

An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha proudly presents
Cuireann An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha Fearradh
na fáilte romhaibh chuig



OIREACHTAS RINCE NA CRUINNE 2026

2026 World Irish Dancing
Championships

**Sunday, March 29th -
Sunday, April 5th 2026**

An Domhnach, 29ú Márta -
An Domhnach, 5ú Aibreán 2026

clrgoireachtas.com/ornc



SIOLLABUS OIFIGIÚIL OFFICIAL SYLLABUS

RENAISSANCE SCHAUMBURG CONVENTION CENTER
1551 Thoreau Dr N, Schaumburg, IL 60173, United States

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General Rules for Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2026

Important Dates | Dátaí Tabhachtacha

January 13, 2026	Entries Opens	Teachers must use feisentry.com to enter
January 27, 2026	Entries Close - 5pm IST	Last day to make entries or adjustments to entries. No refunds after this time. <i>The late fee will apply after 5pm IST on January 27, 2025 until 5pm IST on February 3, 2026.</i>
January 27, 2026	Freestyle Videos Due	Last day to submit freestyle videos
February 3, 2026	Late Entries Close - 5pm IST	No more entry changes or new entries accepted.
February 26, 2026	ORnH Qualifier Entries Close	Last day for dancers who qualified ONLY at ORnH 2026 to enter.
February 24, 2026	Figure Stories & Music Due	Last day to submit figure stories and music. Late fees apply after this date.
March 3, 2026	Late Figure Music Due	No more figure music submissions/changes after this date.

*IST = Irish Standard Time

Entry Fees | Táillí Iontrála

Solo Dancing Championship	€150	per dancer
Team Dancing Championship	€30	per dancer/ per team
Freestyle Championship	€50	per dancer
Family Maximum	€370	

*All fees are inclusive of a 3.5% admin fee

Admission Fees

- All patrons seeking to view the competitions must purchase admission wristbands via the official website – clrgoireachtas.com and collect them on site to gain entry.
- There will be *no cash sales* available on-site.
- Participating dancers are entitled to collect one wristband at no charge; valid for the entirety of the event.

Contact Information | Eolas Teangmhála

Phone / Fón	+353 1 814 6298
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General E-mail / Ríomhphost	info@clrg.ie
General Website / Suíomh Idirlín	www.clrg.ie
Social Media / na Meáin Shóisialta	Instagram - @CLRGidofficial Facebook - /CLRGIrishDance
CLRG Oireachtas Website	clrgoireachtas.com
CLRG Oireachtas Email	oireachtas@clrg.ie

Hotel Block & Facility Usage Fee

- A daily facility usage fee of USD \$100 per person per day is required from anyone attending the event *who does not stay within the ORnC 2026 room block* at the official host hotel or overflow hotels. This applies to dancers, CLRG registrants and spectators, except for those who qualify for an exemption
- Patrons **MUST** book a room **within the room block** to avoid the facility usage fee. If you book at a block hotel but outside of the block through an online booking channel, AAA, etc., you will not be considered a part of the Irish dancing block and will be charged the facility fee. For more information & booking links visit: clrgoireachtas.com/ornc/hotel-block

General Information

Introductory Notes | Réamhра

1. The venue will be Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center, 1551 Thoreau Dr N, Schaumburg, IL 60173, United States. The event will run Sunday, March 29, 2026 - Sunday, April 5, 2026 both dates inclusive.
2. Where dates are mentioned as deadlines, the cut-off time shall be 5:00pm Irish Time. Please adjust accordingly for your time zone to avoid penalties and complications.
3. Decisions of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha as to the interpretation of these rules, and in relation to all other matters pertaining to the Oireachtas shall be final. The submission of an entry confirms that the teachers and their pupils concerned accept all of these rules in full, and agree to abide to them.
4. Where there is no specific rule contained in this syllabus, the general Rules and Directives of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha in effect at the time of the Championships will apply.
5. The decisions of all adjudicators on adjudication matters are final, subject to the rules of each competition. Any objections, other than those relating to adjudication decisions, must be lodged and signed in writing, addressed to An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha, and presented to the CLRG Chairperson and/or the Oireachtas Chairperson prior to the announcement of the result of that particular competition. A fee of €25 must accompany the written objection. This fee will be returned if the objection is upheld.
6. All correspondence for the attention of the Oireachtas Chairperson must be sent to (oireachtas@clrg.ie) and not via personal e-mail, text, or social media messenger apps. Only messages sent via the official e-mail address will receive a response.
7. Please visit and share the official website address: clrgoireachtas.com

Eligibility & Qualification | lomaitheoirí Oiriúnach

8. All competitors must be pupils of teachers who, at the date of entry, are registered with An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha for the year 2025/2026, and are not subject to any rule of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha preventing them from participating, such as the Restyling Rule, unless an exception has been granted by the Transfer Appeals Board.
9. All solo competitors seeking to participate in Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne must have qualified at a Regional or National Oireachtas, at Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2025, or at Oireachtas Rince na hÉireann 2026, *and have participated at their Regional Oireachtas*. World Champions do not have to compete at their Regional Oireachtas, but they are strongly urged to do so.
10. Ceili teams seeking to participate at this event must have participated at their 2025 Regional Oireachtas in the corresponding age group. It is not necessary for the dancers to be the same at both events, or to have been placed.
11. There is no requirement for figure dance and dance drama teams to have qualified or participated at regional events in order to be eligible to participate at Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne.
12. Any solo dancer, who is subject to a conflict by association with a contracted Adjudicator (refer to the An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha Rule Book for further information), is ineligible to participate, and therefore cannot compete at this event. They may defer their qualification to Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2027, provided they participate at their 2026 Regional Oireachtas.
13. Additionally, any team dancer or dancer seeking to register for the Freestyle Championship, who is subject to a conflict by association with a contracted Adjudicator, is also ineligible to participate, and cannot compete in this event.
14. "Next-in-line" dancers (those who were ranked immediately after all assigned qualifying places) from a 2025 Regional Oireachtas are entitled to fill the qualifying places vacated by any "conflicted" qualifiers (excluding 2025 World-Medal-Holders, since their qualifying place was already

passed to the next-in-line dancer at the regional championship) from that event to maintain regional representation at Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne.

15. There is no “next-in-line” replacement arrangement for dancers who are unable to, or who choose not to attend Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne for any other reason.
16. Abusive language and/or threatening behaviour from participants, their guardians and/or their teachers toward adjudicators, musicians and/or the organizers, may result in the ineligibility for a dancer and/or team to participate.

Solo Qualification | Critéir d’lomaitheoirí Aonaracha

17. Qualification to participate in a Solo Championship at Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2026 includes:
 - a. Those who won first place in any Solo Championship at Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2025;
 - b. Those who were placed in a medal-winning position (WMH) at Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2025*;
 - c. Those who placed in a qualifying position at their 2025 Regional Oireachtas;
 - d. Those who placed in a qualifying position at the 2025 National Oireachtas*;
 - e. Those who placed in a qualifying position at Oireachtas Rince na hÉireann 2026*;
 - f. Those from South Africa and South America who gained recommendations at their Regional Oireachtas to compete at Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2026;
 - g. Those who qualified to participate at Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2025, but were ineligible to register due to adjudication conflicts, and were given permission to carry their status to 2026 (provided they participated in the corresponding Solo Championship age group at their 2025 Regional Oireachtas).

