



GENERAL FEIS INFORMATION

Adult Championship
Figures
Future Champs
Music & Irish Soda Bread

<http://teelin.com/feis/>

Questions - email: feis@teelin.com

Teelin School of Irish Dance, Inc.
proudly presents the:

MICHAEL BERRY MEMORIAL FEIS

SATURDAY

November 7, 2026

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Online registration will be open until Oct 24

www.QuickFeis.com

**After Oct 24 all registration and changes
must be completed in person at the Feis**

FEIS CHAIRPERSONS

Kathleen Young, TCRG
Maureen Berry, TCRG

This syllabus has been approved by Southern
Region Feis Registrar on 27 Aug 2026

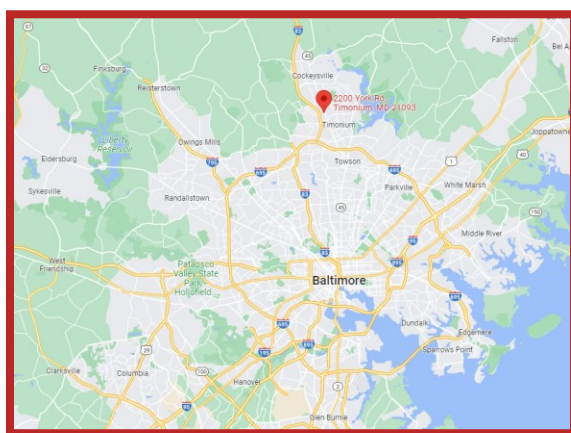
Offering
Advanced Adults and Ceili
SECOND CHANCE competitions for
Advanced Beginner Novice and
Prizewinner & Prelim levels!

Open to ALL dancers including
OPEN PLATFORM dancers!
ALL are welcomed!

FEIS LOCATION

Maryland State Fairgrounds

2200 York Rd,
Timonium, MD 21093



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ENTRY FEES

Competition Fees

	FEES
Event Registration Fee (per family)	\$ 30
Solo Dancing / Sets / Music / Bread (per competitor per competition)	\$ 15
Preliminary Championship / Adult Champ / Advanced Adult / Future Champ (per dancer - does not include set dance)	\$ 55
Open Championship (per dancer)	\$ 65
Team (figures/ceili) (per team - Only ONE member of each team registers for their ceili/figure entry)	fees listed by each team comp
Family Cap (Only applies to competition fees – And only up to Oct 24)	\$ 185

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT ONLY FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION

LATE FEES

Please note:

- LATE FEES are in ADDITION to the competition fees listed above.
- All fees are PER dancer
- ONLINE registration will end– Oct 24

LATE FEES	Up to Oct 24	After Oct 24 (at the Feis)
New Registrations	\$ 0	\$ 50
Changes	Free	\$ 25
Family Cap	\$ 185	none
Payment type	CC only	CC only

NEW REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE FEIS

ONLY Credit Card payments accepted at the feis

SORRY - NO CASH or CHECKS ACCEPTED

REGISTRATION RULES

- Registration is limited to the first PAID competitors. There will be no waiting list.
- Entries are not valid until full payment is received. Any unpaid entries will be dropped at closing.
- No personal checks will be accepted at any time.
- **CHANGES** - Before Oct 24, ALL changes must be made at QuickFeis.com. After Oct 24 all changes must be made AT the feis. Change fee only includes changes to existing competitions. Adding additional competitions will be charged the late fee AND the regular competition fee.
- IF the cap has not been met when online registration closes, registration will re-open at the feis, the day of the feis.
- **LATE AND DAY OF FEIS FEES** – late fees are added to the regular fees (competition fees, entry fees) - PER COMPETITOR. No family max will be applied.
- Please do not email the feis or QuickFeis with change requests, or requests for new registrations – they will not be processed.
- Second Chance competitions are charged the same as regular competitions but will not count towards the family max
- The Southern Region Executive Board has granted this feis Open Platform Status (CLRG rule 3.1.4)
- **Individual Results Included in fees**

