



THE RÚV SONG CONTEST 2018 RULES

RÚV Programming Department

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1. The RÚV Song Contest – description

1.1. What is the RÚV Song Contest?

The RÚV Song Contest is an Icelandic song contest held by the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service (Ríkisútvarpið ohf.; hereinafter 'the RÚV'). Iceland's entry in the first semi-final of the Eurovision Song Contest 2018 (hereinafter 'the ESC 18'), which is to be held in Portugal in May 2018, will be chosen in the 2018 RÚV Song Contest.

1.2. Procedure

The RÚV Song Contest 2018 will take place in three live broadcasts on RÚV's audiovisual and net media. Two preliminary rounds will be held in Háskólabíó and the final round in Laugardalshöll. The RÚV will advertise for entries in September 2017, from which 12 songs will be chosen to participate in the preliminaries. Six songs will compete in each of the preliminary rounds, three to proceed from each of them to the finals. Thus, six songs will be featured on the final evening of the RÚV Song Contest; however, the executive committee of the contest may permit one additional song to go through to the final round if it considers that it really should be there. If this happens, then there will be one extra song in the final round of the RÚV Song Contest 2018.

1.3. Choice of the winning song

The 12 songs in the preliminaries will be chosen by an advisory song selection committee and the executive committee of the contest (see Article 4.1). The public will choose the winners of the preliminaries in a direct telephone vote during the broadcasts. In the final, there will also be a jury, whose vote will have a weighting of 50% against 50% of the public telephone vote. The two highest-scoring songs to emerge from this selection process will then be performed again, with a vote held between them; the one receiving the most votes will be the winning song in the RÚV Song Contest 2018. NB: this Article may be revised later.

1.4. The executive committee

The executive committee of the RÚV Song Contest shall be in charge of all the main issues relating to the contest, such as the revision of these rules and procedure, engagement of artistic directors, the final selection of the participating entries and the examination of, and decisions on, any disputes that may arise in the preparation and execution of the contest.

2. Conditions for participation

2.1. Composers and authors of lyrics

Composers (songwriters) and authors of lyrics who have held Icelandic citizenship as from and including 1 September 2017, and who retain it until the end of the ESC 18, may participate. If participants do not meet these conditions, their works shall not be accepted for entry in the contest.

However, participants may produce music and lyrics in collaboration with others, including persons who do not meet the above conditions, in such a way that two-thirds of the music and half of the lyrics are by Icelandic composers/authors. Permanent employees of RÚV during the period stated above may not participate in the 2018 RÚV Song Contest.

2.2. Songs and lyrics

Songs and lyrics submitted shall be new and unpublished creations of their composers/authors. Songs entered for the contest may not be more than 3 minutes in duration. Neither the music nor the lyrics may, under any circumstances, have appeared in a private or commercial recording, including a record, CD, video or film, on the internet or in any other publication format. The lyrics may not have been published, i.e. in print, on the internet or elsewhere. The music and the lyrics may not have been performed on radio, television, on the internet or in public gatherings. The executive committee of the RÚV Song Contest shall have full authority to assess whether or not entries meet the above conditions. In the event of doubt in this context, the executive committee shall have the power to deliver a ruling, which shall be final.

2.3. Language



All songs in the preliminaries of the RÚV Song Contest 2018 shall be performed in Icelandic. On the final evening of the contest, each song chosen to go forward to the finals shall be performed in the language in which the writer of the song proposes to have it performed in the ESC 18 in Portugal if it is chosen. The final decision on the language shall be taken in consultation with the executive committee of the contest.

2.4. Performing artists and appearance on stage

There shall be a maximum of six participants on stage, both in the RÚV Song Contest and in the ESC 18; stage performers shall have reached the age of 16 years by the end of 2017 at the latest.

All accompaniments in the preliminaries and the finals of the RÚV Song Contest shall be pre-recorded and played on digital equipment. Thus, there will be no live instrumental performance on stage. All singing however (both lead vocals and backup vocals) shall be performed live; no vocal imitations of any type or re-plays of voice recordings will be permitted in the contest.

