

RULES OF THE 44th EUROVISION SONG CONTEST, 1999**I. PARTICIPANTS**

1. Under the auspices of the EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION (EBU) and as part of the television programme exchanges known as "Eurovision", the EBU member organisations of Austria (ORF), Belgium (VRT), Bosnia-Herzegovina (RTVBH) Croatia (HRT), Cyprus (CY/CBC), Denmark (DR), Estonia (EE/ETV), France (GRF/FT2), Germany (ARD), Iceland (RUV), Ireland (RTE), Israel (IBA), Latvia (LTV) Lithuania (LRT), Malta (MT/PBS), Netherlands (NOS), Norway (NRK), Poland (PRT/TVP), Slovenia (RTVSLO), Spain (TVE), Sweden (SVT), Turkey (TRT) and the United Kingdom (BBC), 23 countries, hereinafter called the "participants", have decided, under the conditions of the present Rules, to take active part in the

44th EUROVISION SONG CONTEST, 1999.

2. Participants are free to withdraw up to 31 October 1998, after which date they shall be liable for their shares even if they subsequently decide not to enter a song. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a participant withdraws later than 31 October, it could be replaced by the member from the next country on the waiting list if this is still compatible with the timing of the preparation for the contest.

II. AIM

1. The purpose of this Contest is to stimulate the output of original songs of high quality in the field of popular music, by encouraging competition among authors and composers through the international comparison of their works.
2. Only works (words and music) not published as sheet music, or issued as or included in a commercial record, cassette, disc, film, videogram, etc. until after 1st January 1999, may be performed at the European Final. After that point, and until after the final, these works may be released commercially only in the country they represent, unless they are part of a compilation CD with all participating songs. Nevertheless, the artists are allowed to participate in TV or radio programmes outside of their territory and perform their song.
3. After 15 March, only the EBU may approve the commercial release of a compilation Album to include all finalists.
4. The Contest is mainly intended for broadcast on television by Eurovision members.

III. ORGANISATION

The organisation of this Contest involves:

1. The selection by each participant - preferably by means of a national competition - of the best possible song. It is strongly recommended that this selection is made through a televised show using televoting

2. The familiarising of the public with the songs in advance of the European Final by:
 - (a) the provision of recordings on videotape or film of all the participants' entries, which must reach the producing organisation by 25 March 1999 and which shall be transmitted from the producing organisation on 13 April 1999 for simultaneous recording by all participants;
 - (b) the subsequent broadcast of these recordings by interested participants on dates convenient to each country prior to the competition.

3. The public performance before a European audience of all songs presented by the participants during a live transmission of the European Final, on the results of which shall be awarded the

GRAND PRIX OF THE 1999 EUROVISION SONG CONTEST.

IV. NATIONAL METHOD OF SELECTION

The national method of selection shall be decided by each participant as it thinks fit. However, the works selected and the national method of selection must conform to the present Rules, and all national competitions and selections must be completed by 15 March 1999.

V. CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN FINAL

1. Participants in the Eurovision Song Contest are selected on the following basis :
 - (a) The participant which presented the winning song in the previous year.
 - (b) The 17 participants (other than the member at (a) above) which obtained the highest average of points over the preceding five years (total of points divided by the number of times that the country has participated). Where such average is identical between two or three members, the total number of points scored in the most recent year in which the member participated shall be decisive.

- (c) For the remaining places, the members which were not admitted in the previous year but which have conformed with all other rules relating to participation shall qualify. The principle underlying this system of rotation is that all candidates can take part in the final at least once in every two years.
- 2. The members willing to participate the following year, shall inform the Permanent Services in writing before 15 April of the current year, and shall broadcast the current edition as passive participants.
- 3. From Eurovision Song Contest 2000 and the following years, the 4 largest contributing participants (Germany, UK, France, Spain) shall automatically be qualified

**VI. PROMOTION OF THE CONTEST:
PREVIEW PRESENTATION OF THE SONGS**

Preview presentation

- a) Each participant shall provide, free of charge, for use by all other participants, a video recording or film of up to three minutes' duration of their entries. The production shown on such recording may be of any kind chosen by the originating organisation, but the actual singers of the songs must be the same as those appearing in the European Final.
- b) These recordings must reach the producing organisation by 25 March 1999. All the entries, including that of the producing organisation itself, shall be transmitted by the latter on 13 April 1999 for recording by the other participants.
- c) It is strongly recommended to broadcast these previews in order to promote the Contest.

