

MIDLANDS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Grade Exams Grades 1-12

Dear Teachers,

It is with great pleasure that the Midlands Regional Council invite you to take part in Grade Examinations. These will run alongside Oireachtas Rince Lar Na Breataine.

As before, the aim is to offer all dancers, but particularly those from smaller schools, the opportunity to achieve CLRG grade exams. It will also give teachers who have not entered dancers in grade exams before, a chance to introduce these into their school. Dancers attending the Oireachtas may also like to complete one or more grades as part of the weekend. The grades timetable will be planned to work around any dancers who are taking part in the Oireachtas.

There will be an online entry system with one entry and payment per school. This will enable us to manage entry numbers (capped) and will minimise paperwork. Any dancers wishing to take grades once we have reached the cap, will be placed on a waiting list.

Date: Saturday 22nd November 2025

Location: Holiday Inn Birmingham Airport
Coventry Road
BIRMINGHAM
B26 3QW

Time: Examinations will throughout the day 9am onwards; timetable TBC.

Examiner: TBC (once entries are in to avoid Examiner duplication).

Closing Dates for entries and payment:

Grades 11 and 12 – Each dancer must send their completed application form to: smasterson111@hotmail.com by 6th September 2025. This will ensure applications are sent to CLRG office within the 8 week rule. This is a CLRG rule and the date is not negotiable. DO NOT SEND DIRECT TO DUBLIN OFFICE! Download form from www.clrg.ie under the Feiseanna and Exams tab. Ensure you complete the form in full and upload copies of previous grade comment sheets and certificates as instructed.

Grades 1 – 10 = 1st November 2025.

ENTRY TO GRADE EXAMINATIONS WILL BE STRICTLY CAPPED, AND BE ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Stephen Masterson, MRC member who is co-ordinating the grade exams either by email: smasterson111@hotmail.com or using his mobile number as listed in the current teacher's book.

On line entry system

Complete the attached entry form, remembering to add any grade 11 and 12 dancers and email this to smasterson111@hotmail.com

A confirmation email will be sent outlining the total fees payable, a payment reference number and the MRC bank details for payment.

All dates of birth must be supplied for all competitors.

Enter School Name, Email address and Telephone number at the top of the page.

TYPE ALL OF YOUR ENTRIES INTO THE FILE (Upper Case please). The dancer's name entered will be the name that will appear on the certificate.

Once you have completed your entry form please rename the file as the name of your dancing school and email the file to: smasterson111@hotmail.com

An entry confirmation along with the bank details and a reference number to quote with entry payment will be sent. Payment must be made within 24 hours of receipt of the confirmation of entry email

All entries MUST be paid by BANK TRANSFER ONLY, one payment per school. NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE FOR ANY MONEY RECEIVED.

Grade Exams

Grade	Dance/Speed	Price
Prelim	Easy Reel 122-124 <u>or</u> Light Jig 116	£10
1	Easy Reel 122-124 <u>and</u> Light Jig 116	£15
2	Basic Slip Jig 124 <u>and</u> Basic Single Jig 124	£15
3	Primary Reel 116-118 <u>and</u> Basic Heavy Jig 96	£15
4	Primary Slip Jig 120 <u>and</u> St Patrick's Day 94	£25
5	Advanced Reel (Primary/Intermediate/Open) 113 <u>and</u> Basic (Traditional) Hornpipe 144 <u>and</u> Walls of Limerick	£25
6	Advanced Slip Jig (Primary/Intermediate/Open) 113 <u>and</u> The Blackbird 144 Siege of Ennis	£25
7	Advanced Heavy Jig 73 <u>and</u> Garden of Daisies 138 Four Hand Reel	£30
8	Advanced Hornpipe 113 <u>and</u> Job of Journeywork 138 Humours of Bandon	£30
9	Two modern Set Dances, one in 6/8 time and the other in 2/4 or 4/4 time. High Caule'd Cap.	£30
10	Two modern Set Dances, one in 6/8 time and the other in 2/4 or 4/4 time. Eight Hand Jig	£30
11	Advanced Reel 113, Advanced Slip Jig 113, Advanced Heavy Jig 73, King of Fairies (Trad) 130. The Eight-Hand Reel and Harvest Time Jig	£60
12	Light Jig 116, Single Jig 124, Advanced Hornpipe 113, Three Sea Captains(trad) 96, Jockey to the Fair (trad) 90. The Morris Reel and The Sixteen Hand Reel	£60

Grade Exams

Rules & Regulations

1. Only Basic Steps may be danced in the Preliminary grade and Grades 1, 2 & 3.
2. The number of bars of music to be danced to for all Reels, Single or Hop Jigs, Light Jigs, Slip Jigs, Heavy Jigs and Hornpipes is **40**.
3. St. Patrick's Day, Blackbird, Garden of Daisies, Job of Journeywork, King of the Fairies, Three Sea Captains, and Jockey to the Fair must be performed in a traditional style and manner.
4. The same set dance **must not** be performed in more than one of the Grades from 9 to 12 inclusive.
5. A dancer must take all grades in order, beginning with Grade 1 - the Preliminary grade is optional. However, a candidate may **only** attempt a maximum of 3 consecutive grades at any one sitting.
6. Candidates must be able to adequately demonstrate practical and theoretical knowledge of all ceili dances as per "Ár Rincí Céilí" as specified in the syllabus for Grades 5 -12 inclusive.
7. Dance costumes should not be worn.
8. **All candidates must produce previous reports before proceeding to higher grades. Reports must be presented at examinations.**
9. Grade 11 may only be attempted by candidates at least 16 years of age.
10. Grade 12 may only be attempted by candidates at least 17 years of age.
11. A special application form and certificate/diploma will apply for Grades 11 and 12.
12. All 12 Grade Examinations must be completed to be eligible to apply for the TCRG Examination effective from January 1st 2018.
13. Scrúdú Béil (Oral Irish Exam) for grades 1-4 in Ireland.
14. **Dancers taking the exams must be associated with a currently registered CLRG teacher.**