**All 2025 World Medal Holders (WMH), apart from 2025 World Champions (who are still urged to participate), all qualifiers from a 2025 National Oireachtas, and all qualifiers from the Oireachtas Rince na hÉireann 2026 are required to participate in the corresponding Solo Championship at their 2025 Regional Oireachtas in order to avail of their qualification for 2026.*

18. **Requests to be exempt from having to participate in their Regional Oireachtas due to illness/injury** must be submitted to the Regional Council and forwarded to the Oireachtas Chairperson as soon as possible, but no later than seven (7) days after the completion of the event, and accompanied with an appropriate medical note/certificate. Dancers must be registered to compete in their Regional Oireachtas for an exemption to be considered. **Requests to be exempt from having to participate in their Regional Oireachtas for reasons unrelated to illness/injury** must be submitted to the Oireachtas Chairperson as soon as possible, stating full details of the reasons for non-participation. Dancers must be registered to compete in their Regional Oireachtas for an exemption to be considered, and ineligibility to compete due to the Restyling Rules of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha will not be acceptable as a reason for non-participation.
19. Qualifiers at all events are based on the number who actually dance, not the number of dancers registered.
20. 2025 World Medal Holders will be counted as participants at subsequent qualifying events, but not as qualifiers. Should a 2025 World Medal Holder finish in a qualifying position at a subsequent qualifying event, they will be ‘skipped over’ and their qualifying place will be passed to the next dancer in that result. Therefore, should a particular 2025 World Medal Holder not participate at a subsequent qualifying event, an additional qualifying place is not created.
21. The number of qualifiers from the corresponding competitions at a Regional or National Oireachtas shall be as follows:
 - a. In the case of the Senior Men’s Championship, there shall be seven (7) where the number of participants is twenty or fewer, plus one additional qualifier for each five (5), or part thereof, in excess of the first twenty competitors;
 - b. In the case of all other Solo Championships (from Under 10 and up), there shall be five (5) where the number of participants is twenty or fewer, plus one additional qualifier for each ten (10) or part thereof, in excess of the first twenty competitors.
22. The number of qualifiers from Oireachtas Rince na hÉireann will be set at 70% of those recalled in any Solo Championship. In the event of no recall being required, 70% of the dancers who complete all three rounds will qualify. There will be no additional qualifying places assigned to

replace World Medal Holders from the previous Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne.

23. Qualification at a National Oireachtas is only available to those who normally reside in that area. For example:
 - a. Residents of the island of Ireland (the Irish Nationals);
 - b. Residents of Canada, the United States and Mexico (the North American Irish Dance Championships);
 - c. Residents of Australia (the Australian National Championships);
 - d. Residents of New Zealand (the New Zealand National Championships);
 - e. Residents of Great Britain, Mainland Europe, Russia, Asia and the Middle East (the Scottish Nationals, or the Great Britain Championships, or the British Nationals – depending on which event has qualification status for that particular year). The 2025 Great Britain Championships is the qualifying event for Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2026.
24. Qualifiers from a National Oireachtas do not create additional qualifying places at a Regional Oireachtas.
25. Regional Councils of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha have the right to require that dancers participate in subsidiary solo competitions, in addition to the Solo Championship, in order to be deemed as having successfully participated in their Regional Oireachtas.
26. All qualifying events must meet the following criteria for the results to be validated by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha (unless written permission is sought from, and granted by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha):
 - a. The event must be held no later than 31st December 2025 (unless written permission is granted by the Oireachtas Chairperson);
 - b. The event must be held in accordance with the Rules and Directives of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha;
 - c. The age groups and required heavy/light dances must correspond with the World Championships for which the dancers are aiming to qualify. There is, however, no requirement for contrasting set dances, with the exception of the 9-10 age group, which must be in 6/8 or 6/8+9/8 time;
 - d. The age groups and competitions for team events must correspond with the World Championships for which the dancers are aiming to qualify (unless written permission is sought from, and granted An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha);
 - e. Results, including marks, must be posted to regional/national/event websites within fourteen (14) days of the completion of the Oireachtas;
 - f. A list of all qualifiers and any other requested information, must be received by the CLRG Office Staff no later than **Tuesday, 6th January 2026 at 5pm IST**.

Age Limits | Teorainneacha Aoise

27. For all competitions, the age of a competitor shall be taken as on 1st January 2026. Where a competitor's birthday falls on 1st January, they shall be regarded as "under" the age attained on that day.
28. In team competitions where there is a minimum age limit, for example, '8 – 11', '11 - 13', '13 - 16' etc. a teacher may include dancers in a team who are younger than the specified minimum age limit except in the 8-11 category where no younger dancers are allowed. Where no minimum age is specified, the youngest age permitted to participate is 8 (born in 2014). Dancers aged 7 and younger will not be permitted to participate in any event at these Championships, not even in an emergency situation.
29. All Team Dancing Championships Rules and Directives must be followed to complete a team.
30. In solo competitions where there is a minimum and maximum age limit, no dancers outside the age range will be permitted to register.
31. Birth Certificates, or similar government-issued identification, must be furnished before, during or after a competition if requested by the Oireachtas Chairperson, or their designated representative.

Entries | Iontrálacha

32. Entries will only be processed from teachers in good standing who are registered with An Coimisiún for the year 2025/2026.
33. Entries will open on Tuesday, 13th January 2026 at feisentry.com, and will close firmly on Tuesday, 27th January 2026 at 5:00pm IST.
34. Late entries will be accepted from Tuesday, 27th January 2026 at 5:00pm IST up to Tuesday, 3rd February 2026 at 5:00pm IST, subject to a special higher rate of double the normal entry fee, to an additional maximum fee of €400 per dancing class.
35. Entry fees are non-refundable, and there will be no exceptions considered after Tuesday, 3rd February 2026 at 5:00pm IST.
36. Entries for participants qualifying at Oireachtas Rince na hÉireann 2026 (who were not already qualified) will be accepted until Thursday, 26th February 2026 at 5:00pm IST. Details of such dancers should be emailed to support@feisentry.com. Once verified, the entry will be accepted and an invoice issued.
37. There will be no further extensions to the entry deadline for any reason.
38. Dancers serving a six-month period of refraining from competition under the Transfer Rules of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha at the time of the Oireachtas are not eligible to compete. The only exception to this rule is if a dancer is granted a relevant exemption from the Transfer Appeals Board of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha. Documentation must be provided to Coiste Oireachtas prior to entry deadlines. Entries from exemptions will not be accepted after Thursday, 26th February 2026 at 5:00pm IST.
39. In the case where a particular adjudicator is mandated by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha to adjudicate at this event, any associated dancer or team cannot participate.
40. The responsibility to only enter dancers eligible to compete in front of the official panel of adjudicators rests solely with their current registered teacher.
41. Teachers entering team events must furnish the names and dates of birth for all participants. Should there be any significant changes to the participating dancers requiring exceptions to the Rules Directives outlined on page 15, teachers must notify the Oireachtas Chairperson promptly to request permission.
42. A competitor may not be a member of more than one team in the same age group, and a dancer may not compete for more than one school in solo or team or a combination of both (unless permission is granted in an emergency situation by the Oireachtas Chairperson).
43. Entries for Figure Dancing competitions that are not accompanied with the story by the deadline of Tuesday, 24th February 2026 at 5:00pm IST will be refused, and no refunds will be granted. Late music submissions (late fees apply) will be accepted until Tuesday, 3rd March 2026 at 5:00pm IST. No further submissions will be accepted after this date.
44. An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha reserves the right to limit, postpone, combine, reschedule or cancel (in whole or in part) any event at Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2026, due to low entries and/or circumstances beyond its control. (i.e. Force Majeure or government restrictions).
45. By registering an entry, the teacher(s), dancer(s), parent(s) and/or guardian(s) acknowledge and agree that they may be filmed and/or photographed during this event.

