



THE INTERNATIONAL MALTA HIT SONG CONTEST 2009 **RULES & REGULATIONS**

01. The INTERNATIONAL MALTA HIT SONG CONTEST 2009 is the follow-up edition of the MALTA HIT SONG CONTEST 2008 and will be aired on ONE TV.

02. The Malta Hit Song Contest 2009 is open to all songwriters and singers who are in possession of a Maltese citizenship or dual citizenship (by the song contest's submission date).

03. Singers, composers and authors must be over 16 years of age by the song contest's submission date.

04. There is no limit on how many entries each songwriter and singer can submit.

HOWEVER from the TELEVISED PHASE onwards, each singer must retain **ONE ENTRY** only. In case a singer has 2 or more songs in the TELEVISED PHASE, s/he must retain the song which obtained most points in the previous selection phase. The other songs can be passed on to other singers or withdrawn from the competition upon discretion of the respective composer.

05. The recording must be clear and of an optimum level. At no stage following submissions will changes in the compositions be permitted (except for a change of singer in cases referred to in rule 04).

06. Each song submitted must be original in lyrics and music. Authors may choose any subject for their songs, however, songs with racist, sexist, political discrimination or anti-religious remarks will be disqualified.

07. The lyrics should be mainly in English but may include short phrases (or verses) in Maltese. 10 copies of the lyrics must be provided and placed in an A3 envelope marked 'A' (read rules 15 and 16).

08. Each song submitted must not have been released or performed in public before 1st November 2008. Finalist entries in other song festivals held between November 2008 and May 2009 are not eligible to take part in the International Malta Hit Song Contest 2009.

09. Each song must not exceed (3:30min) 3 minutes 30 seconds in duration.



10. Songs in violation of any copyright not owned by the songwriters will be eliminated.

11. The 20 entries reaching the **TELEVISED PHASE** onwards are bound to exclusive promotion and performance on the song contest's related television shows or as advised by the organising committee. Breaching of such agreement will lead to immediate elimination.

12. Songs will be interpreted LIVE by the main vocalists (except when otherwise indicated). Backing vocalists will be pre-recorded in all phases of the song contest.

13. Maximum number of persons on stage: 8 (including the main vocalists).

14. All participants should note that this is a TELEVISION SHOW - A POLISHED PERFORMANCE of the entry (including: vocals, choreography, appearance and props) is highly recommended in all selection stages.

SUBMISSIONS

15. An A3 Envelope marked 'A' should contain 10 copies of the lyrics together with application form 'A' (attached below) and a CD containing the following tracks:

Track 1: The full song

Track 2: The Backing track (with recorded backing vocals)

Track 3: The Instrumental version (no vocals)

16. An A4 Envelope marked 'B' containing the contact details of the participants together with a detailed biography of the main singer/s. (Attached below 'B')

17. Only the title of the song must be written on lyrics and the submitted CD. On CD the title of the song must be written in Black Block Letters. Lyrics or CDs with marks revealing the participants identity will lead to the sudden disqualification of the entry.

18. Deadline for submission of entries: **14th February 2009**. Closing and announcement dates may be changed according to the organisers discretion.



JUDGING PHASES

19. All submitted entries will need to go through the following phases:

PHASE A: THE CD PHASE: (behind closed doors) – A panel of judges will listen to all submitted entries on CD. Judges will bring the number of entries down to 20 entries.

PHASE B: THE TELEVISED PHASE: *To be held between MARCH and APRIL 2009.*

The 20 entries (so, 20 different singers) will proceed to the TELEVISED PHASE. Songs will be judged by SMS-voting and JUDGES. Judges will be asked to voice their opinion about the performances.

4 to 5 different entries will be performed IN FULL every week. A 30-second clip from each entry's refrain will be played every week as a reminder for the SMS-voting.

MARCH 2009 – The SMS voting phase:

Prog 1: Full playback of songs: 1 - 5

Prog 2: Full playback of songs: 6 – 10

Prog 3: Full playback of songs: 11 - 15

Prog 4: Full playback of songs: 16 – 20

=== SMS voting ends on 26th March 2009 ===

Prog 5: All 20 entries on the show. Announcement of Top 5 entries from the SMS-voting directly qualified for the FINAL of 1st May.

