

**The Carson Academy of Irish Dance**

— Presents —

**THE**  
**NORTHERN IRISH**  
**DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**2026**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH**

**Venue**

**Hilton Hotel**  
(Kingfisher Country Estate)  
Templepatrick, BT39 0DD

**ADJUDICATORS**

ALAN SCARIFF - CONNACHT, IRELAND  
BRIAN SHINNERS - MUNSTER, IRELAND  
MICHAEL KENNY - SOUTHERN, USA  
PASCHAL LYONS - ULSTER, IRELAND

**MUSICIAN**

STEPHEN DEVLIN - ULSTER, IRELAND

Follow "THE CARSON ACADEMY" & "Northern Irish Dance Championships" Facebook page for  
feis updates

Entries accepted now: <https://form.jotform.com/2202518514222041>

Syllabus approved by An Comhairle Uladh Feis Registrar:



# WELCOME

Teachers, Parents & dancers

We would like to welcome you to the northern Irish Dance  
**Championships 2026.**

years' event will take place in the beautiful Hilton Hotel (Kingfisher estate).

Hotel rates will be available via our social media.

Belfast International airport, is **10 minutes** from the venue.

## “Champion of Champions”

WHICH WILL HAVE A JUNIOR AND SENIOR.

Top 3 of each open championship will be INVITED to participate.

The winners will receive a perpetual cup.

### Awards

- All Open, Prelim & Priomh Comortas Top 5 will receive trophies & sashes.
- Top 5 in Trophy Reel will receive trophies and winner a sash.
- Top 5 in trophy dances will receive trophies and winner a sash.
- All solos will receive a riser.
- 100% awards in trophy dances, and championship light rounds.

We will have a separate results room to keep the smooth running of the feis.

Please ensure all perpetual cups from 2025 are returned.

Entries are being accepted now:

<https://form.jotform.com/2202518514222041>

Regards

The Carson Academy Teachers

Enquires: [carson\\_acd@icloud.com](mailto:carson_acd@icloud.com)

07429496240 (teachers only)



## SATURDAY 14TH MARCH

RUNNING ORDER OF THE COMPETITIONS. FINAL TIMES WILL BE ISSUED ONCE ALL ENTRIES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED.

IF MORE THAN 6 BOYS, THERE WILL BE A SEPARATE BOYS COMPETITION

8-9 Open & Prelim Championship
9-10 Open & Prelim Championship
10-11 Open & Prelim Championship
11-12 Open & Prelim Championship
12-13 Open & Prelim Championship
13-14 Open & Prelim Championship
Under 12/Under 15/Over 15 2Hand,4Hand, 8Hand
Junior Champion of Champions
14-15 Open & Prelim Championship
15-16 Open & Prelim Championship
16-17 Open Championship
17-18 Open Championship
18-20 Open Championship
Over 20 Open Championship
Senior Champion of Champions

8-9 CHAMPIONSHIP- HEAVY JIG, REEL & TRAD SET  
9-10 - SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP- HEAVY JIG OR HORNPIPE, REEL OR SLIP JIG & OPEN SET DANCE

PRICES  
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP: £35.00  
OPEN & PRELIM CHAMPIONSHIP: £40.00  
TEAMS: £4.00 PER DANCER

Syllabus approved by An Comhairle Uladh Feis Registrar:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Gordon", is written to the right of the Registrar's name.



SUNDAY 15TH MARCH

RUNNING ORDER OF THE COMPETITIONS. FINAL TIMES WILL BE ISSUED ONCE ALL ENTRIES HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED.