- d) Participants broadcasting such recordings must broadcast all of them to the same duration, provided that they respect their national laws and regulations and that they respect the moral standards of the country, but they must present them in two or more separate programmes, not in one single programme.
- e) The songs may be shown in programmes devoted entirely to Song Contest entries or incorporated into light entertainment programmes.
- f) The songs must be announced as entries for the 1999 Eurovision Song Contest, and in each case the names of the organisation and country entering the song must be given.
- g) Each participant shall be exclusively responsible for all expenses incurred for the production of its song, and for the provision of the recording or film to be injected.
- h) The cost of distributing the recordings or films over the Eurovision network for the preview presentation and the European Final (together with the possible expenses of the EBU Permanent Services and the injecting organisation) shall be shared in accordance with the existing Eurovision rules.

VII. PERFORMANCE OF THE SONGS

1. The European Final shall consist chiefly of the successive presentation by the performer or performers of the songs selected under the conditions defined in Article IV above.
2. The participants are free to sing in the language of their choice.
3. A song may be performed by a maximum of six performers. To be admitted, performers must attain the age of 16 in the year of the Contest.

4. The performance of each song must not exceed three minutes. The producing organisation shall be responsible for checking whether this provision has been observed. If, at the end of the second rehearsal, any country's song exceeds three minutes, the producing organisation shall consult the EBU Scrutineer and together they may, at their sole discretion, disqualify that country's song from the competition. In such circumstances, the head of delegation of the country concerned shall be informed in writing of any decision.
5. The producing organisation has full responsibility for the programme of the broadcast within the terms of these Rules.
6. The producing organisation shall be obliged to produce the programme within the duration specified by the EBU Television Committee (i.e. no longer than three hours).
7. The producing organisation shall present its proposed format to the Eurovision Song Contest Reference Group no later than eight weeks prior to the European Final to ensure compliance with these Rules.
8. Amplifying equipment shall not be allowed on stage.
9. A comprehensive drum-kit shall be provided by the producing organisation for use by participants. Private drums-kits shall not be allowed.
10. The use of backing tracks is permitted on condition that they are instrumental only
11. The pitch shall be 442.

VIII. ORCHESTRA

The Producing organisation is not obliged to provide an orchestra. If it does not intend to do so, it must inform the EBU Permanent Services no later than 31 August of the year preceding the contest.

IX. SCORES - RECORDINGS - TEXTS AND PERFORMERS OF THE SONGS - OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES

Each of the participants must make available to the producing organisation:

1. By 29 March 1999 at the latest:
 - (a) If the Producing organisation provides an orchestra, the score of the song to be performed, adapted to the composition of the orchestra made available by the producing organisation; this material shall be returned after the Contest.
 - (b) A sound recording of its entry, and the appropriate backing track where applicable.
 - (c) A video presentation of the song on stage by the artists participating in the Final.
 - (d) The text of the song in its original language, together with English and French translations, which are free but correspond to the original text, for duplication and distribution to the commentators. A copy of the text and translations should also be sent by the same date to the EBU Permanent Services in Geneva, which shall duplicate them for the relaying organisations and the juries.

2. From 23 May to 29 May 1999:
 - (a) The performer or performers designated by it to present the song, and its own conductor if applicable. The producing organisation shall draw up a staggered timetable for rehearsals so as to make the stay of foreign conductors and performers in its country as short as possible.
 - (b) An official representative appointed by it to attend the European Final. He/she shall be responsible for liaison with the producing organisation and the EBU Scrutineer and should be empowered to take last-minute decisions on behalf of his/her organisation.

X. ORDER OF PRESENTATION OF THE SONGS

The order of presentation of the songs for the European Final shall be determined by a drawing of lots among the participants on 17 November 1998 in the presence of a representative of the EBU Permanent Services.

XI. VOTING PROCEDURE : TELEVOTING AND JURY

For the voting procedure during the European Final, each participant should use televoting, unless there are exceptional reasons not to. Participants requiring assistance in establishing televoting should seek advice through the Permanent Services.

1. Televoting Procedures

Participants using televoting for their voting sequence shall respect the following conditions:

- a) Participants which have not successfully conducted a national telepoll within the last 3 years must seek advice from the Permanent Services.