3. Submission of songs

3.1. Submission procedure

Participants' entries in the RÚV Song Contest shall be uploaded electronically on the RÚV website at www.ruv.is/songvakeppnin by 11.59 p.m. (23.59 hours) on Friday, 20 October 2017. It will not be possible to upload songs after that time. Entries received by RÚV during the submission period which fail to meet the conditions of the contest will not be regarded as valid and consequently will not be considered in the preselection for entry in the preliminaries of the RÚV Song Contest.

It is not essential that entries uploaded to the RÚV website be in their final form or that they be performed by the persons who will eventually perform them. On the other hand, they must give a clear indication of how the song and its melody line will sound, with accompaniment and with one or more singing voices. If a song is selected for the contest, the songwriter shall, in collaboration with RÚV, complete the song with the performer of choice. Sound recordings of songs may be entered in a language other than Icelandic, subject to the condition that a draft of the Icelandic song lyrics is enclosed (see Article 3.4).

3.2. Number of songs

Each songwriter may submit a maximum of two songs to the contest. Authors of lyrics, on the other hand, may be the authors or co-authors of the lyrics of more than two songs.

3.3. Registration of information

When each song is uploaded, all the main information about it shall also be submitted, including the name of the song, the songwriter's pseudonym, the name of the sender and the name, ID No., address, telephone number and e-mail address of the songwriter/composer/lyrics author. It is important that songwriters choose a pseudonym, as only pseudonyms and the names of the songs will be made known to the advisory selection committee during the selection process.

3.4. Song lyrics

All songwriters shall upload draft Icelandic song lyrics and indicate whether they intend to have the song performed in Icelandic or in another language if it reaches the finals. The final decision on the language to be used in the finals will then be taken in consultation with the executive committee of the contest. If foreign-language lyrics are ready on the date of submission of the song, the songwriter may enclose them with the application; however, the final foreign-language lyrics shall be approved by the executive committee of the contest before master recordings begin (see Article 5.1.)

3.5. Handling of submitted entries

All those who submit entries that do not go through to the finals of the contest will be informed of this by 15 December 2017 at the latest. After that date, the composers/authors of lyrics of those songs will be free to use their songs in other contexts. The RÚV will delete all submitted entries that are not selected for participation.

4. Preselection of songs

4.1. Composition of the advisory selection committee



The executive committee of the contest shall appoint a seven-person advisory selection committee in consultation with FTT (Félag tónskálda og textahöfunda, the Icelandic Society of Authors and Composers) and FÍH (Félag íslenskra hljómlistarmanna, the Icelandic Musicians' Union), which will examine song entries and submit its opinion to the executive committee of the contest. How the selection committee is appointed is a confidential matter; members of the committee are replaced each year.

4.2. Selection procedure

The selection committee meets and listens to all entries. The committee is informed only of the songwriters' pseudonyms and the song titles, and committee members vote in accordance with their own personal convictions. When the selection committee has completed its work, the result is a list of the songs that received the highest number of votes. The executive committee then takes the final decision on which 12 songs will be chosen for participation in the contest. The RÚV reserves the right to contact songwriters and request songs from them in addition to the songs submitted to the contest.

The RÚV encourages songwriters of both sexes to take part in the contest and is determined to seek ways of securing as even a gender ratio as possible in programming relating to the RÚV Song Contest, in accordance with the RÚV's declared policy on gender equality.

4.3. Notification of songwriters

When the selection committee has submitted its opinion to the executive committee and the 12 songs have been chosen, the writers of those songs will be contacted. A meeting will be held with the songwriters at which they will be informed in further detail of the rules, the next steps to be taken, the procedures for preparation and recording and the holding of the preliminary and final rounds of the contest.

4.4. Participation forms and contract

Writers of the songs chosen for participation in the preliminary round of the RÚV Song Contest must submit participation forms with the valid signatures of all song composers and lyrics authors no later than 7 days after they are invited to participate.

