

# **38th LINDISFARNE CHAMPIONSHIPS AND GRADED FEIS - 2026**

**TO BE HELD AT**

**BRINKBURN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
HARTON LANE  
SOUTH SHIELDS  
TYNE & WEAR  
NE34 0PJ**

**SATURDAY, 10 JANUARY 2026**

## **ADJUDICATORS:**

**STEVEN BRUNNING ADCRG MIDLANDS UK  
JENNY WILSON FLOWER ADCRG MIDLANDS UK  
DEARBHAIL BATES ADCRG LEINSTER  
MICHELLE HAUGHEY ADCRG SCOTLAND  
BRIAN McDERMOTT ADCRG SOUTHERN UK**

## **MUSICIANS:**

**MARTIN DALY – SCOTLAND  
LIAM O’SULLIVAN – NORTH EAST UK**

***CLARAITHE LEIS AN COIMISIUN LE RINCI GAELACHA***

# GOVERNING RULES

- 1 Entries to be emailed to [lindisfarnefeis@outlook.com](mailto:lindisfarnefeis@outlook.com) on or before Saturday, 20 December 2025 and fees are to be paid by bank transfer. (Once entries are received, confirmation and bank details will be sent by return).
- 2 No entries will be accepted without fees and no late entries will be accepted. A registered teacher must sign all entries
- 3 Age to be taken from 1 January 2026.
- 4 The Adjudicator's decision is final.
- 5 Dancers may enter, and compete, in either the Tiny Tots Competition or the solo grade competitions, but not in both.
- 6 Beginners and Primary Competitions are open to all regions and dancers, up to and including the Under 12 age group, may only wear traditional class costumes or long/short sleeved blouses/shirts and skirts/trousers, polo tops and skirts/trousers, body suits and skirts or tunics that conform to the regular costume length rule. Low-cut tops and short tight skirts are not permitted.
- 7 Beginners are open to dancers who have never won a 1<sup>st</sup> placed medal in that particular dance in any age group and must dance basic steps.
- 8 Primary competitions are open to dancers who have never won a 1<sup>st</sup> place in that particular dance in any age group.
- 9 Intermediate competitions are open to dancers who have never won a 1<sup>st</sup> place in that particular dance in their present age group.
- 10 Beginner and Primary Trophy Reel competitions are only open to those who have danced in the respective Reel competitions and have not previously won a Trophy Reel competition in any age group. Intermediate Trophy Reel competitions are open to dancers who have danced in the Intermediate Reel on the day and have not previously won an Intermediate Reel competition in their present age group.
- 11 If there are 5 or less competitors in any Beginner, Primary or Intermediate competition this will not count for grading purposes. However, a dancer may only win 3 such competitions and then move to the next grade.
- 12 If there are 15 or more competitors in any Beginner Competition, the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> placed dancers will move up to the next grade. If there are less than 15 only the 1<sup>st</sup> placed will count.
- 13 With the exception of U5, U6 and U7, any dancer who has won an Open Championship must dance in the open grade in the calendar year in which this was won.
- 14 Any dancer in U5, U6 or U7 age group, who has previously won an Open Championship, must dance Open for the dances performed in the

Championship. They may dance their other dances in the appropriate grade.

15 Dancers must dance in the solo competitions in order to dance in the Premier/Open Championship (Under 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 age groups).

16 **Preliminary Championships**

- A minimum number of three Adjudicators must officiate.
- The first age group for a Preliminary Championship is under 10.
- Where a Preliminary Championship is held separate from an Open Championship, three rounds should be offered, namely, Reel or Slip Jig, Heavy Jig or Hornpipe, and any Set Dance.
- Where a Preliminary Championship is combined with an Open Championship, then the result should be taken from eligible dancers' ranking after the first two rounds.
- Where there are separate Preliminary and Open Championships, dancers can compete in both at the discretion of the feis organiser.
- Where a competitor wins two Preliminary Championships, they must dance in Open Championship for a period of 12 months thereafter.
- For grading purposes, two wins will be taken as being in any two-year rolling period. Where a dancer does not win a second Preliminary within two years of winning their first Preliminary Championship, then the first win will be deemed as having expired and the dancer starts afresh.
- Where there are less than 6 in a Preliminary Championship, that win will not normally be considered for grading purposes. However, where a dancer wins three Preliminary Championships, regardless of the number of competitors in each competition, that dancer must dance in Open Championship for a period of 12 months thereafter.
- Dances performed in a Preliminary Championship do not count for grading in solo competitions.
- Dancers placing 1st – 3rd in an Open Championship with up to 20 competitors, or 1st – 5th in an Open Championship with more than 20 competitors, cannot compete in a Preliminary Championship for a period of 12 months.
- A solo World Qualifier (in the previous 12 months) will NOT be eligible to compete in a Preliminary Championship; the exception to this would be any dancer who may have automatically qualified due to low numbers in his/her respective competition at the Regional Oireachtas.

