

# THE ALL-COUNTY IRISH DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## GRADES DAY

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Virginia College Co. Cavan A82X224

**Bun – Tús – Mean Grad & Preliminary Championships**

Adjudicators:

Leanne Nelson Ulster

Denise Elebert Leinster

Niamh Roddy Ulster

Musician: Kevin Joyce

**Please Enter at Feis Connect Via Following Link:**

<https://forms.gle/DHG5cnsk7Yb5xmDL7>

**\*Entries will Close at 6pm on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

Exquisite Prizes throughout the day.

**Solo €6** (Trophy 1<sup>st</sup> Place/Upgraded dancers)

**Trophy Dance €7** (1<sup>st</sup> Cup & Sash, 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Trophy - all dancers placed)

**Priomh Comortas Mean Grad €15** (1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Cup/Trophy and Sash – all dancers placed)

**All County Future Stars €7** Medal on Ribbon and Surprise Treat

**Preliminary Championships €35** (3 x Adjudicators (Top Five Cup & Sash – All dancers placed- medal on ribbon. Overall Championship Result and Two x Solo Results.

**Door Fee: €5** Cash Per Adult \* No Card Facility

Signed By Feis Registrar Ulster:



Dear Teachers, Parents and Dancers,

It is with great pleasure that Tracey Taafe Academy of Dance presents the 8th All County Irish Dance Championships Grades Day Feis at Virginia College Sports Facility, Virginia, Co. Cavan

### **EIRCODE: A82X224**

Our venue is ideally located and accessible from all counties. We are very excited to host our event on the May Bank Holiday in the beautiful County of Cavan, surrounded by the stunning lakes of Lough Ramor.

The Lakeside Manor Hotel is just a five-minute drive away from the venue with both Cavan Crystal Hotel and Hotel Kilmore just 15 minutes away.

Our one-day event will feature Competitions in Bun Grad, Tus Grad and Mean Grad as well as Preliminary Championships: three adjudicator championships (dancers have a choice of Reel or Slip Jig and Heavy Jig or Hornpipe or Trad Set Dance)

The "All County Championship Future Stars" is open to young dancers not yet ready to compete. Dancers will perform a 16 Bar step in their reel. (Teachers are welcome to assist the children. Fabulous Prize for Every Child Entered.

**Bun Grad:** Reel – Light Jig – Slip Jig – Single Jig – Trophy Dance (1 x Light Dance)- Heavy Dance

**Tus Grad:** Reel – Light Jig – Slip Jig – Single Jig – Trophy Dance (1 x Light Dance) Heavy Dance \*\*\***ALL DANCES BUN & TÚS 32 BARS**

**Mean Grad:** Reel - Slip Jig – Single Jig – Light Trophy Dance – Heavy Jig – Hornpipe-  
Priomh Comortas 1 x Choice Light Dance and Trad Set)

### **Preliminary Championships 3 x Adjudicators**

**U8** (Reel, Single Jig & Light/Heavy Jig- All 40 Bars)

**8-10 10-12 12-14 14-16 O16** (Reel/Slip Jig Heavy Jig/Hornpipe & Trad Set)

REEL/HEAVY JIG 40 Bars – SLIP JIG/HORNPIPE 32 Bars

3 X Large Dance Floors • Results Presented on Stage\* Practice Area

Ample Free Parking at the Venue and in the Overflow Car Park directed by our parking buddies

Onsite Vendors: Feis Fayre & KD Bling

Tea/Coffee/Drinks/Snacks Available for purchase

We look forward to welcoming you all to Virginia for a wonderful celebration of dance.

## **TRACEY, KAREN, KELLY, AND THE ALL-COUNTY IRISH DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS GRADES DAY TEAM**

Signed By Feis Registrar Ulster:



## **8.30AM SHARP**

<b><u>Stage 1</u></b>	<b><u>Stage 2</u></b>	<b><u>Stage 3</u></b>
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Bun U6/ U7Alt.

Bun 7-8

Bun 8-9

Tus U7

Tus 7-8

Tus 8-9

**\*\*\*All County Future Stars (16 Bar Step Down the Line)**

RESULTS

## **11.30AM**

<b><u>Stage 1</u></b>	<b><u>Stage 2</u></b>	<b><u>Stage 3</u></b>
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Mean U8

Mean 8-10

Mean 10-12

### **Preliminary Championships 3 X Adjudicators**

**U8** (Reel, Single Jig & Light/Heavy Jig) **\*Alternating** with

**8-10 & 10-12** (Reel or Slip Jig & Heavy Jig or Hornpipe & Trad Set)

RESULTS

**\*\*\*LUNCH BREAK\*\*\***

## **2.30PM**

<b><u>Stage 1</u></b>	<b><u>Stage 2</u></b>	<b><u>Stage 3</u></b>
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Bun 9-10

Bun 10-12

Bun 12- 14/O14 ALT

Tus 9-10

Tus 10-12

Tus 12-14/O14 ALT

RESULTS

## **4.30PM**

Mean 12-14

Mean 14-16

Mean Grad O16

### **Preliminary Championships 3 X Adjudicators**

**12-14 / 14-16 / O16** **Alternating**

(Reel/Slip Jig & Heavy Jig/Hornpipe & Trad Set)

**\*Please note competitions may commence up to 30 minutes early**

Signed By Feis Registrar Ulster:



**Rules:** Age as of the 1st of January 2026

Competitors in Bun Grad & Tus Grad, up to and including the Under 12 age group, may only wear traditional class costumes or long/short-sleeved blouses/shirts & skirts/trousers, polo tops & skirts/trousers, body suits & skirts, or tunics that conform to the regular costume length rule. Low-cut tops and short tight skirts are not permitted. Make-up (including false eyelashes and tanner on the face) is not allowed for dancers, in either solo or team competitions, up to and including the Under 10 age group. Clarification: Both make up rules refer to the age group of the competition, not the

actual age of the dancer. For example, 9-year-old dancers, competing in a team that is entered Under 12, may wear make-up or at a feis where the youngest Open Championship age group is Under 11, then all dancers in that competition may wear makeup. These rules must also be announced from side stage at the event. Participants should be reminded that should they be in breach of these rules and be required to remove their make-up, that they risk missing their rotation in the competition. Costume Length: 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 per cent) for the dancer to continue in the competition. When wearing body suits with skirts (commonly known as black-out attire) black tights (of a denier less than 70) must be worn from the age of 14 and above. As a point of clarification, this rule is not limited to just body suits but also to tops/ blouses and skirts/shorts of all colours and is in effect from the 14-15 age group upwards. To comply with health and safety measures, all dancers lining up, side stage prior to any round at any competition will be required to perform simple exercise of raising their arms to shoulder level unhindered. If they are 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. **Bun Grád** competitions are confined to competitors who at the time of entry have never won 1st place (or being re graded as per below) in that particular dance in any age group or grade. Basic Steps only are permitted in Bun Grad.

Tus Grad confined to dancers who have never won 1st prize (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 basic steps or their first hard/difficult version of each dance.

Steps in Tus Grad Heavy Jigs and Hornpipe must be similar to those used in St.

Patrick's Day and Blackbird.

**Mean Grád** competitions are confined to dancers who at the time of entry have never won 1st place for that particular dance in Mean Grad or Ard Grád in that age group or a higher age group.

**Priomh Comortas** will be adjudicated by 1 adjudicator and will consist of 2 Rounds. 1 Light Round and Traditional Set Dance

**Preliminary Championship** will be adjudicated by 3 Adjudicators and will consist of 3 Rounds, 1 Light Round – Reel/Slip Jig and 2 x Heavy Rounds – Heavy Jig/Hornpipe and Trad Set.

**ELIGIBILITY** To be eligible to compete in a Prelim Championship: Dancers must not have placed in the top 3 in an Open Championship judged by 3 or more adjudicators. Dancers must not have won a Preliminary Championship more than 2 times in the current year.

However, if there are 5 or fewer in a prelim competition the dancer is still eligible to compete in the Preliminary Championship.

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 Championship at Oireachtas Rince na hEireann in the current year or previous year. Dancers having won 2

Preliminary Championships may not compete in any Mean grad competition for the rest of the year however, if a dancer has won only one Preliminary Championship they may continue to compete in Mean grad (with the exception of the dances that they have won the Prelim Championship 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 Preliminary Championships if they wish. Boys who qualified for Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne but were not placed in the top 3 at their Regional Oireachtas and who otherwise fulfil the Prelim Criteria, may continue to compete in Preliminary Grade. Dancers will perform to the following speeds

**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 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, Jockey to the Fair 90

All competitors will be required to a dance a minimum number of 32 bars. Prelim Championships 40 Bars Reel/Heavy Jig - 32 Bars Slip Jig/Hornpipe.

**Ulster Upgrades** 6- 20 Competitors - 1<sup>st</sup> Place regraded 21-40 1st & 2nd places regraded 41 and over Competitors - 1st,2nd & 3rd places regraded.

- Any form of unauthorized photography which has the capability to capture a dancer's image whilst in motion is prohibited either by video or manual means e.g., mobile phones, iPad, standard cameras, video camcorders, cine recorder, commercial film, with or without flash enhancement, is forbidden during competition.

Changing costumes, dressing, and undressing, is not allowed in the halls or public areas.

No block, en point, stationary 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.

**\*\*\*If you wish your child to be excluded from any photographs that maybe uploaded onto social media websites, please ensure that you inform the Feis organiser in advance.**

The Child Protection Designated Liaison Officer for the Ulster Region is Chantelle Deazley. If you have any concerns for any child's safety at the event, please contact her at [vetting.ni@clrg.ie](mailto:vetting.ni@clrg.ie)

The adjudicator's decision is final. Any objections must be lodged in writing within one hour of the result, accompanied by fee of €20.

The Feis committee will not accept any responsibility for personal injuries or articles lost at the Feis. **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.**

Appropriate undergarments covering the midriff must be worn. Undergarments must provide full coverage (as per illustration on [www.clrg.ie](http://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%. This is monitored by the adjudicator. For competitions adjudicated by a panel of more than one adjudicator all adjudicator on the panel must agree to ask the dancer to put on tights.

We look forward to welcoming you all to, The 8<sup>th</sup> All County Irish Dance Championships Grades Day on Bank Holiday Monday, May 4<sup>TH</sup> 2026.

**Teachers may contact:**

Tracey Taaffe Metcalfe BG/ADCRG/TCRG on 086-806-2820

Karen Mellerick Gillick TCRG on 086-054-6744

Kelly Gillick TCRG on 087-346-4395



Signed By Feis Registrar Ulster:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. H.', is written over the text 'Signed By Feis Registrar Ulster:'.