**ABSOLUTELY NO REFUNDS
OF ANY KIND AT ANY TIME**

judges

Megan Comaskey
Nicki Bayhurst
Kathy Hanley
Noreen McAleer
Joe Seletski
Kerry Broderick
Kate Wosczyzna

musicians

Marty Garfield
Claire Shirey
Michael Fitzpatrick
David Yates
Garet Zagorski



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numbering system

1 st Digit	LEVEL CATEGORY	Pre-Beginner all begin with "1", BEGINNER 1 with "2", and so forth
2 nd and 3 rd Digits	AGE GROUP	Begins at 01 - So "05" means "under 5", "11" means "under 11", ...
4 th and 5 th Digits (Letters)	COMPETITION TYPE	RL = REEL ♦ LJ = LIGHT JIG ♦ SJ = SLIP JIG ♦ SN = SINGLE JIG/HOP JIG TJ = TREBLE JIG ♦ HP = HORNSPIPE ♦ PD = ST PATRICK DAY ♦ TS = TRADITIONAL SET ♦...
Last Number "2"	SECOND CHANCE	Any competition ending with "2" denotes a second chance competition

AGE GROUP: your age group is determined by the YEAR the competitor was born. This changes from year to year!

For 2026	<u>U6</u>	<u>U7</u>	<u>U8</u>	<u>U9</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U11</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U13</u>	<u>U14</u>	<u>U15</u>	<u>U16</u>	<u>U17</u>	<u>U18</u>
Born in:	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008

PLEASE NOTE: Age groupings beginning with "O" mean THAT age AND over (example O11 means 11 and older)

FIRST FEIS

The First Feis level has been established for dancers who are competing in their very first Feis. Once a dancer competes in the First Feis category, the dancer must move into Beginner 1 or Beginner 2.

AT THIS LEVEL, DANCERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO COMPETE IN SOLO COSTUMES (only school costumes are allowed). Dancers competing in the First Feis category are limited to participating in the First Feis Category ONLY.

	<u>U6</u>	<u>U7</u>	<u>U8</u>	<u>U9</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U11</u>	<u>O11</u>
REEL	106RL	107RL	108RL	109RL	110RL	111RL	112RL
LIGHT JIG	106LJ	107LJ	108LJ	109LJ	110LJ	111LJ	112LJ



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BEGINNER 1 (BEGINNER)

A dancer who has been dancing for less than one year. A Beginner 1 must move to Beginner 2 no later than January 1st of the dancer's second year of instruction, or may move to Beginner 2 earlier with teacher's permission and provided that the Feis has not closed to changes. Note: a Beginner 1 dancer who starts in September, may continue as a Beginner 1 until December of the following year (16 months) before moving into Beginner 2.

AT THIS LEVEL, DANCERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO COMPETE IN SOLO COSTUMES (only school costumes are allowed).

	<u>U6</u>	<u>U7</u>	<u>U8</u>	<u>U9</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U11</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>O12</u>
REEL	206RL	207RL	208RL	209RL	210RL	211RL	212RL	213RL
LIGHT JIG	206LJ	207LJ	208LJ	209LJ	210LJ	211LJ	212LJ	213LJ
SLIP JIG	206SJ	207SJ	208SJ	209SJ	210SJ	211SJ	212SJ	213SJ

BEGINNER 2 (ADVANCED BEGINNER)

A dancer who has been dancing for more than one year and who has not won a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place as Beginner 2 dancer. A dancer who has won a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in a Beginner 2 dance must move into Novice in that dance no later than January 1st of the next calendar year or with teacher's permission as soon as the next Feis (if said Feis has not closed to changes).

AT THIS LEVEL, DANCERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO COMPETE IN SOLO COSTUMES (only school costumes are allowed).

ALL HARD SHOE DANCES AT TRADITIONAL SPEEDS

	<u>U6</u>	<u>U7</u>	<u>U8</u>	<u>U9</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U11</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U13</u>	<u>O13</u>
REEL	306RL	307RL	308RL	309RL	310RL	311RL	312RL	313RL	314RL
LIGHT JIG	306LJ	307LJ	308LJ	309LJ	310LJ	311LJ	312LJ	313LJ	314LJ
SLIP JIG	306SJ	307SJ	308SJ	309SJ	310SJ	311SJ	312SJ	313SJ	314SJ
TREBLE JIG	306TJ	307TJ	308TJ	309TJ	310TJ	311TJ	312TJ	313TJ	314TJ
HORNPIPE	306HP	307HP	308HP	310HP	310HP	311HP	312HP	313HP	314HP
REEL 2nd Ch	306RL2	307RL2	308RL2	309RL2	310RL2	311RL2	312RL2	313RL2	314RL2
LIGHT JIG 2nd Ch	306LJ2	307LJ2	308LJ2	309LJ2	310LJ2	311LJ2	312LJ2	313LJ2	314LJ2
SLIP JIG 2nd Ch	306SJ2	307SJ2	308SJ2	309SJ2	310SJ2	311SJ2	312SJ2	313SJ2	314SJ2
TREBLE JIG 2nd Ch	306TJ2	307TJ2	308TJ2	309TJ2	310TJ2	311TJ2	312TJ2	313TJ2	314TJ2
HORNPIPE 2nd Ch	306HP2	307HP2	308HP2	310HP2	310HP2	311HP2	312HP2	313HP2	314HP2