Where there is more than one writer of a song, they shall choose one representative to enter into contractual obligations on their behalf and to be the contact person for the group of writers. The same party shall sign a binding contract with the RÚV on the production of the song and its participation in the RÚV 2018 Song Contest on behalf of the group.

4.5. Announcement of the selection of songs

The RÚV shall announce publicly the titles of the songs and the names of the songwriters and performers. Until this is done, the selection of the songs and participants shall be treated as confidential. After the RÚV has made its announcement of the names of the participants, the songwriters (composers) and authors of the lyrics may neither withdraw themselves nor the songs and lyrics in question from the contest.

5. Preparation and production

5.1. Production of songs

Once a song has been chosen for participation, the songwriter(s) shall make a final choice of performers in collaboration with the RÚV and set about preparing the final version.

Recordings of the finalised song must be submitted before **12 January 2018** as follows:

- 1) A complete "master" for release and distribution in Icelandic (with instrumental performance, lead vocals and backup vocals).
- 2) A "karaoke" version in Icelandic for release and distribution (with accompaniment and backup vocals only).
- 3) Accompaniment / "Play-back" "master" for use as an accompaniment in broadcasts (with instrumental performance only, without lead vocals or backup vocals).
- 4) If the songwriter(s) have decided, in collaboration with the executive committee of the contest, to perform the song in a language other than Icelandic in the final round of the contest, fully-processed "master" and "karaoke" versions of the song shall be submitted in that language (*cf.* indents 1 and 2 above).

5.2. Participants on stage

In addition to submitting the items listed above, entrants must choose participants to appear on stage (maximum number: six) and stage the item for the preliminary round, which will be televised live. Professionals from the RÚV will provide advice and guidance on the production of songs and the preparation of stage performances.

5.3. Payment to participants

The RÚV will pay for the production, preparation and participation of each song, based on rates decided in advance, which will be set forth in further detail in the contracts with the songwriters.

5.4. Power of decision

Final power of decision regarding the choice of performers, the production of television programmes, the design of promotional material, the organisation, staging and presentation of items and all public performance and playing shall rest with the RÚV. This shall cover, for example, the appointment of instrumental players, positioning of performers on the stage, all movements on stage, costumers, stylisation, props on stage, image processing, lighting, all audio processing in the hall, on stage or in broadcasting and other matters pertaining to the contest. In the event of disagreement or doubt in connection with the choice of performers or the staging of items, then the RÚV's proposal shall be the valid one. If no agreement can be reached on this point, the RÚV has full authority to remove the song from the contest and choose another to replace it.

6. The jury and telephone voting

6.1. Composition of the jury

The RÚV shall appoint a jury for the sole purpose of judging the finals of the RÚV Song Contest. It shall consist of professionals with special qualifications in music, e.g. songwriters and lyrics writers, singers, instrumentalists, recording managers, disc jockeys or others who are professionally engaged in music or creating music. Balance shall be observed in appointments to the committee as regards the sex, age and background of its members.

Members of the jury may not have close connections to songwriters or performers and may not have worked on the creation of the songs involved in the final round of the RÚV Song Contest 2018. They shall vote according to their own personal conviction, with professional evaluation as their guiding principle at all times. The names of panel members shall be made public not less than one week prior to the final evening of the RÚV Song Contest.

6.2. Weight of the opinion of the jury

The opinion of the jury shall count as 50% against the 50% weighting of the public telephone vote in the finals of the RÚV Song Contest.

6.3. Work of the jury

The jury shall watch the final dress rehearsal and judge the items on the basis of it (i.e. not during the actual final round of the contest). Each member of the jury shall cast a vote and submit his or her conclusion to the executive committee of the contest.