Scoring | Scóráil

46. The Extended Irish Points system will be utilized for all competitions.
47. Rotating panels of five (5) adjudicators will officiate on each round. The highest and lowest marks will be dropped for each competitor/team prior to the recall (if required) and again, prior to preparing the final result.
48. Competitors beginning to dance before or after the stipulated 8-bar introduction will automatically receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round.
49. Competitors beginning to dance before or after the stipulated set dance introduction will automatically receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round.
50. The term "complete" means that all bars as outlined in the syllabus are danced without any stops (other than brief, choreographed pauses).

51. If a competitor fails to dance or complete the 1st round of a Solo Championship, they will receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round. As a courtesy, they will be allowed to dance the 2nd round, and whilst they will receive marks from each adjudicator, they will automatically receive ZERO points and will not be allowed to advance any further in the competition.
52. If a competitor fails to dance or complete the 2nd round of a Solo Championship, they will receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round, and will not be allowed to advance any further in the competition.
53. If a competitor fails to dance or complete the open set dance round, they will receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round, and cannot appear in a medal winning position.

Mishaps & Re-Dances / Taismí & Athdamhsa

54. An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha will, as far as is practicable, provide a stage surface suitable for dancing. However, An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha cannot accept any liability for injuries sustained while on the performance, practice and warm-up stages. The lodgement of an entry will be deemed to be an acceptance of this provision by a dancer, their parent or guardian, and their teacher.
55. Should a dancer lose a heel, a toe-piece, a complete shoe or have an open lace, they 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 re-dance without penalty.
56. Should a dancer:
 - a. 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 re-dance, and will be marked at the discretion of each individual adjudicator.
 - b. slip, bump into another dancer or have a costume malfunction whether in solos or in teams, the bell may be rung at the discretion of the adjudicators to stop the performance of the dancer(s). Dancers so affected will be permitted to re-dance, and will be marked at the discretion of each individual adjudicator.
 - c. in the opinion of the stage steward and/or a medical professional (if necessary), be deemed unfit to re-dance, but insists on their right to do so, then the dancer concerned will only be permitted to re-dance upon completion of a declaration form exonerating An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha of liability for any consequences. Any repeat accident/incident which results in that dancer being unable to complete the required number of bars of any round, will result in the dancer withdrawing without question from the championship.
57. If the adjudicators ring the bell:
 - a. to stop a performance during the last eight (8) bars in Round 1 or Round 2, the dancers will only be required to dance the last 16 bars of that dance.
 - b. to stop a performance during any part of their open solo set dance, the dancer will perform the entire dance for their re-dance.
 - c. to stop a performance any sooner than the last eight (8) bars during a RE DANCE in Round 1 or Round 2, the adjudicators will decide (by majority vote conducted via Coiste Faire) if a full dance is required or if an exception can be made to require only the last 16 bars of that dance.
58. In the case of all re-dances, such shall occur as soon as it is deemed practicable by the stage steward and no sooner than after five rotations of dancers. Where such occurs at the end of a competition, an equivalent amount of recovery time (approximately seven minutes) will be afforded to the dancer(s).
59. A competitor must not walk off the stage during a performance unless instructed to do so by an adjudicator or stage steward. A dancer who dismisses themselves from the stage without such permission will receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators.
60. If at any time during a performance on stage an adjudicator feels that due to the health and safety of a performer on stage that the performance should be stopped, the adjudicator **MUST** ring the bell. This does not guarantee a re-dance and/or re-marking for the competitor.
61. 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.

Recalls & Awards / Athghloach & Bronnadh na Dualseanna

62. Recalls will be based on the number of entries, not the number who dance.

1-20 entries	Set Dance = 100%
21-60 entries	Set Dance = 50%
Over 60 entries	30 competitors, plus an additional one in three (or part of three) competitors, up to a maximum of 50 dancers

63. In Solo Championship Competitions:

- Should a competitor reach the open set dance round, they will be required to submit the name and metronomic speed of their set dance to the stage steward. The onus of ensuring that the stage steward is correctly informed of this information rests with the competitor.
- All open set dance selections must appear on the official list in this syllabus.
- In the open set dance round, a competitor may choose their starting position.
- Introductions to open set dances will be played only once, and no alteration in that speed of music will be permitted.
- Should a competitor commence dancing to an incorrect metronomic speed submitted to the stage steward, then that competitor must continue to dance at that speed, as no further opportunity of tempo change will be afforded.

64. Recalls in Céilí Dancing Championships will be calculated as follows:

- 10 or fewer teams entered:** All teams will dance both rounds. Prizes will be awarded in accordance with the chart below, with additional recall medals awarded up to 50% of the teams entered.
- More than 10 teams entered:** There will be a 50% recall. Prizes will be awarded in accordance with the chart below, with recall medals awarded to those teams recalled but not placed in a medal winning position.
- No Recall:** Prizes will be awarded in accordance with the chart below.

65. The minimum number of prizes awarded in each solo competition will be based on the number who danced as follows:

No. Danced	Prizes						
1 - 15	5	16 - 20	6	21 - 25	7	26 - 30	8

Plus, one additional prize for each 10, or part of 10 danced in excess of the first 30 participating competitors.

66. Awards will be given for

- at least 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in all Céilí Dancing Championships to a maximum of 50%.
- at least 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in all Figure Dancing Championships to a maximum of 50%.
- at least 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in the Dance Drama Championships to a maximum of 50%.
- 1st place only, in the Michael Flatley Freestyle Championships.

67. Only BLACK light shoes may be worn for presentations.

68. Perpetual trophies awarded in 2025 must be returned to the An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha designated representative, no later than 24 hours prior to the awarding of that prize to the next recipient. The trophy must be returned in the condition in which it was awarded. Solo or team competitors failing to comply with this rule will be refused the right to compete at Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2026 until a fine of €200 is received by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha. The trophy holder, and/or their parents/guardians, shall be responsible for any loss and/or damage to a trophy while in the holder's possession.

69. Dancers from Asia, Mainland Europe, Mexico, Nordic countries, South Africa and South America are eligible to receive an Aisling Award – sponsored by the Marie Duffy – in recognition for being the highest ranked soloist (excluding World Medal Holders) in competitions 1-12 and 21-33. One need not recall to be a recipient of this award.

