

**No.2(1)/2018-19-Dawah
Government of Pakistan
Ministry of Religious Affairs
And Interfaith Harmony

Subject:- MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER, 2021 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REGARDING REVISED SOPs FOR HOLDING NATIONAL HIFZ-O-QIRAT COMPETITION.

A meeting under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (D&Z) of the following committee was held on 10th September, 2021 in the Committee Room Ministry of Religious Affairs & Interfaith Harmony for vetting / finalizing the revised SOPs for holding henceforth, Hfiz-o-Qirat Competition 38th NHQC onwards:-

1.	Mr. Amjad Ali, Joint Secretary (D&Z)	Chairman
2.	Syed Mushahid Hussain Khalid Director General (R&R)	Member
3.	Mr. Tariq Zubair Khan Deputy Secretary (D&Z)	Member
4.	Mr. Muhammad Asif Riaz Section Officer (Ziarat)	Member
5.	Mr. Abdul Rahim Khan Niazi Section Officer (D&Z)	Member / Secretary

2. After due deliberation and incorporation of various proposals, the Administrative procedure for holding Hifz-o-Qirat Competition at District, Provincial and Federal Level (Revised 2020) have been revised in the light of issue faced / recommendations received and subsequent meetings held post-organization of 37th NHQC, 2021. The Committee recommended the following revised SOPs/Criteria/Instructions for holding Hifz-o-Qirat Competition at District, Provincial and Federal level:-

1) General Criteria for eligibility of participants:

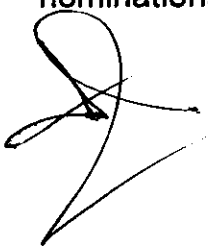
- i. Participant of Hifz shall be Hafiz/Hafizah whereas participant of Qirat shall be Hafiz/Hafizah cum Qari/Qariya or only Qari/Qariya.
- ii. Quraa/Qariyat must have acquired the skills, through requisite training, and ability to recite specific assigned verses from the Holy Quran within the stipulated time, with due regard for observance of the Art and Science of Qirat and Tajweed.
- iii. Certificate of Hifz/Qirat issued by Madrasah board/Wifaq or renowned institution (final or provisional) shall have to be produced before the competition.

- iv. The participant shall have to produce either CNIC, a certificate of age from a recognized institution/council or of his/her ward (in case of minor) or Form B of NADRA as a proof of age required for each Category of Competition as detailed in chart under Heading (3) below.
- v. The participant shall hold a valid domicile or certificate of residence of the district / province / territory from where he/she has been participating / nominated by the respective authority.
- vi. Change of domicile or certificate of residence, once registered with Ministry of Religious affairs and Interfaith Harmony for participation in future competitions shall not be allowed.
- vii. A participant can compete in a year for only one category either of Hifz or Qirat.

2) Organizing the Competition:

The organization of the competition shall be as under:-

- i. District Level Competitions shall be organized by the concerned District Administration (at their expense) by mid of the month of Rabi-ul-Awal, and send nominations of top three position holders of each category to their Provincial Authority. Corresponding date of Gregorian calendar is to be specified by MORA&IH in each annual circular inviting nominations.
- ii. Provincial Level Competitions will be organized (at their expense) by the concerned Provincial Government/Administration by mid of the month of Jamadi-ul-Awal and send nominations of first position holders of each category to this Ministry.
- iii. Competition between the participants of Armed forces will be organized by their concerned authorities and nominations will be forwarded by Joint Staff Headquarters to this Ministry by mid of the month of Jamadi-us-Sani.
- iv. The Nominating Authority (Provincial, GB, AJK, ICT and Armed Forces) shall send their nominations by mid of the month of Jamadi-us-Sani under their sign / seal, along with attested copies of credentials – domicile / certificate of residence / CNIC/ B-Form /certificate of Hafiz / Qari (final or provisional) of the candidate. (Mere forwarding letter shall not be considered as nomination).
- v. National Level Competition will be arranged by Dawah & Ziarat Wing of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, upon receipt of nominations from all stakeholders tentatively by the mid of month of Shabaan.




3. Detail of Quota, Categories and Age Criteria:

Categories	HIFZ (Male)				Hifz(Female)		Qirat (Male)		Qirat (Female)		TOTAL
	1st Whole Quran	2nd Paras 1-20	3rd Paras 1-15	4th Paras 1-5	5th Whole Quran	6th Paras 1-20	7th Whole Quran	8th Whole Quran **	9th Whole Quran	10th Whole Quran **	
Age criteria in yrs.*	10-35	10-25	10-20	08-15	10-35	10-25	16-35	08-15 (Child)	16-35	08-15 (Child)	
Punjab	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Sindh	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
KPK	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Balochistan	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
G. B.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
AJ&K	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
I.C.T	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
Armed Forces	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	06
Total	10	7	7	7	7	7	10	7	7	7	76

I. Age of participants should be according to above mentioned age criteria for each category as on 31st December of the respective year.