17 The North East Region always runs Preliminary and Open Championships as separate competitions. In the case of the Preliminary Championships, if there are 5 or less competitors in any single age group, the competitions will be combined and held in a double age group.

18 If there are 3 or more boys, then there will be separate Championships.

- 19 Teams may contain up to 75% from a younger age group. Dancers may only dance in one team, in the same age group (i.e. 1x 2 hand)
- 20 Competitors must be present when their age group is called otherwise they may lose their right to dance.
- 21 All trophies are perpetual challenge trophies and must be returned when requested. The recipient is responsible for any loss or damage to trophies whilst in their possession.
- 22 Any objections to be made in writing and handed to the Secretary with a fee of £5-00 within one hour of the competition. If the objection is sustained, the fee will be refunded.
- 23 No video, digital camera, digital phone camera or flash photography is to be used in the Halls during competitions. Mobile phones and electronic games must be switched off in the dancing areas. No hairspray or aerosols are to be used in the dancing areas.
- 24 No alcohol should be brought onto the premises with the intent to consume.
- 25 Prizes will be awarded in accordance with an Coimisiun rules.  
**TROPHIES TO BE AWARDED TO TOP 5 PLACES IN ALL PRELIMINARY AND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS.**
- 26 The feis organisers reserve the right to cancel or amend any competitions. Teachers will be notified of any changes.
- 27 No smoking is permitted anywhere in the building.
- 28 Dancers must be suitably dressed at all times. No changing is permitted in the competition halls.
- 29 The feis organisers will provide a surface suitable for dancing. However, the organisers cannot accept any liability for injury sustained whilst on stage. The lodgement of an entry will be deemed acceptance of this.
- 30 **ALL NORTH EAST TEACHERS MUST PROVIDE A COPY OF THEIR ENTRIES TO THE RECORDS CLERK, DEE GORMAN ADCRG, BY THE CLOSING DATE, FOR RECORD PURPOSES. IF THIS IS NOT ADHERED TO, THE NORTH EAST REGIONAL COUNCIL WILL IMPOSE A £20-00 FINE.**
- 31 Any competitor found to be using artificial carriage aids, and subsequently refusing to remove them, will be subject to disqualification from that particular competition. Medically prescribed apparatus (proof of which may be required) will be exempt from this ruling.
- 32 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 from 1 March 2022).

- 33 Appropriate undergarments covering the midriff must be worn. Undergarments must provide full coverage as per the illustration attached. (See Addendum A of this syllabus). Dancers wearing undergarments that do not cover the areas of the body as in the illustrated example will be asked to put on black tights of a denier of not less than 70%. This is monitored by the adjudicator. For competitions adjudicated by a panel of more than one adjudicator all adjudicator on the panel must agree to ask the dancer to put on tights. (Effective from 1 March 2022).
- 34 Solo costumes (including headwear) worn in championship competitions must not include any "Identifying Designs" (these are defined as any element on any costume worn in championship solo competitions identifying a status of achievement or an Irish dance competition award, eg, globes). It is expected that all dancers, teachers, parents and guardians will uphold these standards without the need for formal enforcement.
- 35 Make-up will not be permitted for any dancer in the first two grades (Beginners and Primary) up to and including the under 12 age group worldwide. For the purpose of this rule, the term "make-up" includes tinted moisturizer and any artificial tanning products. 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.
- 35 No block, en pointe movements, stationary or moving, are allowed to be performed for all ages up to and including the Under 12 Age Group worldwide. However, dancers, who are moving into the Under 13 Age Group in January, will be permitted to do block/en Pointe work from September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year prior to this date.
- 36 The feis committee may modify, alter or cancel any arrangement in the syllabus as is deemed necessary, subject to approval of the North East Regional Council.
- 37 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.