Music Speeds / Luas an Cheoil

70. In all Solo Championships, the speeds of the musical accompaniment will be as follows:

Reel - 113

Slip Jig - 113

Double Jig - 73

Hornpipe - 113

(a maximum deviation of ± 1 point will be permitted)

71. In all 8-Hand Céilí Championships, teams will be required to provide their desired metronomic speed to the stage steward prior to walking on stage. It is the responsibility of the team to ensure that the correct speed has been given. **The 4-Hand Reel and Humours of Bandon will be danced 2 (two) at a time with a set speed of 113.**

Musical Accompaniment, Ownership and Submission of Music / Tionlacan, Ceadúnas, Agus Cur í Láthair an Cheoil

72. Teams participating in Figure Dancing Championships have the option to provide their own pre-recorded music, provide their own live music, or request live music from the official event musicians. No combination of recorded music and live musicians will be permitted.
73. Teachers seeking use of the official event musicians must submit a request to the Oireachtas Chairperson by Tuesday, 24th February 2026 at 5:00pm IST and supply an account of the music required, together with details of changes of tempo, etc., (if any).
74. It will be a matter for the teacher concerned to make arrangements with the official musicians (whose names, when available, will be supplied to them) for consultation or rehearsal at a time suitable to the musicians prior to the competition. Neither An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha, nor the musicians concerned, will be responsible for any errors or misunderstandings that may occur in such cases.
75. Where a team opts to use live musicians for their performance, the number of musicians must not exceed three.
76. It is a legal requirement and therefore imperative that the person submitting music for accompaniment for a figure dance either owns all rights to the music or has been licensed to use the music for a stage performance.
77. Where it is suspected that a commercially produced work is included in such music, An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha reserves the right to seek written evidence of such licensing before allowing such music to be played during the figure dancing competition.
78. A sub-committee of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha will verify the suitability or otherwise of music submitted. Any music deemed unsuitable will be returned for immediate amendment.
79. Recordings must be of a high quality, and in a downloadable format, such as: .WAV or .MP3.
80. Only one music file will be accepted. Where a team wishes to exit the stage to music, this music must be included within the same track as the dance portion. A separate track for exiting the stage will not be accepted.
81. Where a team opts to use pre-recorded music, a copy of music, along with details of the source and permission for use (if required) must be forwarded electronically to the Oireachtas Chairperson by Tuesday, 24th February 2026. Submissions after this date but before Tuesday, 3rd March 2026 5:00pm IST will be subject to a penalty of €500. *Absolutely no music will be accepted after Tuesday, 3rd March 2026.*
82. Teams that submit their music by the deadline may re-submit their music if the new file is improved quality, but not if there are any structural changes to the music track. Re-submissions will be accepted until Tuesday, 3rd March 2026.
83. Changes to pre-submitted music will not be accepted at the event. This policy will be strictly enforced.

Solo Dancing Championships

Rules & Directives | Riallacha agus Treoracha

Competitions/ Comórtáisí 1-12 & 21-33

1. The required dances for each Solo Championship are set out on pages 14.
2. Competitors must commence performances of Reels, Slip Jigs, Double Jigs and Hornpipes from the designated starting positions marked on the stage floor.
3. Competitors must dance for 48 bars in the Reel and Double Jig, and 40 bars in the Slip Jig and Hornpipe, after an 8-bar introduction. Failure to do so will result in scoring penalties, as outlined on page 7.
4. Competitors (or an appointed delegate) MUST collect their competitor number prior to the commencement of the competition. Failure to do so once the first group of dancers take the stage, will result in ineligibility to participate in that event. Where competitions start ahead of schedule, dancers will have until the published start time to collect their number, however, if they miss their rotation, they will not be permitted to participate. Please monitor stages accordingly.
5. It is the sole responsibility of teachers and dancers to ensure they are aware of these policies.
6. Competitors must:
 - a. fully comply with all An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha rules pertaining to costuming (including artificial carriage aids) and footwear (only black shoes may be used for competitions, and shoes may not be worn on the opposite foot);
 - b. present themselves to the stage stewards in good time, and mention any potential on-stage conflicts, so the stage stewards can re-organize the lines of dancers if necessary;
 - c. follow all instructions of the Oireachtas officials, otherwise, permission to compete may be withdrawn;
 - d. dance in numerical order as published by the organizing committee, unless the stage steward has made an adjustment due to on-stage conflicts; otherwise, the stage steward may refuse permission to dance;
 - e. start on the appropriate starting markers on the stage. When dancing two-at-a-time, dancers must stand on the outer markers, and not in the spaces in between. When dancing an open set dance, dancers may start from wherever they wish.
7. Should a competitor, or their teacher, feel that there was a reasonable and convincing reason for being late, they may lodge an appeal which will be immediately reviewed following the formation of an ad hoc sub-committee comprised of the stage steward and two other members of An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha, one of whom must be an officer. The decision of the sub-committee on the matter shall be final.
8. Competitors who are eligible to dance in the 12-13 category (born in 2013) are permitted to do block/en-pointe work. Competitors in younger age groups are not permitted to dance such movements.

Men & Boys Solo Dancing Championships

Craobhchomórtais Rince Aonair d'Fhir & Buachaillí

Com.	Craobhchomórtas	Rincí	Blianta breithe
1	Fir Sinsir os cionn 21 <i>Senior Men 21 & over</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ríl/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2004 nó roimhe / or earlier
2	Fir 20 – 21 <i>Men 20 – 21</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ríl/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2005
3	Fir 19 – 20 <i>Men 19 – 20</i>	1 Double Jig <i>Port Trom</i> 2 Reel <i>Ríl/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 2/4 or 4/4 time</i>	2006
4	Fir 18 – 19 <i>Men 18 – 19</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ríl/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2007
5	Fir 17 – 18 <i>Men 17 – 18</i>	1 Double Jig <i>Port Trom</i> 2 Reel <i>Ríl/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 2/4 or 4/4 time</i>	2008
6	Buachaillí 16 – 17 <i>Boys 16 – 17</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ríl/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2009
7	Buachaillí 15 – 16 <i>Boys 15 – 16</i>	1 Double Jig <i>Port Trom</i> 2 Reel <i>Ríl/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 2/4 or 4/4 time</i>	2010
8	Buachaillí 14 – 15 <i>Boys 14 – 15</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ríl/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2011
9	Buachaillí 13 – 14 <i>Boys 13 – 14</i>	1 Double Jig <i>Port Trom</i> 2 Reel <i>Ríl/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 2/4 or 4/4 time</i>	2012
10	Buachaillí 12 – 13 <i>Boys 12 – 13</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ríl/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2013
11	Buachaillí 11 – 12 <i>Boys 11 – 12</i>	1 Double Jig <i>Port Trom</i> 2 Reel <i>Ríl/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 2/4 or 4/4 time</i>	2014
12	Buachaillí 10 – 11 <i>Boys 10 – 11</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ríl/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2015

