

RULES AS AT SEPTEMBER 2021

These rules should be read in conjunction with rules laid out by An Coimisiun Le Rinci Galeacha.

1. GENERAL

- 1.1. Adjudicator's decision is final.
- 1.2. Committee members only may approach adjudicators.
- 1.3. Any protest against breach of rules must be made in writing to the feis organiser within one hour of conclusion of a competition, with a fee of £10.00. Should the objection be upheld the fee will be refunded.
- 1.4. Entries will only be accepted from schools registered with An Coimisiun.
- 1.5. Lodgement of entries at a feis implies that you accept the rules relating to the feis in their entirety as laid down by the An Coimisiun Le Rinci Gaelacha & Midland Regional Council.

2. AGE GROUPS

- 2.1. Age to be taken from 1st January of the current year. Where a competitor's birthday falls on 1st January he/she shall, be regarded as under the age attained on that day.
- 2.2. Competitors must dance in their own age group for solo competitions except where there is no provision for that dance in that age group.

3. GRADES

- 3.1. At any one Feis, a Novice and Primary Dancer may only dance each Solo Dance in ONE grade.
* **Exception - Dancers ARE permitted to dance in both Novice Reel and Primary Reel competitions (NEW MAY 2019).**
- 3.2. **Novice** – Confined to competitors who have not progressed out of Novice grade (including Trophy Competitions) for that particular dance in any age group.
Primary - Confined to competitors who have not progressed out of Primary grade (including Trophy Competitions) for that particular dance in any age group.
Intermediate – confined to competitors who have not progressed out of Intermediate grade (including Trophy Competitions) for that particular dance in their present age group.
Open – Open to all dancers.
- 3.3. All grade competitions are open to all regions.
- 3.4. In a trophy competition, a dancer must have performed their choice of dance in the solo competition.
- 3.5. Grade Progression is as follows:

Grade	No of Entries	No of dancers to progress
Novice & Primary	5 or less	0
	6-10	1 dancer
	11 – 20	2 dancers
	21+	3 dancers
Intermediate	5 or less	0
	More than 5	1st place only

4. PRELIMINARY/OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS AND PREMIER COMPETITIONS:

- 4.1. Championship/Premier Competitions - Only Intermediate and Open dancers are eligible to compete (except under 6 and 7 – see below).
- 4.2. Under 6s & under 7s Championships/Premier must dance Reel & Light Jig. A recall is at the discretion of the feis organisers. All grades are allowed to compete.
- 4.3. Under 8s and Under 9s must dance Reel and Heavy Jig. A recall is at the discretion of the feis organisers.
* **Dancers no longer have to dance in the grade competitions to be eligible to compete in the U6, 7, 8 and 9 championships but ALL DANCES MUST BE OFFERED IN THE OPEN GRADE FOR THESE AGE GROUPS.**
- 4.4. Under 10 and up. All dancers must be given a choice of Reel or Slip Jig and Jig or Hornpipe and recall set dance.
- 4.5. Subsidiary solos may be run at the discretion of the feis organisers.
- 4.6. IF a minimum number is stated for ANY championship to be held, then this must be consistent for ALL championship competitions. E.g. if you decide on a minimum number of 5 in order to run a separate boys or prelim championship then this must be consistent with the number required to run any championship. This may well be prevalent in the younger age groups where numbers can be low. For example if you have this rule on your syllabus and you only have 4 entries for Under 6 – you should not run the championship.

4.7. PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

- A minimum number of three Adjudicators must officiate.
- The first age group for a Preliminary Championship is Under 10.
- Where a Preliminary Championship is held separate from an Open Championship, three rounds should be offered, namely; Reel or Slip Jig, Heavy Jig or Hornpipe and any Set Dance.
- Where a Preliminary Championship is combined with an Open Championship, then the result should be taken from eligible dancers' ranking after the first two rounds.
- Where there are separate Preliminary and Open Championships, dancers can compete in both at the discretion of the Feis organiser.
- Where a competitor wins two Preliminary Championships they must dance in Open Championship for a period of 12 months thereafter.
 - For grading purposes, two wins will be taken as being in any two year rolling period. Where a dancer does not win a second Preliminary within two years of winning their first Preliminary Championship, then the first win will be deemed as having expired and the dancer starts afresh.
 - Where there are less than 6* in a Preliminary Championship that win will not normally be considered for grading purposes. However, where a dancer wins three Preliminary Championships regardless of the number of competitors in each competition, that dancer must dance in Open Championship for a period of 12 months thereafter.
- Dances performed in a Preliminary Championships do not count for grading in solo competitions.
- **Due to Covid-19 restrictions, and until further notice, please note the following:**
 - All dancers*, who are included on the official confirmed list of qualifiers for Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2022, are not eligible to compete in Preliminary Championships until further notice. *This excludes dancers that auto qualified at their Regional or National Oireachtas due to lack of numbers.
- Dancers placing 1st-3rd in an Open Championship with up to 20* competitors or 1st-5th in an Open Championship with more than 20* Competitors cannot compete in a Preliminary Championship for a period of 12 month.
- Implementation date 1st January 2021.

4.8. The Midland region allows dancers to participate in any 1 round of preliminary champs as a separate solo round – these dancers should not be included in the numbers indicated above with *.

5. DANCE MOVEMENTS

- 5.1. In Novice Grades only basic steps should be performed i.e. no intricate movements.
- 5.2. Rules appertaining to Dance movements such as toe movements, metronomic speeds as laid out by An Coimisiun apply.