**SECOND CHANCE competitions (highlighted in red)
will not count towards the family max**



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SECOND CHANCE competitions (highlighted in red) will not count towards the family max

novice

A dancer moves into Novice as a result of placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in that dance as indicated in Beginner 2. A dancer who wins 1st in a Novice dance must move into Prizewinner level in that dance no later than January 1st of the next calendar year or with teacher's permission as soon as the next feis (if said feis has not closed to changes).

*ALL HARD SHOES DANCES CAN BE DONE AT EITHER TRADITIONAL SPEED OR SLOW SPEED

	<u>U7</u>	<u>U8</u>	<u>U9</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U11</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U13</u>	<u>U14</u>	<u>O14</u>
REEL	407RL	408RL	409RL	410RL	411RL	412RL	413RL	414RL	415RL
LIGHT JIG	407LJ	408LJ	409LJ	410LJ	411LJ	412LJ	413LJ	414LJ	415LJ
SLIP JIG	407SJ	408SJ	409SJ	410SJ	411SJ	412SJ	413SJ	414SJ	415SJ
*TREBLE JIG	407TJ	408TJ	409TJ	410TJ	411TJ	412TJ	413TJ	414TJ	415TJ
*HORNPIPE	407HP	408HP	409HP	410HP	411HP	412HP	413HP	414HP	415HP
REEL 2 nd Ch	407RL2	408RL2	409RL2	410RL2	411RL2	412RL2	413RL2	414RL2	415RL2
SLIP JIG 2 nd Ch	407SJ2	408SJ2	409SJ2	410SJ2	411SJ2	412SJ2	413SJ2	414SJ2	415SJ2
*TREBLE JIG 2 nd Ch	407TJ2	408TJ2	409TJ2	410TJ2	411TJ2	412TJ2	413TJ2	414TJ2	415TJ2
*HORNPIPE 2 nd Ch	407HP2	408HP2	409HP2	410HP2	411HP2	412HP2	413HP2	414HP2	415HP2

PRIZE WINNER (OPEN)

A dancer moves into Prizewinner as a result of placing 1st in that dance. A dancer who wins 1st in a Novice dance must move into Prizewinner level in that dance no later than January 1st of the next calendar year or with teacher's permission as soon as the next feis (if said feis has not closed to changes).

*ALL HARD SHOES DANCES CAN BE DONE AT EITHER TRADITIONAL SPEED OR SLOW SPEED

	<u>U7</u>	<u>U8</u>	<u>U9</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U11</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U13</u>	<u>U14</u>	<u>U15</u>
REEL	507RL	508RL	509RL	510RL	511RL	512RL	513RL	514RL	515RL
SLIP JIG	507SJ	508SJ	509SJ	510SJ	511SJ	512SJ	513SJ	514SJ	515SJ
*TREBLE JIG	507TJ	508TJ	509TJ	510TJ	511TJ	512TJ	513TJ	514TJ	515TJ
*HORNPIPE	507HP	508HP	509HP	510HP	511HP	512HP	513HP	514HP	515HP
REEL 2 nd Ch	507RL2	508RL2	509RL2	510RL2	511RL2	512RL2	513RL2	514RL2	515RL2
SLIP JIG 2 nd Ch	507SJ2	508SJ2	509SJ2	510SJ2	511SJ2	512SJ2	513SJ2	514SJ2	515SJ2
*TREBLE JIG 2 nd Ch	507TJ2	508TJ2	509TJ2	510TJ2	511TJ2	512TJ2	513TJ2	514TJ2	515TJ2
*HORNPIPE 2 nd Ch	507HP2	508HP2	509HP2	510HP2	511HP2	512HP2	513HP2	514HP2	515HP2



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SECOND CHANCE competitions (highlighted in red) will not count towards the family max

PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIP

Preliminary Championships are open to those who, at any recognized Feis:

- Have won 1st place in both an open/prizewinner light and heavy shoe competition, and
- Have never won 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Open Championship.