Ladies & Girls Solo Dancing Championships

Craobhchomórtais Rince Aonair Dó Mná & Cailíní

Com.	Craobhchomórtas	Rincí	Blianta breithe
21	Mná Sinsir os cionn 23 <i>Senior Ladies 23 & over</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ril/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2002 nó roimhe / or earlier
22	Mná 21 – 23 <i>Ladies 21 – 23</i>	1 Double Jig <i>Port Trom</i> 2 Slip Jig <i>Port Luascadh</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 2/4 or 4/4 time</i>	2003 or 2004
23	Mná 20 – 21 <i>Ladies 21 – 23</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ril/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2005
24	Mná 19 – 20 <i>Ladies 21 – 23</i>	1 Double Jig <i>Port Trom</i> 2 Slip Jig <i>Port Luascadh</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 2/4 or 4/4 time</i>	2006
25	Mná 18 – 19 <i>Ladies 21 – 23</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ril/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2007
26	Mná 17 – 18 <i>Ladies 16 – 17</i>	1 Double Jig <i>Port Trom</i> 2 Slip Jig <i>Port Luascadh</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 2/4 or 4/4 time</i>	2008
27	Cailíní 16 – 17 <i>Girls 16 – 17</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ril/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2009
28	Cailíní 15 – 16 <i>Girls 15 – 16</i>	1 Double Jig <i>Port Trom</i> 2 Slip Jig <i>Port Luascadh</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 2/4 or 4/4 time</i>	2010
29	Cailíní 14 – 15 <i>Girls 14 – 15</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ril/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2011
30	Cailíní 13 – 14 <i>Girls 13 – 14</i>	1 Double Jig <i>Port Trom</i> 2 Slip Jig <i>Port Luascadh</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 2/4 or 4/4 time</i>	2012
31	Cailíní 12 – 13 <i>Girls 12 – 13</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ril/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2013
32	Cailíní 11 – 12 <i>Girls 11 – 12</i>	1 Double Jig <i>Port Trom</i> 2 Slip Jig <i>Port Luascadh</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 2/4 or 4/4 time</i>	2014
33	Cailíní 10 – 11 <i>Girls 10 – 11</i>	1 Hornpipe <i>Cornphíopa</i> 2 Reel <i>Ril/Cor</i> 3 Set Dance <i>Rince Leithleach - 6/8 or 6/8 + 9/8 time</i>	2015

Official Set Dance List | Rincí Leithleacha Oifigiúil

Only set dances included in the following list may be performed, and minimum metronomic speeds, as outlined below, must be adhered to.

2/4 Time / Am 2/4 | Min Speed 76

The Blackbird / *An Londubh*

The Downfall of Paris / *Titim Paris*

King of the Fairies / *Rí na Síog*

The Lodge Road / *Bóthar An Lóiste*

Planxty Davis / *Plancstaí Daibhéis*

Rodney's Glory / *Glór Rodnáí*

4/4 Time / Am 4/4 | Min Speed 76

Ace & Deuce of Pipering / *Aon agus Dó na Píobaireachta*

The Blue-Eyed Rascal / *Cladhaire na Súile Gorma*

Bonaparte's Retreat / *Cúlú Bonaparte*

The Four Masters / *Na Ceithre Máistrí*

Garden of Daisies / *Gairdín na Nóníní*

The Hunt / *An Fiach*

Job of Journeywork / *An Greas Giúrnála*

Killkenny Races / *Rásáí Chill Chóinnigh*

Madame Bonaparte / *Madame Bonaparte*

The Piper / *An Píobaire*

The Rambling Rake / *An Réice Fáin*

The Roving Pedlar / *An Mangaire Fáin*

The White Blanket / *An Súisín Bán*

Youghal Harbour / *Cuan Eochaille*

6/8 Time / Am 6/8 | Min Speed 66

The Blackthorn Stick / *An Maide Droighnéan*

The Charlady / *Bean an Ghlantacháin*

The Drunken Gauger (The Funny Tailor) / *An Gaeoger Meisceach*

The Fiddler 'Round the Fairy Tree / *An Bheidhleadóir ag an Crann Sí*

Humours of Bandon / *Pléaracha na Bandan*

The Hurling Boys / *Na Buachaillí Báire*

Hurry the Jug / *Cuir Thart An Crúsca*

Jockey to the Fair / *An Marcach Chuig an Aonach*

Miss Brown's Fancy / *Rogha Iníon De Brún*

The Orange Rogue / *An Rógaire Buí*

Planxty Drury / *Plancstaí Drúírí*

Planxty Hugh O'Donnell / *Plancstaí Aodh Ó Domhnaill*

Rub the Bag / *Cuimil An Mála*

St. Patrick's Day / *Lá Fhéile Pádraig*

The Storyteller / *An Scéalaí*

The Sprig of Shillelagh / *An Geag Sílealadh*

Three Sea Captains / *Na Trí Captéin Maraí*

Vanishing Lake / *Luch An Mhadhma*

Wandering Musician / *An Ceoltóir Fáin*

6/8 + 9/8 Time / Am 6/8 + 9/8 | Min Speed 66

Is the Big Man Within / *An 'Bhfuil an Fear Mór Istigh?*

Team Dancing Championships

Rules & Directives | Riallacha agus Treoracha

Competitions/ Comórtáisí 38–55

A team in a competition for céilí or figure dancing may include dancers who are under the minimum age limit. See below for details, which must be strictly adhered to.

1. A teacher may register a céilí and/or figure team with up to 50% underage dancers, without seeking prior permission. These dancers may also compete in a team in their own age group in either a competition for mixed teams or a competition for girls-only teams (where offered), and they may compete in mixed and girls-only teams in a higher age group; subject to rules 3 and 4 below.
2. A teacher may register a céilí and/or figure team with more than 50% underage dancers, but only provided that:
 - a. permission is requested (and granted) by the Oireachtas Chairperson no later than one week prior to the entry closing date, and the request includes the names and dates of birth of all dancers on the proposed team, highlighting the under-age dancers;
 - b. the number of underage dancers does not exceed 75% of the team i.e., three in a 4-hand, six in an 8-hand, nine in a 12-hand figure dance and twelve in a 16-hand figure dance;
 - c. there are an insufficient number of dancers in the actual age group to form a team;
 - d. where the number of underage dancers allowed dance in a higher age group exceeds 50% in céilí or 50% in figure, only 50% in céilí or 50% in figure may also compete in teams in the lower age group.
3. None of the above conditions will operate to permit a dancer to compete in a total of more than three céilí championships (4-hand and/or 8-hand dances).
4. The absolute minimum age for dancers in all team competitions is 8 years as at 1st January 2026 (born in 2018). Dancers aged 7 and younger will not be permitted to compete.
5. An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha will only consider applications which fall within the above limits. Dancers from other organizations and/or subject to the "Transfer Rule" may not be utilized under any circumstances.
6. For all competitions, the age of a competitor shall be taken as on 1st January 2026. Where a competitor's birthday falls on 1st January, they shall, for the purposes of the Oireachtas, be regarded as under the age attained on that day.
7. A dancer may only compete for one school of dancing in either solo championships, team championships or both.

Céilí Dancing Championships | Craobhacha Damhsa Ceilí

Rules & Directives / Riallacha agus treoracha | Competitions/ Comórtáisí 38–35

8. These Rules and Directives must be read in conjunction with the General Rules and other relevant sections of this syllabus.
9. Each team must be ready to perform **2 (two) 8-hand dances** of their choice from Ár Rincí Céilí 2014, with the correct Part (figure) as stipulated below in rule 16.
10. The Sub-Minor category always requires Part A, while the other age categories rotate from Part A to Part B each year. Even years (2026, 2028, 2030) are Part B, while odd years (2027, 2029, 2031) are Part A.
11. **8-Hands:** Teams will perform a dance of their choice, and if recalled, will perform a second dance of their own choice (in contrasting tempo).
12. **4-Hands:** In the first round all 4-hand teams will perform the 4 Hand Reel / Cor Ceathrar. If recalled, they will perform the Humours of Bandon / Pléaracha na Bandan.