<u>Stage A</u>	<u>Stage B</u>
7-8 Bungrad	8-9 Bungrad
7-8 Tusgrad	8-9 Tusgrad
7-8 Meangrad	8-9 Meangrad
Under 5 Championship	
5-6 Championship	
6-7 Championship	
7-8 Championship	
Future Stars	
Under 5 Ungraded Trophy Reel	
Under 6 Bungrad	6-7 Bungrad
Under 6 Tusgrad	6-7 Tusgrad
	Under 7 Meangrad
9-10 Bungrad & 10-12 Bungrad	12-14 Bungrad & Over 14 Bungrad
9-10 Tusgrad & 10-12 Tusgrad	12-14 Tusgrad & Over 14 Tusgrad
9-10 Meangrad & 10-12 Meangrad	12-14 Meangrad & Over 14 Meangrad

DANCES

BUNGRAD- TROPHY REEL, SINGLE JIG, LIGHT JIG, SLIP JIG, LIGHT TROPHY DANCE  
 TUSGRAD- TROPHY REEL, SINGLE JIG, LIGHT JIG, SLIP JIG, LIGHT TROPHY DANCE & HEAVY TROPHY DANCE  
 MEANGRAD- TROPHY REEL, LIGHT OR HEAVY JIG, LIGHT TROPHY DANCE, HEAVY TROPHY DANCE, PRJOMH COMORTAS  
 UNDER 5 CHAMPIONSHIP- REEL, SINGLE OR LIGHT JIG  
 UNDER 6 CHAMPIONSHIP- REEL, SINGLE JIG, JIG  
 UNDER 7 & UNDER 8 CHAMPIONSHIP- REEL, HEAVY JIG & TRAD SET.

PRICES

TROPHY DANCES- £6.00  
 SOLOS- £5.00  
 PRJOMH COMORTAS- £20.00  
 UNDER 5 CHAMPIONSHIP- £20.00  
 UNDER 6 CHAMPIONSHIP- £25.00  
 UNDER 7/8 CHAMPIONSHIP- £30.00  
 FUTURE STARS- £6.00