Effective Aug 1, 2026, a dancer who lives in the Southern Region, excluding Mexico, must receive three 1st place wins in Preliminary Championship competitions to advance to Open Championship. When a dancer wins 1st place in a third Preliminary Championship competition in any Region, they MAY move up to Open Championship competitions immediately, at the discretion of their dancing teacher. However, that dancer MUST move up to Open Championship competitions no later than one calendar year anniversary of the third Preliminary Championship win. (Note: the previous rule requiring two 1st place wins remains in effect for dancers living in Mexico.)

A dancer is required to perform a light shoe dance (reel or slip jig for ladies and reel only for men), and a hard shoe dance. A Feis can opt to offer either a) a set dance or b) a jig/hornpipe.

	<u>U9</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U11</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U13</u>	<u>U14</u>	<u>U15</u>	<u>U16</u>	<u>U17</u>	<u>O17</u>
PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIP	609PC	610PC	611PC	612PC	613PC	614PC	615PC	616PC	617PC	618PC
PC 2nd Chance	609PC2	610PC2	611PC2	612PC2	613PC2	614PC2	615PC2	616PC2	617PC2	618PC2

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

A dancer who wins three 1st Place awards in one calendar year will move on to Open Championship the following year, or as soon as the third win is achieved, in any age category, in the following years. Only in the case of back-to-back Feiseanna (successive days), in which case the first win in the first Feis will not change the dancer's status for the second Feis. Placing in a Regional or National Oireachtas does not change the status of a competitor.

Dancers will perform: 48 bars of reel or 40 bars of slip jig, 40 bars of hornpipe or 48 bars of treble jig, and a Set Dance

	<u>U9</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U11</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U13</u>	<u>U14</u>	<u>U15</u>	<u>U16</u>	<u>U17</u>	<u>U18</u>	<u>U19</u>	<u>O19</u>
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP	709OC	710OC	711OC	712OC	713OC	714OC	715OC	716OC	717OC	718OC	719OC	720OC

NOTE: A dancer who has not received a legitimate placing (sufficient competitors within the normal placing scale) along with a dancer who has not placed in Open Championships for two consecutive years, may return to their previous competition level. For example, an Open Championship dancer that does not place in two consecutive years may return to Preliminary Championships, the same as a Preliminary dancer who does not place can return to Prizewinner.



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ADULT COMPETITIONS

An **ADULT** dancer is defined as any dancer who started Irish dancing at the age of 18 or older OR any dancer 18 or older who has not competed in at least five years in a youth competition AND has not placed in the top 3 of a Prelim Championship within the last 10 years, or competed in Open Championship levels in the youth/& Over levels within the last 15 years.

Dancers who are in the Adult categories cannot enter any competition other than Adult specified competitions, including teams, other than Dance Drama. A dancer who wishes to return to any category other than Adult must remain out of Adult competitions until they retire from dancing for five consecutive years.

ADULT DANCERS ARE ALLOWED TO DANCE TRADITIONAL OR OIREACHTAS SPEED DANCES IN THE NOVICE AND PRIZEWINNER GRADE LEVELS.

An **ADVANCED ADULT** dancer is defined as

1. anyone age 18 or older who has previously placed in the top three of a Preliminary Championship within the last 10 years, or
2. competed in Open Championship levels in the youth/& Over levels within the last 15 years.
3. An Advanced Adult dancer has opted to leave Youth/& Over categories and once the dancer begins competing in Advanced Adult, the dancer may not return to Youth/& Over categories.
4. Dancers competing at the Adult Championship level may move to the Advanced Adult level per teacher's discretion.

	<u>BEGINNER 1</u>	<u>BEGINNER 2</u>	<u>NOVICE</u>	<u>PRIZEWINNER</u>	<u>2 Round Competitions</u>	<u>3 Round Competitions</u>
REEL	299RL	399RL	499RL	599RL		
LIGHT JIG	299LJ	399LJ	499LJ	599LJ		
SLIP JIG	299SJ	399SJ	499SJ	599SJ		
TREBLE JIG	299TJ	399TJ	499TJ	599TJ		
HORPIPE	299HP	399HP	499HP	599HP		
ADULT CHAMPIONSHIP					699AC	
ADVANCED ADULT						799OC



michael BERRY memorial Feis

FIGURES AND Ceilí

- There are no restrictions on figure age groups.
- Figure age groups will be determined by the oldest dancer.
- Ceili teams (8 hands) are allowed to repeat dancers at all Southern Region feiseanna in accordance with the world and regional Oireachtas rules.
- Ceili teams may perform any figure as outlined in Ar Rinci Ceili- 2014.
- Only ONE team member needs to register and pay for the team