Rest reach **'THE RISK ZONE':**

15 entries - bottom 3 from SMS voting to **THE RISK ZONE** – Live Interpretation
- 1 saved by the judges! (2 eliminated)

Prog 6: 13 entries - bottom 3 from SMS voting to **THE RISK ZONE** – Live Interpretation - 1 saved by the judges! (2 eliminated)



Prog 7: 11 Entries - bottom 3 from SMS voting to **THE RISK ZONE** – Live Interpretation - 1 saved by the judges! (2 eliminated)

Prog 8: 9 Entries – - bottom 3 from SMS voting to **THE RISK ZONE** – Live Interpretation - 1 saved by the judges! (2 eliminated)

Prog 9: 7 Entries – bottom 3 from SMS voting to the **THE RISK ZONE** – Live Interpretation - 1 saved by the judges! (2 eliminated). Remaining 5 entries for THE FINAL!

MAY 2009

Prog 10: THE FINAL

PHASE C: THE FINAL: *To be held on 1st May 2009*

10 local finalists will reach this phase following a selection based on SMS-voting and JUDGES.

The winning entry will be chosen by a 100% international professional jury.

10 foreign singers will compete in a separate INTERNATIONAL category.

20. All TELEVISED phases will be held on ONE TV.

21. Competition Prizes for the local finalists include:

€500 for the entry placed FIRST
€300 for the entry placed SECOND
€200 for the entry placed THIRD

Organizers will hand the prizes to the composers of the winning entries. It is advisable that lyricists and singers reach an agreement beforehand with the respective composers regarding the distribution of cash prizes.

Singers, authors and composers of the top-3 places of the FINAL will be awarded with trophies. A separate trophy will be awarded to the winner of the public opinion (winner of the SMS-voting).

22. The winning local entry will represent Malta at the **UNIVERSONG - International Music Festival 2009** (Tenerife - Canary Islands - Spain) to be held in July 2009. Hamilton Travel has made this participation possible.

23. All decisions taken by the International Malta HIT Song Contest Committee are final and binding and there may be no appeal from such decisions. No reason needs to be given for any decision taken by the Committee. By participating and by entering a song for the International Malta Hit Song Contest 2009, each applicant is accepting all these terms and all conditions regulating this participation and is agreeing to be bound by such conditions and regulations. Closing and announcement dates may be changed according to the organisers' discretion. Rules may also be changed according to the organisers' discretion. All applicants undertake to follow all the festival's regulations and the International Malta HIT Song Committee's directives. Any breach of same will entail immediate disqualification from participating in any manner in the festival, without any recourse whatsoever.

24. Application forms together with the requested material and a submission fee of €50 each can be submitted at Hamilton Travel offices (Floriana) on 14th February 2009 between 10:00am and noon.





APPLICATION FORM 'A'
THE PERFORMER/S

In case the song is performed by more than one singer, details of ALL singers should be included. (In such cases, kindly make copies of this form for ALL singers).

Title of Song: _____

Name of Singer: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Tel: _____ **Mob:** _____

Date of birth: _____

I.d. Number: _____

Signature: _____

Please include this form in an A3 Envelope 'A' together with 10 copies of the lyrics and a CD containing 3 tracks (full song; backing track and instrumental version as per rule 15.) A separate form should be filled by all singers - in case the song is performed by a duo or a group made up by more than one singer.



APPLICATION FORM 'B'
SONGWRITERS DECLARATION & CONTACT DETAILS

This is to declare that the hereby song presented for participation in the INTERNATIONAL MALTA HIT SONG CONTEST 2009 **was created** by the following songwriters:

TITLE OF SONG: _____

SINGER/S: _____

COMPOSER: _____ AUTHOR: _____

Address: _____ Address: _____

Tel/Mob: _____ Tel/Mob: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

I.D.: _____ I.D.: _____

This song may be legally used to take part in the International Malta Hit Song Contest 2009, according to the Rules and Regulations of the International Malta Hit Song Contest which we read and accept fully.

Sign. (Composer) _____ Sign. (Author) _____

Please include this form in an A4 Envelope 'B' together with a detailed biography of the main singer/s.