

Fairness Committee 2015 Selection Entrance Exam

- The Exam contains **4 subjects**.
- Maximum points that a participant can earn: **20**.
- Estimated time to solve the exam: **30 minutes**.

1. Why do you want to be part of the EM Fairness Committee? (4.5 points)

I am a new player of this online music contest and I didn't know many things about these organisational things. I know that perhaps I am too young for this, but this is what I would like to "work" - being a part of a Fairness Committee, because I always liked to work with analysis on different kind of things. In this case, it's about analysing music, singers, origins, contents etc. I find this thing quite enjoyable and I consider that also teenagers must be involved in this committee because there should be involved people of different ages.. and I am going to break some barriers and see, I applied here! Checking about the origins of a singer, analysing a song, its lyrics etc would provide me with a lot of other skills and would improve my musical and cultural knowledge. In this committee, it is about seeing what is common, mutual between the official rules and the sent song. I find this aspect quite entertaining and it's about being ambitious, I would like to learn more here. I think that I'm good enough to be a part of this group. It is a lot of work, but when you like what you do, it's enough for me in this case.

2. Describe the "People's Choice" Selection. How can it be improved? Give examples. (4 points)

I think that the "People's choice" selection is fair enough in order to not be that much improved. It is very fair to pick the country that got points from the biggest number of countries. For example, according to EM rules in section "People's choice", that means that the song that got votes from most people might have been liked by more people and it would have more chances in the final.

3. Rule no. 5.7 states the fact that: "The FC will propose, vote and apply new rules".¹ What are your thoughts about this rule? Give relevant examples to support your argument/s. (5 points)

I am also the manager of my online contest called European Music Star and I know how to deal with online music contests because I play in them since 2008. I would like to point out some things and make some suggestions. First of all, the contest should be as realistic as Eurovision Song Contest. For instance, having a thing like 50% jury/50% televoting and having some split votes would be interesting. Of course, this thing must be subjective, but sometimes it is entertaining and I just love commenting on things like "Oh, that was a powerful ballad so the jury might have liked it" etc. Actually, not necessarily to have a concrete split voting, but just to make prediction tops during the contest with creative ideas - "what would the juries think?" / "what would the televoters like?" etc. Another proposal for improving the contest would be the recaps. People ought to listen to the songs, but a fresh remind would be the recaps which shouldn't be absent from any contest - 25-27 seconds/country to remember the best parts of each song! This would also help some people who might not have enough time to vote by listening to the full songs (this thing is not so fair, but it might be an emergency, so the recaps would help them). I also want the voting to be checked more to see if everything is fine during it because some countries are out because of politics (example: arabic countries, Israel, Russia-Ukraine etc) or because some people think "country X's music is annoying because the language is annoying" (this thing actually happened). Many things can be improved here, but the contest is developed enough to be a very serious one, even if I am not an old player - I can see it. Special editions might have a different voting style, for example rating all the songs from 1 to 10 or making (by the players) a full top etc. The most important thing that must be changed is the rule with the popular songs. Yes, I agree that there must be very very popular songs taken out, but there are some decent songs that have many views on youtube, but are not so popular. What does that mean? I guess this rule is just too big and I request finding some solutions, perhaps subjectively analysing such songs?!. As a future FC member (maybe), this is the type of thinking that FC should take into consideration while they "propose, vote and apply new rules".

¹ Eurovision Memories Song Contest Rules - 2014

4. PROBLEM: Belarus submitted a song which was used by Russia 17 editions ago. It qualified in the Final. The F.C failed to detect the issue and now almost half of the EM Participants voted in the Grand Final. What can the F.C do now? Give examples to support your arguments.

Because music is such a diverse element, it is obvious that there might be such errors, but first of all, FC should have seen this aspect because it is their duty to do so. A change in voting should be made. For example, if Belarus submitted a song which was used by Russia 17 editions ago and if it qualified to the final, the voting should be restarted, by calling for 1-3 reserved countries (top 11/top 12/top 13 in a player's votes), so the 11th place-country would get 1 point instead of voting for Belarus' song. The song will get nul points instead of being disqualified (because it's not player's fault). Of course, one "disqualification" would be a greater chance for the other participants in the final. This is what I do in my contest in case a country fails to vote. I think that this "rule" should be applied also if a player fails to vote in time. A song that had been sent two times should get disqualified by receiving 0 points.

Good luck!