

GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF FLORIDA  
COMPETITION RULES FOR  
FULL FORM OPENING AND CLOSING OF A CHAPTER CONVOCATION

- A. Competitions for the Opening and Closing of a Chapter Convocation as required by “Appendix D” of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Florida shall be held each year for the purpose of promoting good work and to recognize those Chapters striving for excellence.
- B. General Considerations for All Levels of Competition:
1. There shall be three (3) levels of Competition—District, Area, and State, but competition ends at any level when only one Chapter remains in contention and that Chapter shall be declared winner.
  2. Chapter Officers competing must be members of that Chapter.
  3. Dual/Plural Members qualify to compete with only one team at any level.
  4. Honorary Members do not qualify to participate.
  5. Chapter with the lowest score is declared the winner at all levels of competition.
  6. Chapter work will be evaluated with the following considerations:
    - a. No substitutions will be allowed for the High Priest and Captain Of The Host .
    - b. Substitutions for the remaining line of Officers are limited to three (3) with a penalty of five (5) points for each substitution.
    - c. Chapters competing with each officer in his installed station shall be rewarded a bonus score of minus 10. *A perfect score on floor work movements with no word errors and all Officers in their elected and appointed stations would then be scored “ -10.”*
    - d. There must be a minimum of ten members to form the Circle at the Altar. Secretary and Treasurer may join the Circle but are not required to do so if there is an ample number without them and will not be judged at their stations but only on the floor.
    - e. Competing Officers shall be properly clothed and uniform in appearance.
    - f. Illumination of the Altar will not be adjudicated during competition.
    - g. A Chapter will not be disqualified, but shall be penalized 50 points for each officer requiring the aid of cue cards or a ritual book to assist in his work.
    - h. Self correction of a word or words within a phrase will not be counted as a penalty.
    - i. If any officer can not physically kneel at the Altar for “Balancing”, then none should kneel and only a total one (1) penalty point shall assessed.
    - j. The Principal Sojourner shall salute with due guard and sign after opening and prior to closing the Bible
    - k. One Prompter seated at the Desk of the Secretary will be allowed to cue with a minus penalty point added for each prompt needed.
  7. There shall be two Judges for each level of competition—one to score floor work movements, and one to score dialogue.
  8. Chapters shall be adjudicated by the same Judges for a particular level of completion.

9. If score is tied at any level of competition, the Chapter with most installed officers in place shall be declared winner. If still tied, both advance to next competition level.
10. Once a Chapter has qualified for the next level, changes in personnel may be made for reasons of health or ability to attend but must stay within the parameters heretofore established.

B. Preliminary Competitions (District Level)

1. Any Chapter desiring to enter the competition may do so by contacting his District Instructor.
2. Preliminary competition is to be held no later than the last week of March with the Chapter adjudicated at its own regular Stated Convocations or at such other time and location as approved by the District Instructor.
3. The District Instructor and an Appointee deemed qualified by the DI shall judge.
4. All materials for adjudication shall be provided through the Committee On Work.

C. Area Competitions [*Scores do not accumulate from level to level but always start at zero (0).*]

1. The ten (10) Districts shall be divided into five (5) or less area competitions to be established yearly according to the following:
  - a. locations of the District winners with the District Winners in proximity to each other will be considered an Area, OR
  - b. the number of District Chapters competing do not constitute a need for the five area competitions, then the Areas may be reorganized into four or less areas competitions.
2. Area competition are to be held no later than the last week of April with the Chapter judged at its own regular Stated Convocations or at such other time and location as approved by that area's member of the Committee On Work.
3. Area competitions shall be adjudicated by a member of the Committee On Work and a Companion deemed qualified or in his absence two Companions of his choice.
4. Competing Chapters shall be adjudicated by the same set of Judges for this level.

D. State (Grand) Competition

1. The winners of the area competitions (not to exceed five entries) shall compete for the Royal Arch State Ritual Championship prior to the York Rite Grand Convention – date, time, and location to be established each year by the Committee on Work with approval of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest.
2. Adjudicators for the State Competition shall consist of two (2) members of the Committee on Work assigned by the Chairman of the Committee.
3. Drawing for order of competing shall be made at the beginning of the competition.
4. No Companion, either competing or non-competing, is allowed to retire or enter during the a Chapter's presentation.
5. There will be a debriefing by the Judging Team after each Competitor has finished with that Chapter and its members only allowed to be present.
6. Competing Chapters may observe each of the other competitor' presentations with no distractions allowed, but must retire from the Lodge room during the debriefing of the other Competitors.

- E. Awards and Recognitions to be established by the Committee On Work and are to be presented at the annual Grand Convocation.
- F. Contact your District Instructor to get started and for further assistance contact one of the following members of the Grand Chapter Committee On Work located closest to your District or Area.

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