



PERFORM | EDUCATE | INSPIRE

NEW MARKING SCHEME

November 2023

THE NEW SCHEME

The Board of Trustees, in collaboration with the Adjudicators' Council and the Festivals' Council, has approved the introduction of an updated marking scheme, which will replace the current scheme that has been in use since the 1980s.

The aim of the scheme is to promote BIFF's core values – *Perform | Educate | Inspire* – with a greater emphasis on the written and verbal teaching points and offering positive feedback to the performer to build confidence and self-esteem.

BIFF strongly recommends the use of the scheme to ensure a measure of uniformity across festivals.

AIMS OF THE NEW MARKING SCHEME

praise for
achievements

positive and
constructive
teaching points

honesty

kindness and
warmth

encouragement and
affirmation

**DESCRIPTOR
BANDS
(FORMERLY
CATEGORIES)**

There are 7 Descriptors Bands

Developing (65 – 69)

Progressing (70 – 74)

Merit (75 – 79)

Commended (80 – 84)

Honours (85 – 89)

Outstanding (90 – 94)

Exceptional (95+)

KEY POINTS

Marks will range from 65 to 95+ with a range of 5 marks in each descriptor band as shown above. This allows differentiation and flexibility, especially in large classes.

The exceptional band extends the range of marks and will reward and calibrate truly extraordinary performances.

The descriptors use positive and affirming language such as “developing” and “progressing” to replace less positive language such as “fair” and “moderate”. The intention is to provide encouragement to all performers irrespective of the standard of performance.

The criteria used by adjudicators have been thoroughly revised and re-written by teams from all three disciplines. They are more positive, developed, clear, and, we trust, helpful to all.