If technical problems arise in the final dress rehearsal which cannot be resolved and which could affect the jury's ability to evaluate the items on an equal footing, the item(s) shall be performed again, if possible, or else the jury shall be required to watch the live broadcast on the final evening and to vote immediately after the performance. The executive committee of the contest shall take decisions on such matters in consultation with the RÚV Song Contest's broadcasting team and the jury.

6.4. Procedure in the event of a tie

If two or more songs receive the same number of votes after the points awarded by all the judges have been added up, another vote shall be taken to establish which of the songs is to win. If the result is still a tie, then the youngest member of the jury shall have the deciding vote.



If two or more songs receive the same number of votes after the overall conclusion of the jury and the telephone vote are added up, the song that received the highest number of votes in the telephone vote shall be the winner.

If the two songs that are in a dead heat on the final evening of the contest receive equal votes, then the results of the vote taken earlier in the evening shall apply.

7. Obligations by songwriters, etc.

7.1. Contracts with third parties

Contracts between songwriters, authors of lyrics or performers with recording companies, agents, sponsors or other parties shall have no effect on processing, production, programming or other matters relating to the contest. Songwriters, authors, performers and other participants, including record companies, agents and other parties must agree entirely and in all respects to the conditions and rules set by the RÚV and the European Broadcasting Union (hereinafter 'the EBU') regarding the contest.

7.2. Participation in the ESC 18

The writer(s) of the winning song in the RÚV 2018 Song Contest shall undertake to participate in ESC 18 in Portugal; the performers of the song, however, shall not automatically be considered as Iceland's representatives, and nor shall other artists who appeared in the winning item. Immediately after the conclusion of the RÚV Song Contest a new procedure shall begin in which the RÚV shall choose, in consultation with the writer(s) of the song, artists to participate in ESC 18 for Iceland, whether this applies to an individual, a group of singers, musicians, dancers or other persons. Those who are chosen shall agree to obey in all respects the rules and conditions which the RÚV and the EBU set regarding the contest, failing which they shall forfeit their right of participation.

8. Rights

8.1. Proprietary rights of the RÚV and the EBU

The RÚV shall acquire all audio and video recordings that are created in connection with the participation of songs in the RÚV Song Contest and all rights, without limitation, to the performance and publication of those recordings, for live broadcasting or for subsequent use, whether on television, on radio, on the internet or in other media, in programming or in any other manner, at any time, while the RÚV Song Contest 2018 and ESC 18 are in progress and after they end.

The EBU shall also have the full right to utilise public appearances and all recordings of the songs that are entered in the RÚV Song Contest, and particularly of the winning song which will be Iceland's entry in the ESC 18 in accordance with the rules of the EBU. A special publication contract shall be made in connection with the ESC 18 regarding the winning song in the RÚV Song Contest 2018. That contract shall be presented and explained in further detail to the songwriters whose songs are chosen as entries in the Song Contest.

8.2. Songwriters' and lyrics authors' proprietary rights

Songwriters and authors own full intellectual property rights in their songs and lyrics and shall be responsible for registering their songs and the ownership shares in them with STEF (Samband tónskálda og eigenda flutningsréttta, the Association of Composers and Performance Rights Owners). All royalties paid to STEF shall accrue without reduction to the songwriters/lyrics authors, but due to the agreements between the RÚV and STEF no special payment will be made directly from the RÚV to the composers. The RÚV shall pay to STEF all royalties for the use of the songs on radio and television and STEF will then allocate payments to the songwriters and the holders of performance rights in proportion to such use.

8.3. Publication rights

All participants, songwriters, lyrics writers and performers accept, by taking part in the RÚV Song Contest 2018, that their music and performance may be published in any format whatsoever, or on any medium chosen by the RÚV to publish them, independently or in collaboration with a publishing company.

The winners of the RÚV Song Contest 2018 (songwriters, lyrics writers, performers and other participants) accept the EBU's conditions to the effect that the song and lyrics in question will be published on an album (or



other publication format) from the ESC 18, that the video and the stage performance in Portugal will be published on a DVD disc (or other publication format) from the ESC 18 and that all promotional material, photographs and other materials prepared in connection with the contest may be used in full in the manner prescribed by the rules of the EBU.