13. The same dancers must perform both dances. Where a dancer who partakes in the first dance sustains an injury preventing them from participating in the second dance, a substitute dancer may participate with the permission of the Oireachtas Chairperson, or their designated representative.
14. Where there are not enough teams to warrant a recall, all teams will perform two dances.
15. A 'mixed' céilí team means 4 (four) males and 4 (four) females in a 8-hand
16. A 'mixed' 4-hand means 2(two) males and 2 (two) females.
17. It is not permissible to dance a female as a male, or vice versa.
18. Male dancers competing in a 4-hand competition may not compete in an 8-hand competition either in their own age group or in an older age group
19. Female dancers may compete in a girls-only céilí championship (Competitions 41, 42, 43, 44, 45) even if they are a member of a team in a competition for mixed teams (Competitions 46, 47, 48, 49), subject to the rules in regard to age concessions.
20. A dancer must not be a member of more than one team in the same competition except in the case of an unforeseen emergency and then only with the permission of the Oireachtas Chairperson, or their designated representative.
21. A dancer may only compete for one school of dancing in either solo championships, team championships or both except in the case of an unforeseen emergency and then only with the permission of the Oireachtas Chairperson, or their designated representative.
22. Apart from the variations described below, dances must be performed in accordance with the latest edition of 'Ár Rincí Céilí 2014', unless otherwise indicated in any directives on 4-hand and 8-hand céilí dances published by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha. Movements and figures must be performed in the order specified, and the dancers must move in the manner stipulated. Where neither 'Ár Rincí Céilí 2014' nor any directive specifies how a movement should be performed, the teacher may use their discretion with regard to interpretation. **Unnecessary embellishments must be avoided.**
23. For the purposes of Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne, Parts A and B of the stipulated 8-hand céilí dances (other than The Sweets of May, The Three Tunes, Gates of Derry and Lannigan's Ball) will be as follows:

Dance	Part A	Part B
8-Hand Jig	Lead Around, Body & 1st Figure (<i>Tops only</i>)	Lead Around, Body & 2nd Figure (<i>Tops only</i>)
8-Hand Reel	Lead Around, Body & 1st Figure (<i>Tops only</i>)	Lead Around, Body & 2nd Figure (<i>Tops only</i>)
Cross Reel	Lead Around, Body & 1st Figure (<i>Tops only</i>)	Lead Around, Body & 2nd Figure (<i>Tops only</i>)
High Cauled Cap	Lead Around, Body & 1st Figure (<i>1st Tops only</i>)	Lead Around, Body & 2nd Figure (<i>1st Tops only</i>)
Morris Reel	Lead Around, Body & 1st Figure (<i>Tops only</i>)	Lead Around, Body & 2nd Figure (<i>Tops only</i>)
St. Patrick's Day	Lead Around, Body & 1st Figure (<i>Tops only</i>)	Lead Around, Body & 2nd Figure (<i>Tops only</i>)
Trip to the Cottage	Lead Around, Body & 1st Figure (<i>1st Tops only</i>)	Lead Around, Body & 2nd Figure (<i>Tops only</i>)

24. For Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne, **The Gates of Derry** and **Lannigan's Ball** will be regarded as 8-hand dances.
25. In the case of **The Three Tunes**, teams will perform the dance from the beginning up to and including the Hook and Chain. The Three Tunes will be accepted as either reel or jig time.
26. In the case of **The Sweets of May**, teams will perform the dance from the beginning up to and including the See Saw.
27. In the case of **The Gates of Derry**, teams will perform the dance from the beginning up to and including the Swing Around of the 1st repeat
28. In the case of **Lannigan's Ball**, teams will perform the full dance.
29. **Opening Formation:** In the 'set-up' of 8-hand dances, leading (or first) tops must be the couple with their backs to the audience, facing the

back of the stage. In the 'set-up' of 4-hand dances, leading (or first) tops can either be the couple with their backs to the audience and facing the back of the stage, or the couple with right shoulders to the audience.

30. **Threes:** 'Ordinary Threes' or 'Skip/Hop Threes' may be used in all dances in Reel Time, plus The Sweets of May. The different threes may not be mixed in the same dance. A team must be consistent e.g., if they start using 'Skip/Hop Threes' they may not change to 'Ordinary Threes' later in the dance.
31. **Sevens:** Where a seven followed by threes is required, there must be a clear separation between the two movements i.e., the seven and threes must not 'run into each other'. Additionally, the threes may not be substituted by alternate movements such as 'point and point' etc.
32. **Dance Around / Swing Around Movements:** These movements must be performed in an even and continuously turning manner. A backwards/forwards, or zigzag type of movement must be avoided, especially in Trip to the Cottage.
33. Any team found to be in contravention of any of the above cannot be placed in a medal winning position.
34. Movements in céilí dances are intended to flow naturally. Although the numbers of bars may be specified in Ár Rince Céilí, the natural flow and rhythm of the dance takes precedence over strict compliance with the written breakdown of bars.
35. In all céilí competitions, over-elaborate entrances and exits from stage must be avoided. Dancers should walk directly to their starting positions from stage left, avoiding the start and stop, co-ordinated turns and complicated manoeuvres. At the conclusion of the performance, couples should turn in place to face front of stage. When the bell is rung, only one bow is permitted. All couples should promptly exit stage right.
36. Talking on stage before, during or after the performance must also be avoided.
37. Ceili dances not performed in the correct order per 'Ár Rincí Céilí 2014' and/or are not compliant in performing the required part (A or B) as stipulated in this syllabus, shall receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from each adjudicator for that round, and cannot be featured in the final result.
 - a. Should this occur in the **first round** where the number of teams requires a recall, such team cannot appear in the recall.
 - b. Should this occur in the **first round** where the number of teams (ten or fewer) requires that every team perform both dances, such team can perform the second dance (as a courtesy) but cannot place in a medal-winning position.
 - c. Should this occur in the **second round** where the number of teams requires a recall, such team cannot place in a medal-winning position, but will receive a recall medal.
 - d. Should this occur in the **second round** where the number of teams (ten or fewer) requires that every team perform both dances, such team cannot place in a medal-winning position.
 - e. Adjudicators will be instructed to report infractions to their Coiste Faire representative, and on their score sheet for the tabulation team.

4-Hand Ceili Championships | Craobh Rince Ceathrair

For Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2026, competitions #38-39 will dance Part B for both rounds. Competition #37 Sub-Minor Mixed 4-Hand category always performs Part A. **The 4-Hand Reel and Humours of Bandon will be danced 2 (two) at a time to the speed of 113.** In the first round all 4-hand teams will perform the 4 Hand Reel/Cor Ceathrar. If recalled, they will perform the Humours of Bandon/Pléaracha na Bandan.

#37 Ceathrar Fo-Mhion 8–11*
Sub-Minor Mixed 4-Hand Céilí 8–11

Part A

#38 Ceathrar Mion-mheascha 11–13
Minor Mixed 4-Hand Céilí 11–13

Part B

#39 Ceathrar Sóisear Meascha 13–16
Junior Mixed 4-Hand Céilí 13–16

Part B

#40 Ceathrar Sinsir os cionn 16
Senior Mixed 4-Hand Céilí 16 & Over

Part B

Ladies & Girls Ceili Championships | Mná & Cailíní Craobhacha Ceili

Two 8-Hand dances as specified in rule 16. For Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2026, competitions #42-45 and #47-49 will dance Part B for both rounds. Competition #41 and #46 Sub-Minor Girls and Mixed 8-Hand categories always performs Part A.