II.* Age capping for Hifz is based on the syllabus while for Qirat it is based on age.

III.** Syllabus for category 8 and 10 shall be finalized by the ministry through the apex committee for each competition. The selected 'Suras', equivalent to volume of 2 Paras would be communicated in advance through general circular.

4. Terms and conditions for holding the Event at District level:

1. District Level Competition shall be organized to secure the widest possible participation of qualified Huffaz and Qurrah, belonging to the respective District only, domiciled / duly notified by the Deputy Commissioner concerned, with a view to select 'the top three', to represent the District at the Provincial level Competition.
2. The District Governments shall timely intimate to all Wifaq and renowned Deeni Madaris in their respective districts about the schedule of competitions, enabling the talented reciters / participants of these Madaris to participate in the competition.
3. The organizers of District Competition shall ordinarily do the widest possible publicity, through all ways and means at their disposal including social media pages, for holding the Competition with a view to secure the largest possible participation therein.

4. Participants taking part in Hifz-o-Qirat competition of one district held during the respective year, will not be allowed to take part in Hifz-o-Qirat competition of other Districts in future.
5. For each Competition, the concerned Government/ Administration organizing and holding the competition will constitute a panel of Judges that will consist of not less than 4 Qurrah / Huffaz of established repute and appropriate caliber, nominating the senior most as its "Chairman".

5. Terms and conditions for holding the Event at Provincial level:

1. Provincial level Competition means a competition amongst the Huffaz and Qurras who secure first three positions in District Level competitions of a Province with a view to select the best Hafiz/Hafizah and Qari/Qariya (1st position holder) who shall be recommended to represent the Province at National level Competition.
2. While conducting Provincial Level Competition, a representative of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Islamabad may participate on invitation from the concerned Province to observe the selection process.
3. The Provincial Government shall hold the provincial level competition under the supervision of a Board/apex committee, duly constituted for the purpose under intimation to this Ministry.
4. The Provincial Governments will forward the nomination of 1st position holders in all categories along with the prescribed Proforma (Annexure-I), duly filled in all aspects and endorsed by the nominating authority. A copy of CNIC/B-form of the participant and one companion (in case of female or child candidate only) who will accompany him/her to Islamabad at the time of National level competition. No relative except one (companion) will be allowed to stay in the respective hotel or participate in the competition.
5. To those adjudged as the 'best three', in order of merit in each category and in each competition, prizes will be awarded by the organizers of that competition.

6. Specific Responsibilities of the Nominating Authority:

Before forwarding the nominations to the Ministry of Religious Affairs & IH, the following conditions shall be checked and ensured by the Nominating Authority:

- a. That the competitions at district / provincial levels were held fairly and all Districts were duly represented at provincial level competition.



- b. To provide attested copy of Sanad of Hifz Quran in case of complete Hifz.
- c. In case of less than complete Hifz, an attested copy of certificate for specific siparas shall be provided.
- d. Nominating Authority shall ensure to nominate only those Qurras / Huffaz kiram who are residing in the territory against which the nomination is made and furnish proof duly attested by the nominating authority.
- e. Original credentials shall have to be presented by the nominee before participation in the National level competition.

7. Terms and conditions for holding the Event at National level

- 1. National level Hifz-o-Qirat Competition (NHQC) shall be held on all Pakistan basis amongst the Huffaz/Hafizat and Qurrah/Qariyat who have secured First positions in their categories of respective Provinces, AJK, GB, ICT and Armed Forces.
- 2. The original credentials of the nominee will be checked at the time of their registration for participation in National level Competition.

3. Nomination of Judges:

- a. For National Level competition, the panel of Judges will consist of 4 judges, to be nominated by the Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony on recommendation of the Apex Committee. The judgment / assessment of the panel of Judges shall be final.
- b. The panel of judges shall consist of at least 2 competent Hufaz of established repute at national level and shall fulfill the following:
 - i. Competent course of Tajweed / Qirat.
 - ii. Ten years' experience of teaching Tajweed/Qirat.
 - iii. Representation of all major sects in the panel.

4. Selection of winners / position holders:

- a. The panel of Judges will select for each category not more than Three best participants in order of merit, provided that in the case of a tie, both the candidates will be given full cash prize specified for the particular position.
- b. In no case, participant will be given a position or ranking, if in the judgment of the panel, the participant does not come up to the minimum acceptable standard of proficiency, to be specified by the panel of judges.