Metronomic Speeds – **Please note new speeds (Red and highlighted) Implemented from Jan 2022.** Feis organisers may consider offering the new speeds (in addition to existing speeds) before Jan 2022.

Novice Grade/Bun Grád	Primary Grade/Tús Grád	Intermediate Open Grade/ Meán/Árd Grád
Reel122-124	Primary: Reel 116 (116-118)	Reel 113
Hop Jig124	Hop Jig 124	Hop Jig124
Light Jig116	Light Jig 116	Light Jig116
Slip Jig124	Slip Jig 120	Slip Jig113
Trad Jig96	Heavy Jig82 (76)	Heavy Jig73
Trad Hornpipe144	Hornpipe 130 (118)	Hornpipe 113

Traditional Set Dance Speeds

St Patrick's Day.....	94
The Blackbird.....	144
Garden of Daisies.....	138
Job of Journeywork.....	138
King of the Fairies.....	130
Three Sea Captains.....	96
Jockey to the Fair.....	90

6. COSTUME & MAKE-UP

- 6.1. All costume and make-up rules as set out in CLRG rules must be adhered to EXCEPT see * in 6.2:
- 6.2. All competitors in all age groups in Novice may only wear traditional class costumes or long / short-sleeved blouses / polo tops and skirts / tunics that conform to the regular costume length rules as above. Low-cut tops and short, tight skirts are not permitted. * **NB Primary competitors in the Midlands Regional are allowed to wear solo costumes.**
- 6.3. Adjudicators who determine a costume to be too short or to lack modesty may use the Costume Infraction (Tick Box) Program in order to flag the dancer and ensure the teacher is notified. As the Costume Infraction Program is used for ALL costume violations, adjudicators wishing to specify length as the infraction can write the letter 'L' in the Tick Box column.
- 6.4. Under no circumstances should dancers walk around any dancing venue in their underwear. Neither should dancers (regardless of age) change in to or out of costume in the main dancing hall, if at all possible. At all times, dancers should be properly attired.
- 6.5. Make-up, including false eyelashes and tan on face, is not be permitted for any dancer in solo or team competition up to and including the under 10 age group. Nor in the first two grades up to and including the under 12 age group. Leg tan is NOT part of this rule.

7. FIGURE AND CEILI

- 7.1. In Figure and Ceili competitions - rules regarding age and re-dancing as laid out by An Coimisiun apply.
- 7.2. Figure Championship in the U7's year group may be a 6 hand dance, 8 hand Ceili or Figure Dance of 6 or more
- 7.3. Ceili 8 Hand competitions any 8 Hand may be performed in accordance with Ar Rince Foirne.
- 7.4. Mixed Ceili – A mixed team must consist of at least 2 boys or 2 girls.

8. MEDIA POLICY

Any form of unauthorised photography, which has the capability to capture a dancer's image whilst in motion, using electronic or manual means e.g. mobile phone, standard camera, video camcorder, commercial film, with or without enhancement, is expressly forbidden during competitions.

All photographs of competitors, competitions and presentations may only be taken for personal use. They may not be redistributed, sold, lent or passed on to third parties. They may also not be used for commercial purposes or used in any publication or website (all forms of social media – Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) without the express written permission of the organisers and the parents or guardians of dancers included therein.

Feis organisers may appoint an official photographer for the event, who will take photographs of competitors, competitions and presentations. Such photographs may be subsequently used for marketing and promotional purposes.

Should any dancer or dancer's parent or guardian wish to be excluded from any of these photographs, then the Feis Organiser should be informed in writing prior to the event commencing.

9. CARRIAGE AIDS

- 9.1. Any competitor found to be using artificial carriage aids and subsequently refuses to remove same, will be subject to disqualification from that particular competition. Medically prescribed apparatus (proof of which may be required) will be exempt from this ruling.
- 9.2. Any competitor wearing their shoes on the wrong feet will be treated in the same manner as if using carriage aids and be subject to disqualification from that particular competition.
- 9.3. In order to comply with health and safety measures, all dancers lining up side stage prior to any round of a competition will be required to perform the simple exercise of raising arms to shoulder level unhindered. If unable to do this due to costume stitching or arm attachments, by the time of their rotation, these dancers will not be permitted to perform.

10. ORDER OF DANCING, CONDUCT, MISHAPS ETC

- 10.1. Should a dancer lose a heel or a complete shoe or have an open lace he/she may stand back – allowing the other dancer(s), where applicable, to continue dancing uninhibited. In such a case, the dancer concerned will be permitted to redance as soon as it is deemed practicable by the stage steward.
- 10.2. Should a dancer fall on stage, whether in solos or in teams, the adjudicator MUST ring the bell to stop the performance of the dancer(s). Dancers so affected will be permitted to redance and will be marked then at the discretion of each individual adjudicator. If a dancer falls during the last 8 bars of any performance, then he/she would only be required to dance the last 16 bars of that dance.
- 10.3. Should a dancer slip, bump into another dancer or have a costume malfunction whether in solos or in teams, the bell will be rung at the discretion of the adjudicators to stop the performance of the dancer(s). Dancers so affected will be permitted to redance and will be marked then at the discretion of each individual adjudicator.
- 10.4. Where a dancer fails to complete his / her performance in any given round, that dancer will automatically receive ZERO marks from all adjudicators for that round.
- 10.5. Competitors beginning to dance before or after the stipulated set dance introduction will automatically receive ZERO marks from all adjudicators for that round.
- 10.6. A competitor must not walk off the stage during a performance unless instructed to do so by an adjudicator. A dancer who dismisses themselves from the stage without the permission of an adjudicator will not be marked for that particular dance.