When the contest is over, songwriters may record and publish other versions of their songs at their own expense. Songwriters may also receive permission to use studio recordings that were produced for the contest after it is over; for this, formal permission from the RÚV will be required.

9. Publicity and promotion

9.1. Marketing

Marketing and promotion in connection with songs in the contest shall be coordinated in consultation with the RÚV. Songwriters and performers must work closely with the RÚV's programming, new media and promotional departments and be prepared to participate in photographic sessions, interviews on radio, television and other media, signings and other events relating to the promotion of songs and participants in the RÚV Song Contest 2018.

9.2. Sponsoring and advertising

Sponsoring in connection with staging, performers' costumes or other matters relating to the performers or songwriters, in private or public contexts, relating to the contest is not permitted without formal permission from the RÚV.

Titles, logos or other special features of the RÚV Song Contest or the ESC 18, or imitations of them, may not under any circumstances be used for promotional or advertising purposes, whether this is done in official publications, editions or anywhere else, without previous agreements and written permission from the RÚV and the EBU.

9.3. Playing of songs; conduct

The songs and lyrics chosen for participation in the RÚV Song Contest 2018 may **not, in any manner**, be performed or published, in a recording, on the internet or in any type of medium, until they have been played and publicised on the RÚV's media. The RÚV shall control the public performance of the songs on its own media prior to the contest. After the first performance of the songs on the RÚV, songwriters shall be free to play, perform or promote (but not to sell) their songs in public contexts, in other media or in any fashion they choose.

Songwriters may also publicise other versions of their songs at any time after they have been publicly performed on the RÚV, e.g. in remix or live versions, versions with foreign-language texts, etc. Nevertheless, the RÚV regards it as a priority to use the official version of the songs at all times when it plays them and **that all songs must be sung in Icelandic in the preliminary rounds.**

All major decisions shall be discussed with the executive committee of the contest, and the committee shall be informed of how songwriters intend to promote their songs. The norms of good conduct shall be observed in all respects, and it must be borne in mind that songwriters and performers are representatives of the RÚV while the contest is in progress.

10. Miscellaneous matters

10.1. Prize

The writer/s of the winning song shall receive a prize of **three million Icelandic krónur.**

10.2. Ethical undertaking

Songwriters/composers/authors and participants shall be obliged to undertake to maintain confidentiality and not to engage in improper conduct that could offend the audience's sense of decency or that of other participants and bring the RÚV Song Contest, the RÚV or the ESC into disrepute. Lyrics, speech or miming/stage movements of a political or similar nature are not permitted either in the RÚV Song Contest or in the ESC 18. Violation of this rule may result in expulsion from the contest.



10.3. Violation of these rules

In the event of a violation of the rules of either the 2018 RÚV Song Contest or the ESC 18 by participants, performers, songwriters (composers) or authors of lyrics, or by other persons connected with the performance of the songs, the RÚV reserves in full the right to bar the persons concerned from further participation without any payments or compensation being entailed. If the persons concerned have already received any payments from the RÚV or its collaborating partners, the RÚV reserves the right to demand their repayment in full and/or compensation.

In the event of violations of the rules on publication, or of other rules of the RÚV Song Contest 2018, which result from an agreement between a singer/performer and a third party (e.g. a publishing company), the singer/performer shall bear sole liability for any claims that may be presented by the third party. The RÚV accepts no responsibility for such breach of contract and shall not be liable for any expenses entailed.

10.4. Signature

Songwriters and lyrics writers shall undertake, by signing the participation form, to comply with these rules and the rules of the ESC 18 in every respect.

10.5. Period of validity of these rules

These rules are set by RÚV and take effect on 1 September 2017. The reserves in full the right to amend these rules, interpret them in further detail and resolve all points of dispute that may arise.

*Executive committee of the RÚV Song Contest 2018
Programming Department, RÚV
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