	<u>2 HAND</u> <u>Reel</u>	<u>3 HAND</u> <u>Reel</u>	<u>4 HAND</u> <u>Reel/Jig</u>	<u>6 HAND</u> <u>Reel/Jig</u>	<u>8 Hand</u> <u>Ceili</u>
	\$20	\$30	\$40	\$60	\$80
Under 7	207FD	307FD			
Under 8			408FD	608FD	808FD
Under 9	209FD	309FD			
Under 10			410FD	610FD	810FD
Under 11	211FD	311FD			
Under 12			412FD	612FD	812FD
Under 13	213FD	313FD			
Under 15	215FD	315FD	415FD	615FD	815FD
Over 15	216FD	316FD	416FD	616FD	
Under 18					818FD
Over 18					819FD
ADULT	299FD	399FD	499FD	699FD	899FD
Parent/Child	299FD-PC	399FD-PC	499FD-PC		

SET DANCES

	<u>U10</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U14</u>	<u>U16</u>	<u>O16</u>	<u>ADULT</u>
Traditional Set						
Novice/Prizewinners / Adult Champs or Adv Ad	510TS	512TS	514TS	516TS	517TS	599TS
Contemporary Open Set						
PC / OC / Adult Champs or Adv Ad	710SD	712SD	714SD	716SD	717SD	799SD



michael berry memorial feis

FUTURE CHAMP SPECIAL

Is your dancer a rising star? A future champion? Open for Grade Level Dancers that are novice and prizewinner getting ready for champ level!! Open to dancers who currently dance in Novice and Prizewinner levels. Must enter at least two grade level dances at the Feis to be eligible for competition.

Must dance TWO ROUNDS

1. SOFT SHOE ROUND

EITHER Reel (48 bars) OR Slip Jig (40 bars)

2. HARD SHOE ROUND

EITHER Hornpipe (40 bars) OR Treble Jig (48 bars)

This is not a championship competition, but a way to practice championship level competition in front of three judges in preparation for dancing solo in the championship level. Full awards ceremony and special awards will be given for these competitions.).

Same price as Preliminary Championship and will not count towards family max

<i>Ladies & Gents</i>	<u>U9</u>	<u>U10</u>	<u>U11</u>	<u>U12</u>	<u>U13</u>	<u>U14</u>	<u>U15</u>	<u>U16</u>	<u>U17</u>	<u>O17</u>
Future Champ	509FC	510FC	511FC	512FC	513FC	514FC	515FC	516FC	517FC	518FC

irish ARTS COMPETITIONS

• MUSIC Rules:

- Competitors must play two tunes, of two different rhythms from the following choices: Jig (double, single, slip), Reel, Slide, Polka, Hornpipe, March, Set Dance, Air (slow or lively) or Waltz. Each tune should be played through twice.
- This competition is for melody players only (keyboard and guitar players must include melody in their playing). The following are acceptable instruments: fiddle, flute, pennywhistle, uilleann pipes, accordion, concertina, melody piano (bring keyboard), tenor banjo, mandolin, harp and miscellaneous category (hammered dulcimer, cello, etc.).
- Competition will be judged on command of instrument and skill in Irish playing style.
- The Michael Berry Instrumental Award for Most Promising Musician will be awarded in honor of Teelin School owners' late father.
- For musicians that play more than 1 instrument - only 1 instrument can be judged in the competition but feedback can be received from judges on a second instrument

	<u>U13</u>	<u>U18</u>	<u>O18</u>
Music – Beginner (under 2 years experience)	913MB	918MB	919MB
Music – Advanced (2 years or over experience)	913MA	918MA	919MA
Soda Bread	913B	918B	919B

• SODAY Bread Rules

- Only traditional plain soda bread (not fancy bread)
- Bread presentation will be part of the scoring



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southern regional dancing competition rules

- 1) In the case of all solo and team competitions in all grades, the age of a competitor on 1st January of the year in which the competition is held will determine the right of entry. For the purposes of this Rule a competitor whose birthday occurs on 1st January shall be deemed to be under the age attained on that date.
- 2) Competitions are open to all but those holding a TMRF, TCRG, or ADCRG designation. A feis can only accept entries from pupils of teachers registered with An Coimisiun and registered with both the IDTANA and the North American region in which they reside.
- 3) A competitor may be disqualified for any of the following reasons:
 - a) Conduct unbecoming a lady or gentleman.
 - b) Failure to report on time to compete. (Penalty: disqualification from said event)
 - c) Falsification of age or other important facts – i.e., teaching, award winning, competing under another competitor's name or number, etc.

