SCALE OLYMPICS HANDBOOK

NEOMTA / 2025

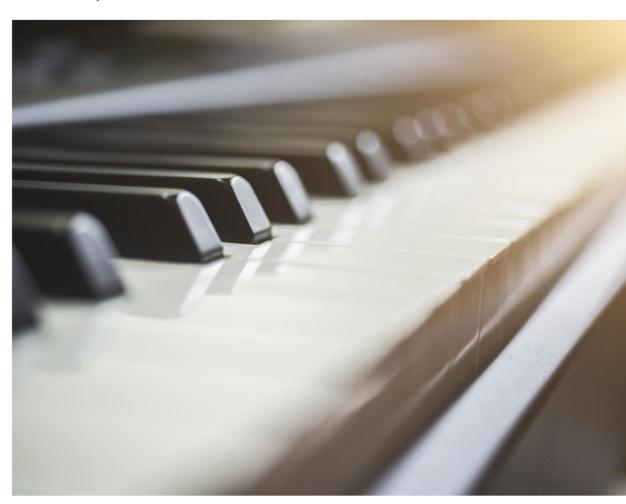


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OVERVIEW

The goal of the Scale Olympics is to provide piano students with a fun, attainable way to demonstrate their mastery of basic keyboard skills. We hope that teachers find this event useful for motivating their students to learn their scales and chords!

Students register for their choice of difficulty from five possible events and earn an aggregate score in order to gain ribbons. Prizes (1st, 2nd, 3rd) are awarded for three age categories by adjudicators based on total score. Students may register for ALL FIVE categories, or a combination of them. On the day of Scale Olympics, students may perform their tasks in any order of their choosing.

Date: 10/12/25

Registration Deadline: 10/3/25

Location: Solich Piano 27730 Chagrin Blvd #4428 Beachwood, OH 44122

Events:

- 1. Scales
- 2. Arpeggios
- 3. Chords
- 4. Broken Chords
- 5. Sightreading

Age categories

Elementary: 10 or younger

Junior: 11-14 Senior: 15 or older

Special cash prize: Students may make a \$5 donation to a special award pool in order to be considered for a cash prize based on their performance. Judges will award individual amounts to ALL eligible students from this community fund. (Funds in the special award pool must be disbursed entirely by the end of the Scale Olympics.)

SCALES EVENT DESCRIPTION

Levels Novice A and Novice B: Student picks two five-note scales to perform for each hand. For Novice B, at least one of these must start on a black key.

Levels 1-3: Student picks one (1) scale to perform for each hand. Judges then pick one (1) additional scale to perform for each hand.

Levels 4-8: Judges pick three (3) scales.

Please see the following page for description of the required scales for each level. Scales, chords, arpeggios, and broken chords should be played with a firm, loud tone.

Scale Level Descriptions

LEVEL	SCALE FORMAT	KEYS
Novice A	1 2 3 4 5 4 3 2 1 5 4 3 2 1 2 3 4 5	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
Novice B		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
1	HS 1 octave	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
2		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
3		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
4	HT 1 octave	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
5 Min 72 bpm per 4 notes	HT 2 octaves	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
6 Min 84 bpm per 4 notes	4 octaves, HT	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
7 Min 92 bpm per 4 notes		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
8 Min 108 bpm per 4 notes	Moscow Method (LINK)	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d

Criteria	Exemplary 9-10	Proficient 5-8	Needs Improvement 1-4	Not Evident 0	Criterion Score
Correct notes	Plays all correct notes	Plays mostly correct notes with occasional errors	Plays many incorrect notes	Does not attempt	
Correct Fingering	Uses all correct fingering	Uses mostly accurate fingering with occasional errors	Uses mostly inaccurate fingering	Does not attempt	
Technique	Exceptional velocity and control	Good	Awkward	Does not attempt	
Total	Strong, round, even tone	Mostly even with occasional unevenness	Uneven or weak tone with "ghost notes"	Does not attempt	
Total:					

Circle level bonus:

A 1pt	B 2pts	_	2 8pts	_			6 24pts	7 28pts	8 32pts
Final Score = Rubric + Level Bonus									

ARPEGGIOS EVENT DESCRIPTION

Levels Novice A and Novice B: Judges pick one (1) arpeggio for each hand.

Level 1-2: Student picks one arpeggio to perform. Judges then pick two (2) others.

Levels 3-4: Student picks one (1) arpeggio to perform for each hand. Judges then pick one (1) additional scale to perform for each hand.

Levels 5-8: Judges pick three (3) arpeggios.

Please see the following page for description of the required scales for each level. Scales, chords, arpeggios, and broken chords should be played with a firm, loud tone.

Arpeggio Level Descriptions 8

LEVEL	SCALE FORMAT	KEYS
Novice A		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
Novice B		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
1	2 octaves, single hands crossing over	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
2		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
3	HS, 2 octaves	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
4		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
5 Min 60 bpm per 3 notes	HT, 2 octaves	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
6 Min 69 bpm per 3 notes	HT, 4 octaves	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
7 Min 80 bpm per 3 notes	Moscow Method (LINK)	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
8 Min 92 bpm per 3 notes		All Major and Minor triads plus diminished and dominant sevenths
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Criteria	Exemplary 9-10	Proficient 5-8	Needs Improvement 1-4	Not Evident 0	Criterion Score
Correct notes	Plays all correct notes	Plays mostly correct notes with occasional errors	Plays many incorrect notes	Does not attempt	
Correct Fingering	Uses all correct fingering	Uses mostly accurate fingering with occasional errors	Uses mostly inaccurate fingering	Does not attempt	
Technique	Exceptional velocity and control	Good	Awkward	Does not attempt	
Tone	Strong, round, even tone	Mostly even with occasional unevenness	Uneven or weak tone with "ghost notes"	Does not attempt	
Total:					

Circle level bonus:

A 1pt	B 2pts		2 8pts			6 24pts	7 28pts	8 32pts
Final S	core =	Rubric -	+ Level	Bonus				

BROKEN CHORDS EVENT DESCRIPTION

Level 3-4: Student picks one (1) broken chord to perform for each hand. Judges then pick one (1) other.