- b) Participants must be able to accommodate 22 different telephone numbers with the numbers ending with digits between 01 and 23.
- c) For all participants, a stand-by jury of 8 people (constituted as the traditional jury) must be in place.
- d) Participants must work closely with the main national telephone network operator and receive assurances from it that the televote will not cause disruption to Emergency Services calls.
- e) To minimise the risk of national lobby groups voting for their own song in other countries, telephone numbers must be used that cannot be dialed across frontiers (or for which international calls can be excluded from the total count). Each home should not vote more than three times.
- f) Participants shall run at least one spot check during the voting window to check that the ratio of calls made during the first 3 minutes is the same as the ratio delivered by the overall result. This checks that lobby groups are not distorting the result. If there are any changes in the order of the top 10 position, then the result given by the initial surge of calls must be taken and not the final result.
- g) The televote must be capable of being run and completed within 5 minutes, including running the spot check at 3 minutes
- h) The lines provided to answer calls must be equally accessible to any of the twenty two numbers being rung.
- i) The telephone network must ensure that callers from all round the country concerned stand an equal chance of getting their call through.
- j) Participants must keep the result of calls made to all numbers and provide these results to the EBU after the contest. These results must be checked and certified by a notary.
- k) Participants must be sure that they can announce the result within the tight six minutes time window. It is recommended that this element be rehearsed before the Eurovision Song Contest.
- l) Participants shall promote the benefits of the televoting system within its country with positive P.R.

- m) The start and cut-off time for counting the votes must be the exact same moment for all numbers used in the televote within any country. In particular, the call count (the logger) must be zeroed at the point that the public are invited to start ringing after they have heard all entrants. Any calls made before this moment must be discounted.
- n) Within each country, the cost of voting or the rate at which calls are charged must be the same for all people. Use of a national premium rate code or other non-geographic code will ensure this. It is accepted that the cost of registering a televote will vary from one country to the next.
- o) Participants shall comply with the recommendation of the producing organisation on how the televote should be presented (graphics, commentators,...).

2. Jury Procedures

In the exceptional circumstances that televoting is not possible, the following jury rules shall apply. The same rules shall apply for the backup jury.

- (a) The participant shall appoint a national jury of 8 members. The names of the members of the national juries must not be disclosed until the day of the European Final at the earliest, that is not before 29 May 1999. Each national jury must be composed 50% of persons able to demonstrate their interest in popular music and representative of the public of their country, and 50% of professionals. There should be an equal number of men and women on each jury, with 4 jurors aged below 30 and four above 30 years of age. The 4 professional jurors can be composers, authors, singers, musicians, conductors, journalists in the light music sphere, or radio/TV producers, but only one of them may be connected with a record company or music publisher. Members of staff of participants, or any person currently on contract with those organisations in the field of light entertainment, must be excluded from the jury.

The composition of these juries may be completely different from that of the jury or juries appointed by participants for their national contests organised for the purpose of selecting the song to be presented.

- (b) Each member of each national jury shall award from 1 to 10 votes to each song, excluding the song presented by the participant which has appointed him/her. Abstentions shall not be allowed.
- (c) The members of the national juries shall register their votes for each song, as soon as it has been sung, on secret voting papers which shall be collected by the secretary.
- (d) Each jury shall have a chairperson, appointed by the relevant participant from its own staff, who shall be responsible for counting the votes after each song has been performed, and for allocating points accordingly for the European Final results, after the last song has been sung. He/she shall be assisted by a secretary who shall act as spokesperson and be responsible for communicating the jury's final points, clearly and distinctly in English or in French, when requested to do so by the producing organisation's presenter.
- (e) Each participant should offer its national jury the possibility of viewing the TV transmission of the European Final on TV sets giving the best possible reception. Each participant undertakes to cut off reception of the programme sound and vision while the points of other national juries are being announced until after its own jury's final points have been transmitted. Only the secretary to the jury may listen to the international programme sound on headphones in order to hear when the presenter calls on his/her country to allocate its points.
- (f) Each national jury must sit in its own country in the presence of a notary, or similar official, whose task shall be to ensure respect of the above rules and to collect the completed ballot papers and send them to the EBU Permanent Services in Geneva, where they shall be filed in the archives. This should not apply for the backup jury if its results are not used.
- (g) No later than 15 minutes after the start of the voting, the last five organisations in voting procedure shall deliver their votes to the scrutineer off air (by fax), in order to facilitate the verification of the final result. These votes shall be announced on air according to normal procedure.

