully paid-up active or associate member clubs of OGAE International may participate in the OGAE SC.
18. In case of any questions or disputes, the OGAE International Contest Coordinator will consult with the host club, but the Coordinator will have the final say.

## SPECIAL RULES

- **OGAE Rest of the World** may participate and nominate an eligible song from any country which does not have its own OGAE national club, regardless of whether a Eurovision competing country.
- If both **German clubs** want to participate, then they must take part together as one club, so Germany can be represented by only one song. The two clubs must vote as one.
- **Disqualification (voting):** if any of the competing clubs fail to send their result in time<sup>4</sup>, their votes won't be counted. If it's a competing club, their entry must be removed from the contest.
- If a competing club only sends in their points but without the required video file, it is the host club's responsibility to produce the required video.
- In the event of a tied result, the rules used for the previous Eurovision shall be used to determine the winner. Other than the winner, if two or more entries finish with the same points total, they shall be given a joint position in the final line-up.

## PROCEDURES

- The platform (website or playlist) of the Song Contest must not include any video.
- Each voting club shall be counted equally. In the results video, all of their results shall be shown separately.
- The host club may publish the following details on the contest platform:
  - bio and picture of the artist
  - lyrics in original language
  - lyrics in English
- Host club and Contest Coordinator shall agree on the exact dates by the 15 March.
- Host club shall share with the competing clubs the entire line-up at least 3 days before the voting period starts, so any issue can be reported in time.

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<sup>4</sup> Host club shall consult with the clubs without any sent result after the deadline expires. With the approval of the OGAE International Contest Coordinator, these clubs can receive a few days delayed new deadline.

## OGAE Video Contest

The OGAE Video Contest (OGAE VC) is organised by OGAE to give a chance for music videos to participate in a contest. The video must originate in countries with a national OGAE club. The main purpose of the OGAE VC is to have a visual contest for the promotion of national music.

All participating clubs and the organiser club must ensure that they comply with relevant copyright laws and regulations. All the materials used in OGAE Video Contest are used for promoting the artist(s) on the fair use basis.

### GENERAL RULES

1. In order to be eligible for participation in the OGAE VC, videos must meet the following criteria:
  - Have been released on an album or as a single on vinyl, CD or as a digital download no earlier than the start of the previous year of the Contest<sup>5</sup>;
  - The song must be an original version, not a cover or remix;
  - The video should have been released by the relevant artist
  - The video shall not be a recording of a live performance/concert;
  - The relevant song shall not have participated in the Eurovision Song Contest, Junior Eurovision, OGAE Second Chance Contest or OGAE Song Contest or any related public Eurovision preselections;
  - The performer of the song must have the nationality<sup>6</sup> of the country whose club they are representing. In the case of groups, at least one of the members must have the nationality of the national club they are representing;
  - The song may be sung in any language; and
  - The video shall not have a duration longer than 5 minutes. (excluding credits)
2. It is the responsibility of the participating clubs to ensure that their nominated video complies with the above conditions.
3. The host club shall set out a timetable for the contest in accordance with the OGAE International contest timetable, allowing at least 30 days for voting.
4. Participating clubs shall submit entries in an appropriate video format to the host club by the defined closing date for submissions.

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<sup>5</sup> e.g. if the current year is 2020, the song has to be released not earlier than 1st of January 2019.

<sup>6</sup> nationality = having the citizenship of the country or their national origin is proven.

5. Upon receipt of each submission, the host club shall verify that the videos meet the conditions for participation.
6. Any submissions deemed ineligible by the host or any competing club shall be referred to the OGAE International Contest Coordinator. The Contest Coordinator shall make the final decision on eligibility and decide on a new submission date if necessary.
7. Only OGAE national clubs who have submitted an entry for the contest are eligible to vote, and voting is compulsory for all competing clubs.
8. The host club shall distribute or make available all entries in an appropriate format to all participating clubs, to allow for a voting period of at least 30 days.
9. Participating clubs shall ensure that all individual members are offered an opportunity to participate in the voting.
10. Participating clubs give points to their 10 favourite entries in Eurovision style (12, 10, 8, 7, ... points; and cannot vote for their own entry)
11. The host club shall arrange to collect all votes and to produce a results video for release in accordance with the OGAE International contest schedule. The results video may not be longer than 90 minutes.
12. Participating clubs shall submit a video file of their results in accordance with the host club's requirements.
13. The host club shall produce a results video incorporating the videos submitted by each club.
14. The method and timing of the release of the results video shall be agreed with the Contest Coordinator.
15. The host club and participating clubs shall keep the contest winner and scores confidential until the results video is released.
16. The winning club will have the right to host the following year's contest.
17. Only current fully paid-up active or associate member clubs of OGAE International may participate in the OGAE VC.
18. In the event of any questions or disputes, the OGAE International Contest Coordinator will consult with the host club, but the Coordinator shall have the final word.

### **SPECIAL RULES**

1. **OGAE Rest of the World** may participate and nominate an eligible song from any country which does not have its own OGAE national club.

2. If both **German clubs** want to participate, then they must take part together as one club, so Germany can be represented by only one song. The two clubs must vote as one.
3. **Disqualification (voting):** if any of the competing clubs fail to send their result in time<sup>7</sup>, their votes will not be counted. If it is a competing club, their entry must be removed from the contest.
4. If a competing club only sends in their points but not the required video file, it is the host club's responsibility to produce a replacement video.
5. In the event of a tied result, the rules used for the previous Eurovision shall be used to determine the winner. Other than the winner, if two or more entries finish with the same points total, they shall be given a joint position in the final line-up.

## PROCEDURES

- Each voting club shall be counted equally. In the results video, all of their results shall be shown separately.
  - The host club may publish the following details on the contest platform:
    - bio and picture of the artist
    - lyrics in original language
    - lyrics in English
  - The host club and Contest Coordinator shall agree on the exact dates by the 15 March.
6. The host club shall share with the competing clubs the entire line-up at least 3 days before the voting period starts, so any issue can be reported in time.

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<sup>7</sup> Host club shall consult with the clubs without any sent result after the deadline expires. With the approval of the OGAE International Contest Coordinator, these clubs can receive a few days delayed new deadline.