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## RULES

### COMPETITION RULES

1. NO REFUNDS EXCEPT IN THE CASE THAT THE EVENT DOES NOT RUN.
2. ENTRIES ONLY ACCEPTED FROM TEACHERS REGISTERED WITH AN COIMISIÚN LE RINCÍ GAELACHA.
3. THE ADJUDICATORS DECISION IS FINAL.
4. AGE TAKEN FROM 1ST JANUARY 2026.
5. COMPETITORS IN BUN GRAD AND TUS GRAD, UP TO AND INCLUDING UNDER 12 AGE GROUP MAY ONLY WEAR TRADITIONAL CLASS COSTUMES OR LONG/SHORT SLEEVED BLOUSES & SKIRT/TROUSERS, POLO TOPS & SKIRT/TROUSERS, BODY SUITS & SKIRTS OR TUNICS THAT CONFIRM TO THE REGULAR COSTUME LENGTH RULE. LOW-CUT TOPS AND SHORT TIGHT SKIRTS ARE NOT PERMITTED.
6. MAKE-UP (INCLUDING EYELASHES AND FACE TAN) IS NOT PERMITTED FOR DANCERS, IN EITHER SOLO OR TEAM COMPETITIONS, UP TO AND INCLUDING THE UNDER 10 AGE GROUP.
7. MAKE-UP WILL NOT BE PERMITTED FOR ANY DANCER IN THE FIRST TWO GRADES (BUN GRAD & TUS GRAD OR EQUIVALENT) UP TO AND INCLUDING THE UNDER 12 AGE GROUP WORLDWIDE.
8. LENGTH OF COSTUMES MUST ADHERE TO PRINCIPLES OF MODESTY AND ENABLE DANCERS TO SAFELY EXECUTE THEIR MOVEMENTS AND STEPS. ADJUDICATORS WHO DETERMINE A COSTUME TO BE TOO SHORT OR TO LACK MODESTY MAY ASK A COMPETITOR TO CHANGE INTO BLACK TIGHTS (OF A DENIER NOT LESS THAN 70 PERCENT) IN ORDER FOR THE DANCER TO CONTINUE IN THE COMPETITION.
9. APPROPRIATE UNDERGARMENTS COVERING THE MIDRIF MUST BE WORN. UNDERGARMENTS MUST PROVIDE FULL COVERAGE (AS PER ILLUSTRATION ON WWW.CLRG.IE), DANCERS WEARING UNDERGARMENTS THAT DO NOT COVER THE AREAS OF THE BODY AS IN THE ILLUSTRATED EXAMPLE WILL BE ASKED TO PUT ON BLACK TIGHTS OF A DENIER OF NOT LESS THAN 70 PER CENT. THIS IS MONITORED BY THE ADJUDICATOR. FOR COMPETITIONS ADJUDICATED BY A PANEL OF MORE THAN ONE ADJUDICATOR ALL ADJUDICATORS ON THE PANEL MUST AGREE TO ASK THE DANCER TO PUT ON TIGHTS.
10. IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES, ALL DANCERS LINING UP SIDE STAGE PRIOR TO ANY ROUND AT THE COMPETITION WILL BE REQUIRED TO PERFORM THE SIMPLE EXERCISE OF RAISING THEIR ARMS TO SHOULDER LEVEL UNHINDERED. IF UNABLE TO DO THIS BY THE TIME OF THEIR ROTATION DUE TO COSTUME STITCHING OR ARM ATTACHMENTS, THESE COMPETITORS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PERFORM.
11. BUN GRAD COMPETITIONS ARE CONFINED TO COMPETITORS WHO AT THE TIME OF ENTRY HAVE NEVER WON 1ST PLACE (OR BEING GRADED AS PER BELOW) IN THAT PARTICULAR DANCE IN ANY AGE GROUP OR GRADE. BASIC STEPS ONLY ARE PERMITTED IN BUN GRAD.
12. TUS GRAD CONFINED TO DANCERS WHO HAVE NEVER WON 1ST PLACE (OR BEING GRADED AS PER BELOW) FOR THAT PARTICULAR DANCE IN ANY AGE IN TUS GRAD, MEAN GRAD OR ARD GRAD. DANCERS MAY PERFORM EITHER BASIS STEPS OR THEIR FIRST HARD/DIFFICULT VERSION OF EACH DANCE.
13. IN BUN AND TUS GRAD COMPETITIONS ONE DANCER MOVES UP TO THE NEXT GRADE IF THERE IS LESS THAN 20 COMPETITORS, TWO DANCERS MOVE UP IF THERE ARE BETWEEN 21 AND 40 COMPETITORS AND THREE DANCERS MOVE UP IF THERE ARE OVER 40 COMPETITORS.
14. MEAN GRAD COMPETITIONS ARE CONFINED TO DANCERS WHO AT THE TIME OF ENTRY NEVER WON 1ST PLACE FOR THAT PARTICULAR DANCE IN MEAN OR ARD GRAD IN THAT AGE GROUP OR A HIGHER AGE GROUP.
15. A PRELIM CHAMPIONSHIP MUST BE ADJUDICATED BY 3 OR MORE ADJUDICATORS AND MUST CONSIST OF 2 ROUNDS, 1 LIGHT ROUND- REEL / SLIP JIG AND 1 HEAVY ROUND - HEAVY JIG/HORNPIPE. PRELIM CHAMPIONSHIPS MAY RUN AS A STAND-ALONE COMPETITION OR MAY BE INCORPORATED INTO THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS. DANCERS MAY COMPETE IN AN OPEN OR A PRELIM OR BOTH.
16. TO BE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE IN A PRELIM CHAMPIONSHIPS:  
DANCERS MUST NOT HAVE PLACED IN THE TOP 3 IN AN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS JUDGED BY 3 OR MORE ADJUDICATORS. DANCERS MUST NOT HAVE WON A PRELIM CHAMPIONSHIPS MORE THAN 2 TIMES IN THE CURRENT YEAR. HOWEVER, IF THERE ARE 5 OR LESS IN A PRELIM COMPETITION THE DANCER IS STILL ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE IN PRELIM. DANCERS MUST NOT HAVE QUALIFIED FOR OIREACHTAS RINCE NA CRUINNE IN THE CURRENT YEAR OR PREVIOUS YEAR. DANCERS MUST NOT HAVE RECALLED IN THE ACTUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AT OIREACHTAS RINCE NA HEIREANN IN THE CURRENT YEAR OR PREVIOUS YEAR. DANCERS HAVING WON 2 PRELIM CHAMPIONSHIPS MAY NOT COMPETE IN ANY MEAN GRAD COMPETITION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. HOWEVER, IF A DANCER HAS ONLY WON ONE PRELIM CHAMPIONSHIPS THEY MAY CONTINUE IN MEAN GRAD (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THEIR DANCES THAT THEY HAVE WON THE PRELIM CHAMPIONSHIPS WITH). DANCERS WHO QUALIFY FOR OIREACHTAS RINCE NA CRUINNE WHERE THERE ARE FIVE DANCERS OR LESS IN THE COMPETITION AT THEIR REGIONAL OIREACHTAS ARE EXEMPT FROM THIS RULING. THEY MAY REMAIN IN THE PRELIM CHAMPIONSHIP IF THEY SO WISH. BOYS WHO HAVE QUALIFIED FOR THE OIREACHTAS NA CRUINNE BUT WERE NOT PLACED IN THE TOP 3 AT THEIR REGIONAL OIREACHTAS AND WHO OTHERWISE FULFIL THE CRITERIA MAY CONTINUE TO COMPETE IN PRELIM GRADE.
17. METRONOMIC SPEEDS ARE AS FOLLOWS: BUN GRAD: REEL 122-124, LIGHT JIG 116, SINGLE JIG 124, SLIP JIG 124, HEAVY JIG 96, HORNPIPE 144. TUS GRAD: REEL 116-118, LIGHT JIG 116, SINGLE JIG 124, SLIP JIG 120, HEAVY JIG 82, HORNPIPE 130. MEAN/ARD GRAD: REEL 113, LIGHT JIG 116, SINGLE JIG 124, SLIP JIG 113, HEAVY JIG 73, HORNPIPE 113. TRADITIONAL SET DANCES: ST PATRICK'S DAY 94, THE BLACKBIRD 144, JOB OF JOURNEYWORK 138, GARDEN OF DAISIES 138, KING OF THE FAIRIES 130, THREE SEA CAPTAINS 96 OR JOCKEY TO THE FAIR 90.
18. ALL COMPETITORS WILL BE REQUIRED TO DANCE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF 40 BARS, EXCEPT SLIP JIG, HORNPIPE & BUN GRAD REEL WHERE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF 32 BARS WILL BE REQUIRED.