XII. FINAL DRESS REHEARSAL - VOTING

The final dress rehearsal shall be produced in full and under the same conditions as the European Final.

1. Each participant shall make a recording of the final dress rehearsal.
2. Each participant shall be required to order the circuits for the voting procedure as specified by the EBU Operations Department in agreement with the producing organisation.
3. Each participant's spokesperson shall hold a rehearsal of the voting procedure according to instructions issued by the EBU Permanent Services.
4. The national jury (real or back-up) shall assemble for the final dress rehearsal on 29 May 1999, the actual day of the Contest.
5. The juries (real or back-up) shall receive the sound and vision of the final dress rehearsal of each song presented. They shall then hold a rehearsal of the voting procedure according to instructions issued by the EBU Permanent Services.
6. During the break between the end of that rehearsal and the broadcast, the juries may view/listen to this recording if they wish.

XIII. FINAL VOTE BY THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

1. There shall be an interval of at least six minutes after the performance of the last song. After the voting has been completed, a secretary in charge in each country (whether the results were obtained by the jury or through televoting) shall add up the number of votes obtained by each song. He/she shall allocate 12 points to the song gaining the most votes, 10 points to the song gaining the second highest number of votes, 8 points to the song gaining the third highest number of votes, 7 points to the next, and so on down to 1 point for the song gaining the tenth highest number of votes. The spokesperson shall stand by to make the public announcement of these results.

2. For participants using a jury, should there be a tie for any of the above positions, the order of the tying songs shall be ascertained by show of hands by the members. If two or more songs tie for the same place, and if there is still a tie after the show of hands, the final order shall be decided by the vote of the youngest member of the jury.

For participants using televoting, should there be a tie in the 5 minute check, then the 3 minute check should be used and vice versa.

3. A song shall be disqualified:
 - (a) If during the rehearsal week there is evidence that a performer, a member of the delegation or spokesman do not comply with the requests of the producing organisation and/or the scrutineer and therefore risk disturbance to the programme
 - (b) if the performer(s) depart(s) from the planned transmission as rehearsed at the final rehearsal, and thereby cause(s) disturbance to the programme.

The decision of disqualification is taken by the EBU Scrutineer after consultation with the executive producer.

Such disqualification shall mean that the participant in question shall not be allowed to vote, and the song itself shall receive no votes from the other participating countries.

XIV. FINAL CLASSIFICATION

1. The points allocated by each participant must be announced in ascending order, beginning with the minimum number of points (1) and ending with the maximum (12). Thus, the attribution of points shall take place in the following order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12.
2. When called upon to announce the final points allocated by country, the spokesperson shall state, in English or in French, the name of the country for which he/she is speaking and shall announce, in ascending order, how the points have been awarded.
3. The spokespersons are not necessarily called in the same order in which the songs were presented.
4. The producing organisation shall provide a suitable scoreboard in full view of the audience on which the cumulative points for each song shall be displayed as they are announced by the spokesmen.
5. The total number of points and the final classification of the songs shall be established when the announcements of all the national votes have been completed.

6. A representative of the EBU Permanent Services, in the capacity of Scrutineer for the European Jury, shall satisfy himself/herself as to the correctness of the voting operations leading up to the final classification. He/she shall have the responsibility of making any required decisions in the course of the ballot and of giving any necessary instructions to the presenter and the scoreboard operator(s).

XV. "GRAND PRIX"

1. The song obtaining the highest number of points is awarded the

GRAND PRIX OF THE 1999 EUROVISION SONG CONTEST.

2. Should there be a tie for the first place, the Grand Prix shall be awarded to the song that has obtained the highest score (12 points) the most often. If the winner cannot be determined using this procedure, then the number of times 10 points have been awarded shall be the deciding factor.
3. Should two or more songs still tie for the first place, even after this calculation, both/all such songs shall share the Eurovision Grand Prix.
4. The final result shall be announced immediately, and the transmission of the European Final shall end with a further performance of the winning song or songs.