Penalty for (a) or (c): Competitor will be disqualified from the Feis at which the occurrence happened and from all registered Feiseanna for a period of one year beginning at the date of the occurrence.
- 4) Competitions may be closed if there are no competitors at the assigned stage ready to compete when the competition is scheduled or announced. This does not pertain to a situation where competitors are involved in stage conflicts, and such conflicts will be handled by the stage monitor.
- 5) Steel taps or "bubble" heels on dancing shoes and any display of awards is prohibited. Authentic Gaelic dress is desired.
- 6) First Feis (if offered), Beginner and Advanced Beginner, aka Beginner I and II, must wear a class costume, or a skirt/pants and top. All other categories are excluded from this rule. Modest attire is encouraged when a competitor is not dancing.
- 7) Competitor's number must be worn and visible to adjudicators when performing in all competitions. Use of reflective plastic number covers is discouraged.
- 8) The number of awards given is determined by the Feis Committee and is based on the scores and ranks given by the adjudicator(s).
- 9) Complaints must be in writing stating names and other factual information and signed by the complainant. A \$50.00 fee must be enclosed and presented to the Feis Chairman within one hour of the occurrence. The fee will be returned if the complaint is upheld.
- 10) The Feis Committee and any organization affiliated with same, will not be held responsible for personal injury, property loss or damage. Destruction of Feis property and/or rental property will be punishable by law.
- 11) The Feis reserves the right to reject any entry for cause, to cancel all or part of the Feis and to limit competitor's performing time. The decision of the Feis Committee is final in all matters connected with the Feis.
- 12) All Feiseanna must have a process to allow parents to request that their child or children's name(s) not be listed on the posted competitor list prior to the day of the Feis.
- 13) Competitors must answer all questions as required by the Feis Entry committee, including teacher's name, and include the entry fee for entry to be accepted. Failure to do so will result in a rejected entry. Entries must be received on or before the closing date or they will be subject to a late fee of (Determined by the Feis).
- 14) With the exception of First Feis and Beginner 1 the status of the dancer does not change unless there are five or more dancers in the competition.
- 15) Photography
 - a) With the exception of First Feis, Beginner 1 and Beginner 2 (or their equivalent), photography of any kind which has the capability of capturing a dancer's image while in motion is strictly forbidden.
 - b) A Feis may elect to allow in motion photography for publicity purposes, but the pictures are considered the sole property of the Feis and solely for Feis use. These are not to be used for personal gain through commercial use or sale. Under no circumstances can they be published on any website or other areas, without the express written permission of the persons involved.
 - c) Additionally, a professional photographer may be formally contracted by a Feis to capture non-motion photographs, such as portrait photography, awards ceremonies, etc. and/or in motion photography provided it is taken at a vendor station or suitable location:
 - i) away from the dancing stages and,
 - ii) requested by a consenting parent, guardian, or dancer (over the age of 18).
- 16) No block, en Pointe, toe walking movements, stationary or moving is allowed to be performed for all ages up to and including the under 12 age group. However, after September 1 of each year an exception is made for those dancers who are 11 dancing in the under 12 age group.
- 17) No substance that can become airborne should be used on any dance floor in an attempt to improve traction.
- 18) Respect for fellow competitors on stage is a requirement at all times. Lack of respect or courtesy for fellow competitors by aggressive dancing on stage will be subject to penalty at the discretion of each individual adjudicator