### OTHER RULES:

19. ANY FORM OF UNAUTHORIZED, 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 CAMERA, WITH OR WITHOUT FLASH ENHANCEMENT, IS FORBIDDEN DURING COMPETITION.
20. ANY PARENT WHO WOULD NOT LIKE THEIR CHILD TO APPEAR IN PHOTOS TAKEN BY THE FEIS COMMITTEE SHOULD MAKE THE FEIS ORGANISER AWARE PRIOR TO THE RESULTS BEING ANNOUNCED.
21. CHANGING OF COSTUMES, DRESSING OR UNDRRESSING IS NOT PERMITTED IN THE HALLS OR PUBLIC AREAS.
22. NO BLOCK, EN POINT, STATIONERY OR MOVING, WILL BE ALLOWED FOR ALL AGES UP TO AND INCLUDING UNDER 12. HOWEVER, DANCERS WHO WILL BE COMPETING IN THE 12-13 AGE GROUP IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR, WILL BE EXEMPT FROM THIS RULE FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER.
23. THE FEIS COMMITTEE WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURIES OR ARTICLES LOST AT THE FEIS.
24. THE FEIS COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO TRANSFER COMPETITIONS/RESULTS TO A DIFFERENT STAGE OR TO ALTERNATE COMPETITIONS IF IT BECOMES NECESSARY IN ORDER TO HELP THE FEIS RUN SMOOTHLY. THE COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO USE A RELIEF ADJUDICATOR.
25. THE FEIS COMMITTEE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE FEIS ENTRIES OR ENTRANCE INTO THE FEIS.
26. THE CHILD PROTECTION DESIGNATED LIAISON OFFICER FOR THE ULSTER REGION IS CHANTELE DEAZLEY, IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS FOR ANY CHILD'S SAFETY AT THE EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT HER: [CPDL@ULSTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CPDL@ULSTER@GMAIL.COM)

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