5. The participant having presented the winning song shall produce the Eurovision Song Contest the following year. Should there be a tie, the organisations concerned shall agree among themselves, in consultation with the Eurovision Song Contest Reference Group and the EBU TV Committee, on the producer of the next Eurovision Song Contest. If no agreement is possible, other countries shall be consulted, after which the Reference Group will make a recommendation to the TV Committee.
6. Trophies shall be designed by the producing organisation and presented to the composer(s) and the author(s) having created the winning song(s). A trophy shall also be presented to the performer(s) of the winning song(s).

XVI. FINANCING

1. All participants (other than the producing organisation) shall pay to the EBU Permanent Services, as a contribution to the producing organisation's production costs as well as to the EBU coordination costs, a participation fee fixed by the Eurovision Song Contest Reference Group and approved by the Television Committee.
2. The participants that have not paid their contribution, by 31 August following the contest could be excluded for the following year, following a recommendation of the Eurovision Song Contest Reference Group approved by the Television Committee.
3. The members which were not admitted in 1999 but have announced their desire to participate in 2000 have to broadcast the 1999 Contest and therefore are obliged to pay a broadcast fee corresponding to 50% of what their fee would have been in case of participation in the 1999 Contest.
4. Any other television organisations entitled to broadcast the European Final shall pay to the EBU the agreed broadcast fee, to be used in accordance with 1. above.

5. All expenses incurred in organising and broadcasting the European Final, over and above the total participation and broadcast fees, shall be borne by the producing organisation, with the exception of:
 - (a) All the expenses incurred by each participant for its own participation (such as fees and travel and subsistence costs for the performer or performers, commentator, jurors, official representatives, etc.), which shall be the full responsibility of each respective participant and cannot be refunded.
 - (b) The cost of relaying the European Final over the Eurovision network (together with the corresponding expenses incurred by the EBU Permanent Services), which shall be divided in accordance with the existing sharing rules.

6. Each participant bears its own costs related to the national contest.

XVII. BROADCAST OF THE EUROPEAN FINAL

1. The European Final, produced in accordance with the applicable Eurovision rules (especially as regards advertising and sponsorship), shall be transmitted on 29 May 1999 from 19.00 to approx. 22.00 GMT in its entirety as a live continuous programme over the Eurovision network, unless emergency procedure interrupt the programme in which case the producing organisation could broadcast the dress rehearsal.
2. There will be two opportunities for Commercial breaks during the programme. One during the presentation of the song and one before the announcement of the voting.
3. The producing organisation has to transmit the EBU Logo before and after the programme and each participant shall relay it.
4. All participants shall broadcast the European Final live on their national programme service.

5. The same shall apply to candidates for participation the following year, except that if for imperative scheduling reasons a live broadcast should not be possible, a deferred broadcast shall be carried out within 24 hours.
6. Thereafter, within 30 calendar days of the date of the European Final, all participants and candidates for 2000 shall be entitled to repeat the broadcast wholly or in part, an unlimited number of times, either on their terrestrial or 100% owned satellite channels.
7. Subject to prior authorisation by the EBU, the European Final may also be broadcast live or as a deferred relay by Eurovision members in other countries and by EBU associate members located in the European Broadcasting area. The deferred transmissions must take place within 30 calendar days of the date of the European Final.
8. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Television and radio organisations throughout the world shall be entitled to news access not exceeding 2 minutes of the Final for the purpose of reporting in their regularly scheduled news bulletins on the results of the European Final.
9. Sound broadcasting organisations throughout the world may broadcast the European Final live or deferred. However, in countries where the EBU has an active member organisation or organisations, this applies only to such organisation or organisations. If in a given country no EBU member organisation chooses to broadcast, another broadcaster in the same country may be authorised to do so.
10. In agreement with the EBU and the producing organisation, the European Final may also be broadcast, live or deferred, by television organisations located outside the European Broadcasting area, whether EBU members or not.
11. Organisations choosing to use the commercial break opportunities referred in 2. above are not entitled to broadcast, wholly or in part, the entertainment acts presented by the producing organisation during these intervals.

12. After the deadline referred to in 6 above, participants as well as any other members who did not qualify for participation and/or which have declared their intention to participate in the following year's Contest and broadcast the Final shall continue to be entitled, without any limitation in time, and in accordance with the applicable Rules on Use of the Eurovision Signal, to use extracts from the European Final not exceeding five minutes' total duration (but no more than two minutes per song) in any of their television programmes.
13. Aside from the permission stated above, any TV organisation or producer must seek permission to use extracts from any past Eurovision Song Contest Final from the Host broadcaster of each given year.