#41 Céilí Cailíní Fos-Mhionúir 8-11*

Sub-Minor Girls 8-Hand Céilí 8-11

Part A

#42 Céilí Cailíní Mionúir 11-13

Minor Girls 8-Hand Céilí 11-13

Part B

#43 Céilí Cailíní Sóisearacha 13-16

Junior Girls 8-Hand Céilí 13-16

Part B

#44 Céilí Cailíní Sinsir 16-19

Senior Girls 8-Hand Céilí 16-19

Part B

#45 Céilí Mná Sinsir os cionn 19

Senior Ladies 8-Hand Céilí 19 & Over

Part B

Mixed 8-Hand Ceili Championships | Craobhacha Ceili

Two 8-Hand dances as specified in rule 16. For Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2026, competitions #42-45 and #47-49 will dance Part B for both rounds. Competition #41 and #46 Sub-Minor Girls and Sub-Minor Mixed 8-Hand categories always performs Part A.

#46 Céilí Fo-Mhion 8-11*

Sub-Minor Mixed 8-Hand Céilí 8-11

Part A

#47 Céilí Mion-mheascha 11-13

Minor Mixed 8-Hand Céilí 11-13

Part B

#48 Céilí Sóisear Meascha 13-16

Junior Mixed 8-Hand Céilí 13-16

Part B

#49 Céilí Meascha Sinsir os cionn 16

Senior Mixed 8-Hand Céilí 16 & Over

Part B

Figure Dancing Championships | Craobhacha Rince Fígiúirí

Rules & Directives / Riallacha agus treoracha | Competitions/ Comórtáisí 51-55

38. These Rules and Directives must be read in conjunction with the General Rules and other relevant sections of this syllabus.
39. Each team must consist of no fewer than eight (8) and no more than sixteen (16) dancers.
40. Each dance must portray, in a manner suitable for a general audience, a specifically Irish historical or traditional story, event or theme.
41. Stance and body movement must be performed with modesty in mind.
42. Each team member must be on stage from the commencement of the dance and shall dance continuously (using footwork) for the duration of the dance, except where, to emphasise a figure, short pauses for up to four (4) bars may be permitted. Pauses for longer than four (4) bars by some team members are allowed (as in céilí dancing) provided that other team members continue to dance (using footwork).
43. The names of all team members must be submitted with the entry. Any changes to the team members should be communicated to the Oireachtas Chairperson.
44. Teachers are required to submit a written account of their dance, which should not exceed 250 words, to the Oireachtas Chairperson, with a copy of their music, no later than Tuesday, 24th February 2026. Music received after this, but before 3rd March 2026, will be subject to a late fee. No submissions will be accepted after 3rd March 2026 at 5pm IST.
45. Only the official stage steward may read the story. Music will not be permitted while the story is being read.
46. Stories received after Tuesday, 24th February 2026 will not be accepted without an appeal citing extenuating circumstances for the late submission of a story to the Oireachtas Chairperson. If the appeal is upheld, such stories will only be accepted after a penalty of €500 has been received.
47. Every dance must be capable of being performed on a stage no greater than 28' x 28'.

48. A mixed figure must have a minimum of one (1) male dancer.

49. A dancer must not be a member of more than one team in the same competition, except in the case of an unforeseen emergency, and then only with the permission of the Oireachtas Chairperson, or their designated representative.

50. There shall be no restriction on dancers in female competitions (51, 52 and 53) also participating in a competition for mixed teams (54 and 55), subject to age concessions and other rules listed in this syllabus.

51. Basic steps, as found in 'Ár Rincí Céilí 2014', are strongly recommended. Solo dancing steps are not permitted as part of a figure dance.

52. There are no restrictions on hand movements. Hand claps are permitted.

53. Music must not exceed four minutes in duration. Each dance will be electronically timed, and the timing will commence once the music starts and cease when the music stops. Additional music will be permitted for teams exiting the stage after the completion of their performance; however, this must be on the same track as the main music. Separate tracks will not be permitted.

54. Only Irish music, or music of related ethnic origin in 2/4, 4/4, or 6/8 time (or a combination of those time signatures) will be permitted.

55. Any change of time signature must last for at least 16 bars.

56. All music must comply with the ownership, source, licensing, and submission requirements as outlined in this syllabus.

57. Teachers seeking musical accompaniment from the official event musicians must make prior arrangements.

58. Teams will be adjudicated under the following headings:

- Portrayal of Story through Music and Dance
- Figure Content
- Footwork and Execution

59. The throwing of a dancer or any form of acrobatics including but not limited to somersaults, backward and forward rolls, handstands etc. is strictly prohibited.

60. Any team found to be in contravention of any of the above cannot be placed in a medal winning position.

61. All members of a team must be pupils of the same school of dancing.

Figure Dancing Championships | Craobhacha Rince Fígiúirí

#51 Foirne Mionúir Cailíní 11–13

Minor Girls Figure 11–13

#52 Foirne na gCailíní Sóisearacha 13–16

Junior Girls Figure 13–16

#53 Foirne na mBan Sinsearacha 16 & Over

Senior Ladies Figure 16 & Over

#54 Foirne Measctha Sóisearach 8–13

Minor Mixed Figure 8–13

#55 Foirne Measctha Sinsir os cionn 13

Senior Mixed Figure 13 & Over

Dance Drama Championships | Craobhacha Damhsa Dramaíochta

Rules & Directives / Riallacha agus treoracha | Competition/ Comortás 61

62. These Rules and Directives must be read in conjunction with the General Rules and other relevant sections of this syllabus.
63. Each team must consist of no fewer than eight (8) and no more than twenty (20) dancers.
64. Each dance must portray, in a manner suitable for a general audience, a specifically Irish historical or traditional story, event or theme.
65. Stance and body movement must be performed with modesty in mind.
66. Each team member must be on-stage, or side-stage for the duration of the dance.
67. The names of all team members must be submitted with the entry. Any changes to the team members should be communicated to the Oireachtas Chairperson.
68. Teachers are required to submit a written account of their dance, which should not exceed 250 words, to the Oireachtas Chairperson, with a copy of their music, no later than Tuesday, 24th February 2026.
69. Only the official stage steward may read the story. Music will not be permitted while the story is being read.
70. Stories received after Tuesday, 26th February 2026 will not be accepted without an appeal citing extenuating circumstances for the late submission of a story to the Oireachtas Chairperson. If the appeal is upheld, such stories will only be accepted after a penalty of €500 has been received.
71. Every dance must be capable of being performed on a stage no greater than 28' x 28'.
72. Entrances can be from stage right, stage left, or a combination of both.
73. Lighting can be dimmed or raised, but excessive or complicated changes of lighting must be avoided. Only the venue's in-house lighting may be used. Additional lighting including strobes etc. will not be permitted.
74. These Rules and Directives must be read in conjunction with the General Rules and other relevant sections of this syllabus.
75. Each team must consist of no fewer than eight (8) and no more than twenty (20) dancers.
76. Each dance must portray, in a manner suitable for a general audience, a specifically Irish historical or traditional story, event or theme.
77. Stance and body movement must be performed with modesty in mind.
78. Each team member must be on-stage, or side-stage for the duration of the dance.
79. The names of all team members must be submitted with the entry. Any changes to the team members should be communicated to the Oireachtas Chairperson.
80. Teachers are required to submit a written account of their dance, which should not exceed 250 words, to the Oireachtas Chairperson, with a copy of their music, no later than Tuesday, 24th February 2026.
81. Only the official stage steward may read the story. Music will not be permitted while the story is being read.
82. Stories received after Tuesday, 26th February 2026 will not be accepted without an appeal citing extenuating circumstances for the late submission of a story to the Oireachtas Chairperson. If the appeal is upheld, such stories will only be accepted after a penalty of €500 has been received.
83. Every dance must be capable of being performed on a stage no greater than 28' x 28'.
84. Entrances can be from stage right, stage left, or a combination of both.
85. Lighting can be dimmed or raised, but excessive or complicated changes of lighting must be avoided. Only the venue's in-house lighting may be used. Additional lighting including strobes etc. will not be permitted.