5. Prizes / Renumeration:

a. For each category of National Competition, the value of each prize will be as follows:-

Position	Cash Prize
1 st	Rs.80, 000/-
2 nd	Rs.60, 000/-
3 rd	Rs.40, 000/-

b. In the National Competition, the Judges, Stage Secretary, Qari and Naat Khuan would be paid PKR 20,000/-, 10,000/-, 5,000/- and 5,000/- respectively as Honorarium irrespective of the days of competition.

c. Budget and cash Branch of MoRA will be responsible for arrangement of all expenses of the event from the relevant head of account and disbursement thereof in consultation with representative of D&Z wing.

6. The duration of National level competition will be two or three consecutive days.

7. Media Section of Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony will be responsible for widest possible publicity of National Hifz o Qirat Competition. The videos will be timely uploaded to the official website/YouTube channel and other social Media pages of MoRA &IH.

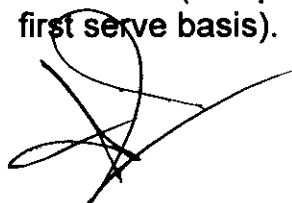
8. National level competition will be arranged in coordination with Research and Reference Wing of this Ministry.

9. Apex committee will supervise the whole event in terms of transparency, accuracy of judgment and adherence to criteria / instructions.

10. In addition to the cash prizes, Certificates of distinction shall also be awarded to the position holders by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.

11. Participants and their companion will be given the opportunity to submit their suggestions and views to this ministry. However, any disturbance, enchanting of slogans, chaos and violence caused by the participants or their companions will be dealt strictly and may lead to disqualification of the candidate.

12. The contestant and his companion will be provided one room with two beds. In case the contestants are above the age of 16, two contestants will be allowed one room (irrespective of their province/ category with two beds on first come first serve basis).

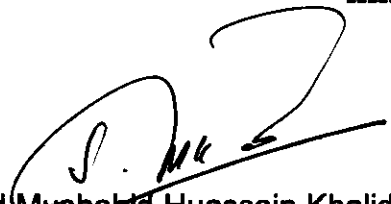


8. Terms and conditions for nominating winners of national level competition for participation in international competitions:

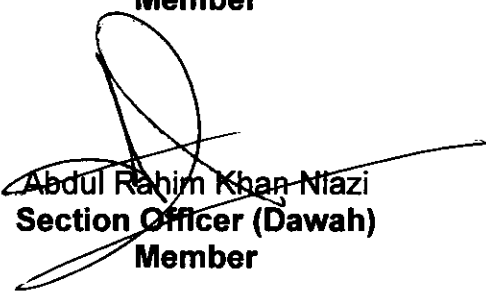
1. Participation in International competition refers to both physical presence and online participation of a candidate in a particular International event.
2. If a participant, once nominated for participation in International event, could not participate due to *force majeure* (travel to the host country due to a hindrance/obstacle caused by natural occurrence, or bar by any agency of Government of Pakistan or the organizers), will be given an additional chance of nomination to the next international competition.
3. Winners of the National Competition will be eligible for participation in the International Level Competition, provided that the nomination will be entirely at the discretion of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony and that those nominated to represent Pakistan in the International Competition will be required inter alia to report this Ministry about their grading and performance upon their return.
4. The names / data of participants in international competition shall be uploaded and displayed on the official website of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony.
5. Position holders of the National Hifz-o-Qirat Competition, who once participated in the International Quran Competition abroad are barred from participation in the next National Hifz-o-Qirat Competition for a period of 05 years w.e.f the date of the holding of International competition.
6. Pursuant to the National level competition, panel formed for international nominations shall remain valid till formation of next panel from the subsequent National level competition. If requirement arises for additional nominations, the deficiency shall be met from the previous panel provided the candidate fulfills the prerequisites for the respective competition.
7. A participant nominated by MORA for an International competition, unable to qualify its preliminary test, arranged by the organizers in the territory of Pakistan will not be considered for nomination for the next International event.
8. Requests of nominations from countries calling numerous nominations for evaluation in the territory of Pakistan and hosting the selected winners in their territory will be announced on website of MORA for open participation from every corner of Pakistan.
9. Federal Government may also secure nominations for international competition directly from Wifaq / Board in addition to the nomination of the winners of National level competition.

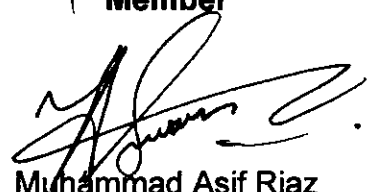



9. In case of any doubt or difficulty with regards to the interpretation or working of NHQC criteria / instructions/ SOPs and nomination of Huffaz/Qurra in special case/circumstances, the decision of the Federal Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony shall be final.


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Member


Tariq Zubair Khan
Deputy Secretary (D&Z)
Member


Abdul Rahim Khan Niazi
Section Officer (Dawah)
Member


Muhammad Asif Riaz
Section Officer (Ziarat)
Member


Amjad Ali
Joint Secretary (D&Z)
Chairman