



### Rules

*Keertan* should be *shabad-pardhaan*, not *sangeet-pardhaan*. In other words, music should be used to enhance *shabad-surat* rather than to exhibit musical artistry. The focus of *keertan* should be on the *bhaav* (emotion) of the *shabad*. The words of the *shabad* should be clearly enunciated and should be comprehensible. The words should not be unduly stretched or sung too quickly or dominated by the music.

1.	The maximum size of the <i>jatthas</i> is 5. The minimum size of the <i>jatthas</i> is 3.
2.	Electronic tabla box may not be used.
3.	An electronic box to support/enhance performance of any instrument (string or otherwise) is not allowed.
4.	The <i>shabad</i> must be from Guru Granth or Guru Gobind Singh's hymn (as stated in Sikh Reht Maryada, Chapter V, Article VIc; reference – sgpc.net).
4a	<b>The entire Shabad, including all the Padas (if applicable) shall be sung. If the time allotted does not permit reciting the entire Shabad, then only one or more contiguous Padas may be sung but the gist of the entire Shabad shall be briefly explained.</b>  <i>Note: For the list of Shabads, please refer to “ਤਤਕਰਾ ਸ਼ਬਦਾਂ ਕਾ” at the beginning of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.</i>
5.	The <i>shabad</i> not sung in the specific variation of the Raag as stated in the title of the <i>shabad</i> shall be disqualified.
6.	Maximum of one member of a <i>jattha</i> may participate in another <i>jattha</i> . A member can participate in a maximum of two <i>jatthas</i> . Donor <i>jattha</i> may not accept a member from the recipient <i>jattha</i> .
7.	Only those members who have participated in the Regional Keertan Darbaar may participate at the international level.
8.	Up to two members of the <i>jattha</i> may be replaced at the international level from a <i>jattha</i> of the same or younger age group as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the original <i>jattha</i> has three members – only one member may be replaced.</li> <li>• If the original <i>jattha</i> has 4 or 5 members – two members may be replaced.</li> </ul>
9.	<i>Jattha</i> in Groups II & III may borrow a member only from a <i>jattha</i> in a younger age-group. It cannot borrow a member from a <i>Jattha</i> in the same age-group. <i>Jattha</i> in Group I can borrow a member from the other Group I <i>Jattha</i> .
10.	The <i>Rahao</i> lines of the <i>shabad</i> must be sung as <i>shtaa-ee</i> . In case there is no <i>Rahao</i> in the composition, then any line of the selection can be used as <i>shtaa-ee</i> .
11.	<i>Shabad</i> not specified as <i>Partaal</i> in the <i>sirlekh</i> but recited as <i>Partaal</i> would be disqualified.
12.	If ‘ <i>Partaal</i> ’ is not stated in the <i>Sirlekh</i> of the <i>Shabad</i> in Sri Guru Granth Sahib, then it should be sung only in one <i>Taal</i> . 5 points out of 100 would be deducted from each judge's marks for using more than one <i>Taal</i> for a Non- <i>Partaal</i> <i>Shabad</i> .
13.	Each <i>jattha</i> may sing only one <i>shabad</i> in the allotted time.
14.	Singing should be preceded by a short explanation of the gist of the <i>shabad</i> . Explanation must be in both Punjabi and English.

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15.	Jatthas singing musical syllables – <i>sargam (Sa Re Ga -----)</i> are not eligible for 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> prizes.
16.	Aalaap using the words of the shabad is encouraged. Its purpose is to enhance the emotion of the shabad. It should not be used to merely exhibit musical skills.
17.	Taan using the words of the shabad may be sung sparingly.
18.	For distribution of marks amongst various elements of Keertan, please refer to ‘Scoring Sheet’ available at the web-site.

<i>Manglaacharan</i> in the specified <i>raag</i>	Salutation to Waheguru by the vocalists invocation for Divine Grace. Using the <i>sirlekh of the Shabad, moolmantar or a Saloke from the specified Raag from Sri Guru Granth Sahib.</i> Setting the mood for the <i>shabad.</i> Slow tempo. <i>Vadda taal</i> (long rhythmic cycle). Taal for Manglacharan could be different than used for the Shabad.	age 14-18 & age 19-25
<i>Shaan</i> in the specified <i>raag</i>	Instrumental prelude to <i>Keertan.</i> Salutation of <i>raag</i> and <i>taal</i> , by all the instruments & to the <i>Bani.</i> Setting the mood for the <i>shabad.</i> Medium tempo. Classical <i>taal</i> (not <i>keherva, dadra or paurhi theka</i> ).	age 19-25
<i>Partaal</i>	the Sthaa-ee and all Antras shall be sung in different Taals. That is a Taal used for Sthaa-ee or any Antra shall not be repeated. For example- · Taal #1 – used for Sthaa-ee · Taal #2 – used for Antra 1 · Taal #3 – used for Antra 2 · Taal #4 – used for Antra 3 · And so on.	Shabads listed in Sri Guru Granth Sahib under the Sirlekh “Partaal” must be sung as specified here. Otherwise, the Jatthas would be disqualified.

**Sikh Heritage String Instrument (SHSI).** For the year 2015 and onwards, at-least one of the instruments used by a jattha shall be SHSI.

SHSI	Guru ji's period
Rabab	Nanak Dev ji
Saranda	Guru Amar Dass ji, Guru Ram Dass ji, Guru Arjan Dev ji
Israj	Guru Arjan Dev ji
Taus, Sarangi	Guru Hargobind ji
Tanpura	Guru Gobind Singh ji
Dilruba	<i>Smaller version of Taus</i>

**Percussion Instruments: Jori, Pakhawaj & Mridang shall be encouraged.**