86. Where stage props are required, these must be provided by the participating team. Props must be portable and of a kind that can be placed and removed easily and quickly. The use of "smoke", "straw", "confetti", "liquid" etc. will not be permitted. This rule will be strictly enforced.
87. Each team will be electronically timed. Teams will be allowed up to five (5) minutes to prepare the stage, and up to five (5) minutes to clear the stage. The performance must last for a minimum of four (4) minutes and no more than six (6) minutes. Timing for the performance will commence when the music starts, and cease when the music stops.
88. Where a team opts to use pre-recorded music, the rules for musical accompaniment as detailed on page 10 must be followed. No combination of pre-recorded and live music will be permitted.
89. Additional music will be permitted for teams exiting the stage after the completion of their performance; however, this must be on the same track as the main music. Separate tracks will not be permitted.
90. Only Irish music, or music of related ethnic origin, which must consist of Reels, Light Jigs, Slip Jigs, Single Jigs, Double Jigs, Hornpipes, Irish marches, or Irish slow airs (or a combination of any of those dance tunes/marches/slow airs, will be permitted.
91. Where drumming is utilized, this must be in 2/4, 4/4, 6/8 or 9/8 time, or a combination of these times.
92. Spoken words and/or singing are strictly prohibited. This includes miming to spoken word or songs on any recordings. If in doubt, contact the Oireachtas Chairperson to arrange to have your music reviewed and assessed.
93. Video or image projection before, during or after a performance is not permitted.
94. Teams will be adjudicated under the following headings:
 - a. Portrayal of Story through Music and Dance (30 marks)
 - b. Dancing (30 marks)
 - c. Costuming (10 marks)
 - d. Overall Impact (30 marks)
95. The throwing of a dancer, or any form of acrobatics including, but not limited to somersaults, backward and forward rolls, or handstands etc. is strictly prohibited.
96. Any team found to be in contravention of any of the above cannot be placed in a medal-winning position.
97. A Dance Drama Co-ordinator will be assigned to communicate terms and conditions regarding delivery of props and sets to the venue, rehearsal times (if applicable), and assist on-site with load-in and load out of same.
98. If there are seven (7) or more entries received, this competition may occur as a separately-ticketed event.
99. All members of a team must be pupils of the same School of Dancing.

Dance Drama Championship | Craobhacha Damhsa Dramaíochta

#61 Damhsa Dramaíochta os cionn 8
Dance Drama 8 & Over

Michael Flatley Freestyle Championship

Rules & Directives | Riallacha agus Treoracha

1. These Rules and Directives must be read in conjunction with the General Rules and other relevant sections of this syllabus.
2. Introduced in 2023, this category, sponsored by Michael Flatley, provides a way for dancers to stimulate creativity and expression in Irish dance, without restrictions to arm or head movements.
3. This is a solo competition, open to dancers who participated at their 2025 Regional Oireachtas (in solo or team events) born in 2008 or earlier.
4. Dancers may choose soft shoe or hard shoe, and must perform a 90-second routine, in a manner suitable for a general audience, on a stage no larger than 28' x 28'.
5. The core style of the routine must be Irish dance. Participants are challenged to explore the blending of traditional Irish dancing with progressive upper body and head movements, to create a unique interpretation of Irish dancing in a manner which broadens our art form. Articulation and execution of footwork, timing, and rhythm are of the utmost importance, and the performance should portray a character/theme through dance and mime.
6. Routines performed live at the World Championships (for those who are selected) must replicate the routine submitted in the video, unless changes have been recommended and/or approved by the Lord of the Dance team.
7. The music chosen should reflect the character/theme of the performance, and be specifically Irish i.e., Reels, Light Jigs, Slip Jigs, Single Jigs, Double Jigs, Hornpipes, Irish marches, Irish slow airs, or set dance music. A cappella segments are also acceptable. A tune outside of this range which enhances or depicts the character/theme may be incorporated for a maximum of 16 bars for the live performance at the World Championships, with prior approval from the Lord of the Dance team.
8. All music must comply with the ownership, source, licensing and submission requirements as outlined on page 10 of this syllabus.
9. Costuming must be suitable for a general audience, with modesty in mind. The costume used for the live performance at the World Championships may be enhanced from what is worn in the video submission, with prior approval from the Lord of the Dance team. Changes to costuming must not be substantially dissimilar to that used in the video.
10. Small/basic props may be utilized, provided they enhance the performance. Props must be portable and of a kind that can be placed and removed easily and quickly. The use of "smoke", "straw", "confetti", "liquid" etc. will not be permitted. This rule will be strictly enforced.
11. Interested participants are required to record a video of their performance (filmed in landscape mode) and upload it to YouTube (ensure the upload is marked as unlisted), then e-mail the link, along with name, age, dance school and region, to freestylecomp@lordofthedance.com no later than Tuesday, 27th January 2026 at 5pm IST. There is no fee for this level of the competition. Videos not meeting these guidelines will not be accepted for consideration.
12. An independent review board will assess the videos, and select the top performances. Those participants will be invited to perform live at the World Championships, for which a registration fee applies.
13. Every effort will be made to decide and notify successful applications as soon as possible, so that travel and accommodation plans can be finalized. The committee is aiming for mid to late February to notify the finalists.
14. The date for the live competition is Saturday, 4th April 2026.
15. Videos will be adjudicated under the following headings:
 - a. Musicality (20 marks)
 - b. Creativity (20 marks)
 - c. Dance Performance and Style (30 marks)
 - d. Articulation and Execution (30 marks)

16. Entrants are required to submit a written account of their dance, which should not exceed 250 words, to the Oireachtas Chairperson, with a copy of their music, no later than Tuesday, 24th February 2026.
17. There will be two competitions, each with a perpetual award; one each for male and female competitors.
18. The competitions will be adjudicated by one of the 2026 Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne adjudication panels.
19. A commemorative token will be presented to all finalists appearing on stage for this event.

Michael Flatley Freestyle Championship | Craobh Saorstyle Micháel Flatley

#71#71 Craobh Saorstyle na bhFear
Mens' Freestyle Championship

#72 Craobh Saorstyle na mBan
Ladies' Freestyle Championship

**FOR UPDATES FOLLOW @CLRGIDOFFICIAL AND VISIT
OUR OFFICIAL EVENT WEBSITE: CLRGIREACHTAS.COM**