michael berry memorial feis

GRADE LEVEL RULES

- 1) Solo competitors in First Feis (if offered), Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Novice or Open (Prizewinner), Adult and Master competitions:
 - a) Must compete in their own age group.
 - b) Must be prepared to perform two steps in each event.
- 2) With the exception of First Feis and Beginner 1, a dancer's level is determined in each dance (Reel, Light Jig, Single Jig, Slip-Jig, Hornpipe, Treble Jig, and Traditional Set). Traditional Set Dances are limited to those dances determined by An Coimisiun Le Rince Gaelacha as traditional set dances.
- 3) A Feis Committee may combine competitions if there are less than 5 competitors entered as follows:
 - a) Three consecutive age groups, if including the youngest or
 - b) oldest multi-year age groups, or
 - c) up to five consecutive single-age groups, combined into the highest age group, within that grade.
- 4) Each region may determine the system for moving dancers from one grade to another, as they see appropriate for their region.
- 5) The syllabus is to contain all grade categories.
- 6) Competitors have the option to remain in the same category for the remainder of the Feis year.
- 7) A dancer, at the discretion of the teacher, may move into the next Grade (not Open Championships) without satisfying the requirements. However, once a dancer competes in the higher level, they can never move back to a lower category, (except as outlined in Rule 1, above).
- 8) Grade Levels
 - a) **FIRST FEIS:** A dancer who has never competed in a Feis. A dancer can only be in this category for a single day and cannot compete at any other level in the Feis. Dancers must compete with Basic Steps that coincide with the Grade Exam Syllabus.
 - b) **BEGINNER 1 (Beginner) Grade:** A beginner is a competitor who has not yet taken a full year of Irish Dance lessons, thereby giving beginners a full year with such status. A Beginner must move into the Beginner 2/Advanced Beginner category the next year. Dancers must compete with Basic Steps that coincide with the Grade Exam Syllabus.
 - c) **BEGINNER 2 (Advanced Beginner) Grade:** An advanced beginner who wins 1st, 2nd or 3rd place will advance to the Novice category in that particular dance. Competition dances are reel, light jig, slip jig, traditional treble jig and traditional hornpipe, as a minimum requirement. Dancers must compete with Basic Steps that coincide with the Grade Exam Syllabus.
 - d) **NOVICE Grade:** A novice who wins a 1st place will advance to the Open (Prizewinner) category in that particular dance. In Novice competitions with 20 or more dancers, a dancer who wins 1st or 2nd place in a dance will advance to the Open/PW category in that particular dance (Dec 2012)

- e) **OPEN PRIZEWINNER Grade:** A competitor who does not qualify as a beginner, advanced beginner or as a novice.
- f) **ADULT:** An Adult dancer is defined as any dancer who started Irish dancing at the age of 18 or older OR any dancer 18 or older who has not competed in at least five years in a youth competition AND has not placed in the top 3 of a Prelim Championship within the last 10 years, or competed in Open Championship levels in the youth/& Over levels within the last 15 years.
- 9) First Feis (if offered), Beginner 1, and Beginner 2 are required to dance at traditional speeds. Novice and Open/Prizewinner dancers may choose between traditional and Oireachtas speeds.
- 10) The following dance speeds must be adhered to;

	First Feis	Beg 1	Beg 2	Novice	Prizewinner
Reel	122	122	122	113	113
Light Jig	115	115	115	115	115
Slip Jig	122	122	122	113	113
Single Jig	124	124	124	124	124
Treble Jig			92	73/92	73/92
Hornpipe			138	113/138	113/138

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

- 11) First Feis, Beginner 1 and Beginner 2 perform only basic steps to coincide with the Grade Exam Syllabus
- 12) Dancers competing in the First Feis category are limited to participating in the First Feis Category only.



michael berry memorial feis

championship level rules

- 1) First place winners in the Open Championship category cannot return to a Preliminary or Open (Prizewinner) competition. Placing in a Regional or National Oireachtas does not change the status of a competitor. A dancer who moves into Open Championship must stay a minimum of 2 years. If after 2 years they have not placed they are allowed to return to Preliminary. An Open Championship dancer who places is not allowed to return to Preliminary until 2 years after their last placement. The regional syllabus where the Feis is being held may have different qualifications for entry.
- 2) Entrants in any Championship event may not enter in any other (Grade) events, but may enter in Figure Dances and Specials, i.e. Treble Reel Competition, etc.
- 3) Dancers must qualify for Open Championship via the method now in place for Preliminary Championship, i.e. three 1st place wins (or two if the dancer resides in Mexico).
- 4) Dancers must compete in the Preliminary Championship competition in order to qualify for Open Championship
- 5) Preliminary Championships
 - a) Are open to those who at any CLRG-registered Feis:
 - i) Have placed 1st in both an Open (Prizewinner) light and heavy shoe competitions and
 - ii) Have never won 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an Open Championship.
 - b) Effective August 1, 2020, a dancer who lives in the Southern Region (excluding Mexico) and who wins 1st place in a third Preliminary Championship Competition in any Region MAY move up to Open Championship competitions immediately, at the discretion of their dancing teacher.
 - c) A dancer who lives in the Southern Region when they win 1st place in a third Preliminary Championship competition MUST move up to Open Championship competitions no later than the one calendar year anniversary of the third Preliminary Championship win.
 - d) Preliminary Championship competitions with 26 or more competitors may be split in half according to age.
 - e) A separate boys competition may be offered if there are five (5) or more boys entered in a specific Preliminary Championship competition within a single age group.
- 6) If three (3) or more boys are entered in a specific age group in a combined Open Championship competition, the boys and girls MUST be split into separate competitions.
- 7) Every competitor in Preliminary or Open Championship must have a minimum of 8 rotations or 10 minutes between each of their rounds.
- 8) In the event the same organization is running 2 feiseanna in one weekend the following must occur:
 - a) In championship competitions, 2/3 of adjudicators must be different from the previous day.
 - b) 2nd chance competitions may only be offered on one feis.