**Please note that the following dance speeds apply to all North East Feiseanna:**

| <b>DANCE</b> | <b>BEGINNER</b> | <b>PRIMARY</b> | <b>INTERMEDIATE</b> | <b>OPEN</b> |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Reel         | <b>122</b>      | <b>116</b>     | <b>113</b>          | <b>113</b>  |
| Single Jig   | <b>124</b>      | <b>124</b>     | <b>124</b>          | <b>124</b>  |
| Light Jig    | <b>116</b>      | <b>116</b>     | <b>116</b>          | <b>116</b>  |
| Slip Jig     | <b>122</b>      | <b>118</b>     | <b>113</b>          | <b>113</b>  |
| Heavy Jig    | <b>96</b>       | <b>76</b>      | <b>73</b>           | <b>73</b>   |
| Hornpipe     | <b>144</b>      | <b>118</b>     | <b>113</b>          | <b>113</b>  |

Traditional Set Dance speeds:

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

## **SOLO COMPETITIONS**

Tiny Tots            Under 6 Ungraded Reel (16 bars only)

Beginners           Under 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13  
Reel, Single Jig, Light Jig, Slip Jig, Trophy Reel, Heavy Jig, Hornpipe

Primary              Under 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, Over 13  
Reel, Single Jig, Light Jig, Slip Jig, Trophy Reel, Heavy Jig, Hornpipe

Intermediate       Under 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, Over 15  
Reel, Single Jig, Light Jig, Slip Jig, Trophy Reel, Heavy Jig, Hornpipe

Open                  Under 5, 6 & 7  
Reel, Single Jig, Light Jig, Slip Jig, Heavy Jig, Hornpipe

Under 8 & 9  
Reel, Single Jig, Light Jig, Slip Jig, Heavy Jig, Hornpipe, Trad Set Dance

## **PREMIER**

Under 5                      Reel

## **PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Age groups: Under 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and over 15**

1<sup>st</sup> Round: Reel or Slip Jig

2<sup>nd</sup> Round: Heavy Jig or Hornpipe

3<sup>rd</sup> Round: Set Dance

## **OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Age groups: Under 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, Senior**

Under 6 & 7                      1<sup>st</sup> Round: Reel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Round: Single Jig

Under 8 & 9                      1<sup>st</sup> Round: Reel or Slip Jig  
2<sup>nd</sup> Round: Heavy Jig or Hornpipe  
Recall Round: Trad Set Dance

Under 10                      1<sup>st</sup> Round: Reel or Slip Jig  
2<sup>nd</sup> Round: Heavy Jig or Hornpipe  
Recall Round: Set Dance

Under 11 to Senior            1<sup>st</sup> Round: Reel or Slip Jig  
2<sup>nd</sup> Round: Heavy Jig or Hornpipe  
Recall Round: Open Set dance

**SOLO RESULTS WILL BE GIVEN FOR FIRST TWO ROUNDS OF  
UNDER 10 – SENIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS AND ALL PRELIMINARY  
CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

**TROPHIES AND SASHES WILL BE AWARDED TO TOP 5 DANCERS IN  
ALL PRELIMINARY AND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

**THERE WILL BE A 100% RECALL IN ALL PRELIMINARY AND OPEN  
CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

## **FIGURE DANCING**

Under 7 and Under 9            2 Hand, 3 Hand, 4 Hand (Trad)

Under 11, 13, 16 & Senior    2 Hand, 3 Hand, 4 Hand (Trad) and  
8 Hand (Trad)

## **ENTRY FEES**

|                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tiny Tots Ungraded Reel | £7.50                       |
| Solos                   | £5.50                       |
| Trophy Reels            | £7.00                       |
| Premier (U5)            | £10.00                      |
| Open Champ U6 & U7      | £15.00                      |
| Open Champ U8 & U9      | £20.00                      |
| Preliminary Champ       | £45.00 (to include 2 solos) |
| Open Champ U10 to Snr   | £45.00 (to include 2 solos) |
| Figure Dancing          | £2.00 (per dancer)          |
| Family Ceiling          | £90.00                      |