Levels 5-8: Judges pick three (3) broken chords.

Please see the following page for description of the required scales for each level. Scales, chords, arpeggios, and broken chords should be played with a firm, loud tone.

Broken Chords Level Descriptions

LEVEL	SCALE FORMAT	KEYS
This activity's lowest level begins at 3		
3 Min 60 bpm per 4 notes		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
4	HS 2 octaves	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
5	HT 2 octaves	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
6 Min 72 bpm per 4 notes		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
7 Min 84 bpm per 4 notes		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
8		All M, m, dim, aug triads

Criteria	Exemplary 9-10	Proficient 5-8	Needs Improvement 1-4	Not Evident 0	Criterion Score
Correct notes	Plays all correct notes	Plays mostly correct notes with occasional errors	Plays many incorrect notes	Does not attempt	
Correct Fingering	Uses all correct fingering	Uses mostly accurate fingering with occasional errors	Uses mostly inaccurate fingering	Does not attempt	
Technique	Exceptional velocity and control	Good	Awkward	Does not attempt	
Tone	Strong, round, even tone	Mostly even with occasional unevenness	Uneven or weak tone with "ghost notes"	Does not attempt	
Total:					

Circle level bonus:

3 12pts	4 16pts		6 24pts	7 28pts	8 32pts	
Final Score = Rubric + Level Bonus						

CHORDS EVENT DESCRIPTION

Levels Novice A and Novice B: Judges pick one (1) chord for each hand.

Level 1-2: Student picks one (1) chord activity to perform for each hand. Judges then pick one (1) other.

Levels 3-8: Judges pick three (3) chord activities.

Students are encouraged to hold the pedal through each chord activity to help their tone. Please play chords at an F or FF level.

Please see the following page for description of the required scales for each level. Scales, chords, arpeggios, and broken chords should be played with a firm, loud tone.

Chords Level Descriptions

LEVEL	SCALE FORMAT	KEYS
Novice A		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
Novice B		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
1	HS, 3 notes, 1 octave (Helper notes allowed: LINK)	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
2		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
3	HT, 3 notes, 1 octave (Helper notes allowed: LINK)	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
4		C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
5	HT, 3 notes, 1 octave (NO Helper notes: See Level 3)	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
6	HT, 4 notes, 2 octaves	C G D A E B F# Db Ab Eb Bb F a e b f# c# g# eb bb f c g d
7		All triads: M, m, dim, aug
8		All triads: M, m, dim, aug Dominant sevenths (4 OR 5 notes/inversion) Diminished sevenths (5 notes/inversion)

Criteria	Exemplary 9-10	Proficient 5-8	Needs Improvement 1-4	Not Evident 0	Criterion Score
Correct notes	Plays all correct notes	Plays mostly correct notes with occasional errors	Plays many incorrect notes	Does not attempt	
Correct Fingering	Uses all correct fingering	Uses mostly accurate fingering with occasional errors	Uses mostly inaccurate fingering	Does not attempt	
Technique	Exceptional fluidity, hand- position, and control	Good	Awkward	Does not attempt	
Tone	Strong, round, even tone	Mostly even with occasional unevenness	Uneven or weak tone with "ghost notes"	Does not attempt	
Total:					

Circle level bonus:

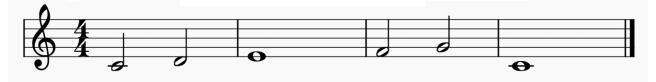
A 1pt		_	2 8pts	_	4 16pts	6 24pts	7 28pts	8 32pts
Final S	Score =	Rubric -	+ Level	Bonus				

SIGHT READING EVENT DESCRIPTION

Students receive sightreading selection upon check-in. They may look through the selection for as long as they wish - in fact, they may check in as early as they wish in order to begin preparing for the sightreading event. However, students may not approach an open piano for any reason whatsoever with the score. Doing so is immediate grounds for disqualification from the sightreading event.

SIGHT READING SAMPLES

Sample Level 1 Sightreading



Sample Level 2 Sightreading



Sample Level 3 Sightreading



Sample Level 4 Sightreading



Sample Level 5 Sightreading



Sample Level 6 Sightreading



Sample Level 7 Sightreading



Sample Level 8 Sightreading



Criteria	Exemplary	Proficient	Needs Improvement	Not Evident	Criterion Score
	16-20	10-15	1-9	0	
Fluency	Excellent Fluency and tempo	Reasonable control	Needs improvement	Does not attempt	
Musicality	Exceptional Artistry	Follows dynamics and markings	Needs improvement	Does not attempt	
Total:					

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1 4pts		3 12pts		5 20pts	6 24pts	7 28pts	8 32pts
Final S	core = I	Rubric +	⊦ Level	Bonus			