figure/ceili team rules

- 1) Teachers or team captains are responsible that their teams are complete and in position when the competition is announced.
- 2) There are no restrictions on figure age groups.
- 3) Figure age groups will be determined by the oldest dancer.
- 4) 8 hand teams are allowed to repeat dancers at all Southern Region feiseanna in accordance with the World and Regional Oireachtas rules.
- 5) The length of 2 hand and 3 hand dances in competition are to be 48 bars of music plus an 8 bar introduction.
- 6) Dancers that meet the definition of an "Adult Dancer" may compete in Adult Ceili competitions. "Adult Dancer" includes Adult Grade Level, Adult Championship, and Advanced Adult, as defined by the qualifications found elsewhere in these rules.
- 7) In the event that the same organization is running 2 feiseanna in one weekend, the following may occur: Figure and Ceili competitions may be offered at only one of the feis' on that weekend.

adjudicators & musicians

- 1) Musicians and adjudicators cannot be approached during a competition by anyone except the Feis Committee. No one can approach them while a competitor is performing.
- 2) Musicians employed by the Feis Committee will be solely under the direction and management of the Feis Committee on Feis day.
- 3) In matters pertaining to adjudication, the decision of the adjudicators is final.
- 4) Adjudicators are to monitor the quality of music at the stage(s) to which they are assigned.
- 5) Championships and Preliminary Championships require at least three adjudicators.
- 6) Each Feis is required to list their adjudicators on their syllabus and/or website at least three weeks before the close of entries, one-third of which are to be from outside the region where the Feis is being held.



michael berry memorial feis

COSTUME RULES

- 1) Make up is prohibited on a dancer in the first three grades (First Feis (if offered), Beginner I and Beginner 2 or their equivalent) up to and including the under 12 age group. Make-up (including false eyelashes and tanner on the face) is not permitted 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 Under11, then all dancers in that competition may wear make-up. 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.

- 2) 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 aids (proof of which may be required) will be exempt from this rule.
- 3) Competitors in competitions at the First Feis (if offered), Beginner I and Beginner 2 Grade will wear only the competitor's dancing school costume or a skirt/pants and top.
- 4) 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) in order for the dancer to continue in the competition.
- 5) 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. Effective date: 1st February, 2020

MODESTY RULES

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- 1) Changing costumes, dressing and undressing of dancers will not be acceptable in the halls or public areas. For the sake of modesty and in the interests of safety of young people, dancers will not be permitted to walk around the feis scantily dressed.
- 2) Respect for fellow competitors on stage is a requirement at all times.
- 3) Lack of respect or courtesy for fellow competitors by aggressive dancing on stage will be subject to penalty at the discretion of each individual adjudicator.
- 4) Length of costume 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 wear black tights (of a denier not less than 70 percent) in order to continue in the competition. For competitions adjudicated by a panel of more than one adjudicator, all adjudicators on the panel must agree to asking the dancer to wear tights. Effective March 1, 2022.
- 5) Appropriate undergarments covering the midriff must be worn. Undergarments must provide full coverage. 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 adjudicators on the panel must agree to ask the dancer to put on tights. (Effective March 1, 2022)

**THE FEIS WILL NOT GIVE ANY
REFUNDS FOR ANY REASON
INCLUDING CONSEQUENCES FOR
VIOLATIONS OF THESE RULES.**