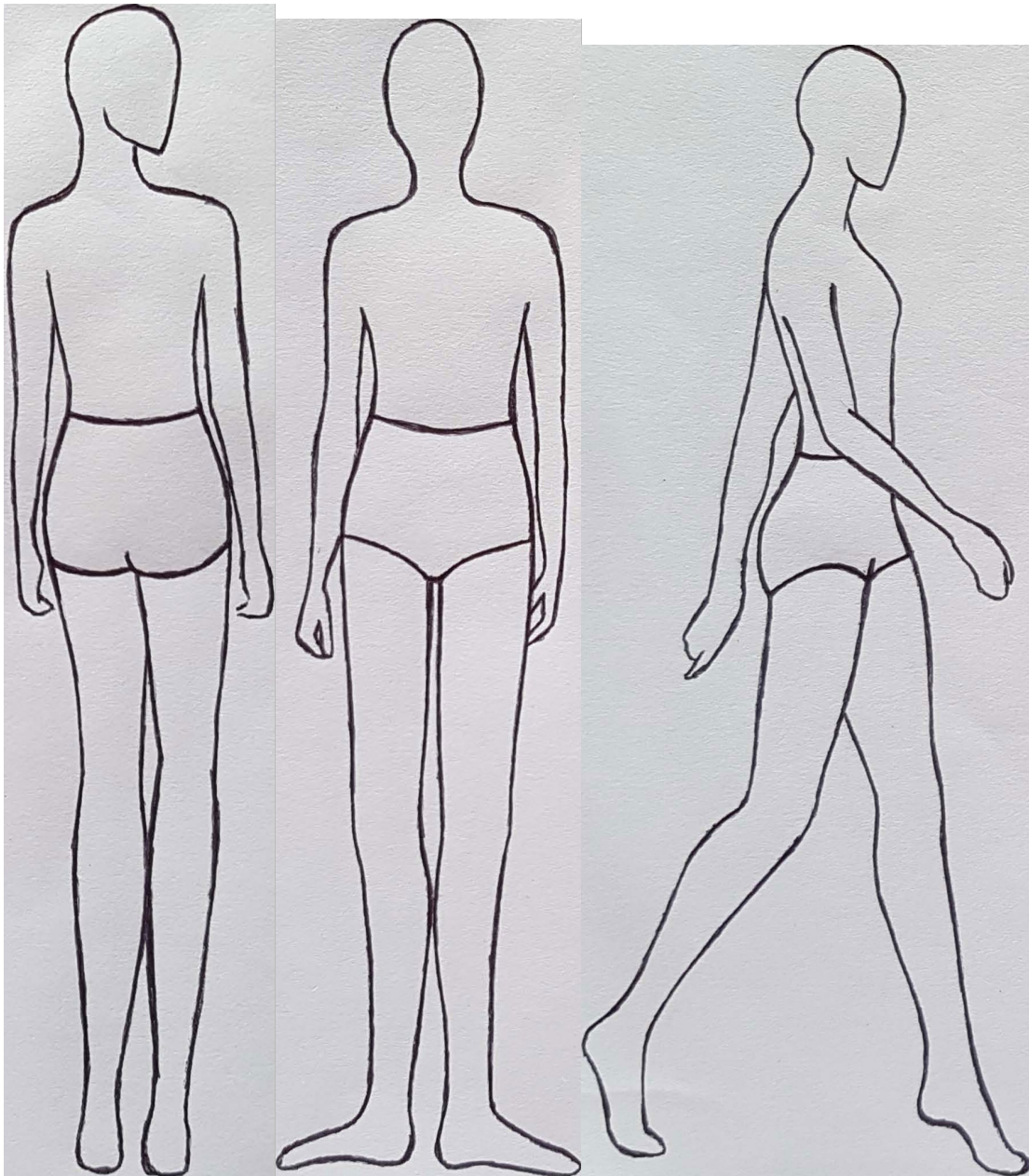
(This applies to either Grades or Preliminary/Open Championship competitions, but not both. A family may claim two family ceilings if family members (from one family) compete in both Grades and Preliminary/Open Championship. Where a dancer enters four or more solo competitions, they can enter Open or Preliminary Championships at a charge of £15.00)

**DOOR ENTRY £6-00 (Concessions £3.00)**

**PLEASE USE OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**



**Addendum A (as mentioned in rule 33)**



**SCHOOL:** .....

[illegible]

**TEACHER'S NAME/SIGNATURE:** ..... **TOTAL FEES:** .....

## OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRIES FOR LINDISFARNE CHAMPIONSHIPS & GRADED FEIS

**SCHOOL:** .....

[illegible]

**TEACHER'S NAME/SIGNATURE: .....**      **TOTAL FEES: .....**

**PRELIM CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRIES FOR LINDISFARNE CHAMPIONSHIPS & GRADED FEIS**

**SCHOOL: .....**

| Dancer's name | Age group | Reel | Slip Jig | Heavy Jig | Horn-Pipe | Set Dance and Speed | Fee<br>45.00 |
|---------------|-----------|------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|--------------|
|               |           |      |          |           |           |                     |              |
|               |           |      |          |           |           |                     |              |
|               |           |      |          |           |           |                     |              |
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|               |           |      |          |           |           |                     |              |
|               |           |      |          |           |           |                     |              |

**TEACHER'S NAME/SIGNATURE: .....**

**TOTAL FEES: .....**