XVIII. COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION

The sponsoring of the contest, before and after the programme or during the commercial breaks is allowed and is the sole responsibility of each participant.

The producing organisation shall not propose any sponsoring on the international feed before and after the programme or during the breaks.

During the programme, or at the venue the commercial exploitation of the Contest shall be the responsibility of the producing organisation under the Eurovision Rules regarding advertising and sponsorship.

In that regard, the following is permitted:

1. On screen identification of a maximum of 2 provider(s) of the scoreboard computing graphic display and data transmission:
 - Identification of the provider(s) may only appear at the same time as the picture of the scoreboard
 - There shall be a maximum of 60 seconds of identifications in total during the voting sequence, but no more than 6 seconds each.
 - The service providers' logo may be faithfully reproduced in the original lettering and typeface and colours
 - The maximum number of television lines utilised for the identification shall be 10 lines (20 half-lines) in total in 625 lines standard. The identification shall appear at the bottom of the screen.
 - Such identifications may be made by insertion into the telecast feed.

2. "Postcards" and "Green Room"

The postcards and the Green Room are not intended as an opportunity to advertise but it is permissible for the Producing organisation to feature appropriate local tourism, products or services to a modest degree and subject to the final consent of the EBU Permanent Services.

3. On screen presence in the end written credits should be limited to the organisations which have made a significant contribution to the staging of the contest.

4. The sponsorship of the Event (not on screen), is the sole responsibility of the producing organisation.

5. Any On Screen reflection of EVENT sponsorship must be kept to a strict minimum and mutually agreed by the producing organisation and the EBU Permanent Services

XIX. GUARANTEE

Each participant, by the very fact of entering a song in the Contest as a whole, shall guarantee that it has obtained all the necessary authorisations from all the rightholders concerned, including broadcast live on the Internet and presentation of sound recordings on the Official Internet sites.

Each participating organisation, when contacting the rightholders of the songs must make every effort to secure the rights for a compilation CD and a video release to be arranged by the EBU Permanent Services (or a third party appointed by the Permanent Services) on behalf of the participants. Revenues shall then be shared among the participants. In exceptional circumstances where it has not been possible to secure these rights, the participating organisation should inform the Permanent Services right after the national selection.

Accordingly, it shall indemnify all organisations concerned against any claim whatsoever from authors, performers, publishers, producers or any other persons or entities in respect of any of the broadcasts or other uses of the songs referred to in Articles VI, XVII and XVIII.

XX. FINAL CLAUSES - SANCTIONS

1. By the fact of entering a song for the European Final of this Contest, each participant thereby accepts these Rules, which apply to the event as a whole.
2. Each participant must provide the EBU permanent Services with the Quantitative and Qualitative information on the final that will be requested by the Eurovision Song Contest coordinator after the contest.

3. A participant may be sanctioned if it:
 - does not comply with the present Rules (e.g. not respecting duration-of the song); or
 - withdraws from the 1999 Eurovision Song Contest later than 31 October 1998; or
 - does not broadcast the European Final in accordance with Article XVII ; or
 - inserts advertising items or sponsorship messages - other than those envisaged under Article XVIII - during the broadcast, except in the sections of the programme allowing for commercial breaks as expressed in Article XVII
 - is one of the final 5 voting countries and does not pre-submit a fax of his results in accordance with the rules.

4. Any sanction shall be pronounced by the TV Committee, following a proposal by the Eurovision Song Contest Reference Group. It shall be proportionate to the damage or prejudice caused to the EBU, the producing organisation and/or the reputation of the Song Contest and shall have a deterrent effect, and could amount to the exclusion from the Song Contest for the following year.

DEADLINES FOR THE 1999 EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

1. Dispatch of the 1998 Rules 1st Week of October
2. Deadline to withdraw 31 October
3. Draw for running order 17 November
4. Date from which selected songs can be published as sheet music, issued as a commercial record, cassette, etc., or included in a VTR, film, videogram, etc. 1st January
5. National competitions and selections completed before 15 March
6. Sound recordings, scores and texts to reach the producing organisation at the latest by 25 March
7. VTRs or films to reach the producing organisation for injection 25 March
8. Recordings injected from origin to active participants 13 April
9. Performers to be available for rehearsal from 23 to 29 May
10. Final dress rehearsal and European Final 29 May 1999

