



The Gates of Derry Championships

Date

Saturday 7th February 2026

Venue

Shantallow Community Centre, Derry, BT48 8EN

Adjudicators

Aaron Crosbie, London

Julie Loughlin, London

Sheila Bremer, Boston

Kieran Houghton Rogers, Cheshire, England

Colleen Quigley, Letterkenny, Ireland

Musicians

Stephen Devlin, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Séan Mortalo, Dublin, Ireland

Syllabus Approved:

Feis Registrar Uladh



Dear Teachers, Parents & Dancers,

We would like to welcome you to the 2026 Gates of Derry Championships which will be hosted by McConomy Bradley Doherty Academy of Irish Dance on 7th February 2026 in Shantallow Community Centre, Derry BT48 8EN.

All Championships from Under 6 to Senior will be adjudicated by a panel of 3 adjudicators. There will be separate boys' championships where there are 5 or more boys. Where there are less than 5 boys, there will be a cup for Top Boy.

Perpetual Cup will be awarded for 1st place.

Tiaras for winners of Girls championships.

Trophies and Sashes will be awarded for the Top 5 in Open championships.

Trophy and Sashes will be awarded for top 3 in Preliminary Championships.

In grade competitions Trophy dance (winner) receives Trophy and Sash, second and third trophy only.

Preliminary Championships are from U9-U16.

MCBDA Teachers

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HALL A

<i>Time</i>	<i>Championship</i>	<i>Dances</i>
8.30am	U 13 Championship U 14 Championship U 15 Championship	Reel/Slip Jip Jig/Hornpipe any Set Dance
11.00am	U 7 Championship U 8 Championship U 9 Championship	Reel/light or heavy jig/single jig Reel/Jig/Trad set Reel/Jig/Trad set
Under 9	Step down the line	Hornpipe
12.30pm	U 5 Championship U 6 Championship	Reel/Light Jig Reel/Light Jig/Single Jig

Stars of the future-16 bars Reel

2.30pm	U 10 Championship U 11 Championship U 12 Championship	Reel/Slip Jip Jig/ Hornpipe/any Set Dance
5.00pm	U 16 Championship U 17 Championship U 18 Championship Over 18 Championship	Reel/Slip Jip Jig/Hornpipe/any Set Dance

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HALL B

<u>Time</u>	<u>Stage 1</u>	<u>Stage 2</u>
9.00am	U6 Bungrad U7 Bungrad	U8 Bungrad
9.30am	U7 Tusgrad	U8 Tusgrad
10.00am	U7 Meangrad	U8 Meangrad
11.00am	U9 Bungrad Tusgrad Meangrad	U10 Bungrad Tusgrad Meangrad
	Lunch	
1.30pm	U12-14 Bungrad Tusgrad Meangrad	Over 14 Bungrad Tusgrad Meangrad
	U 11 Bungrad Tusgrad Meangrad	U12 Bungrad Tusgrad Meangrad

<u>Bungrad</u>	<u>Tusgrad</u>	<u>Meangrad</u>
Reel	Reel	Reel
Single Jig	Single Jig	Slip Jig
Light Jig	Light Jig	Heavy Jig/Hornpipe
Slip Jig	Slip Jig	Light Trophy Dance
Light Trophy Dance	Light Trophy Dance Heavy Trophy Dance	Heavy Trophy Dance
Under 6	Under 7	Under 8
Under 7	Under 8	Under 9
Under 8	Under 9	Under 10
Under 9	Under 10	Under 11
Under 10	Under 11	Under 12
Under 11	Under 12	12-14
Under 12	12-14	Over 14
12-14	Over 14	
Over 14		

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Competition Rules

1. Age as at 1st January 2026
2. Competitors in Bun Grad & Tus Grad, up to and including the Under 12 age group, may only wear traditional class costumes or long/short-sleeved blouses/shirts & skirts/trousers, polo tops & skirts/ trousers, body suits & skirts or tunics that conform to the regular costume length rule. Low-cut tops and short tight skirts are not permitted.
3. Make-up (including false eyelashes and face-tan) is not be permitted for dancers, in either solo or team competitions, up to and including the Under 10 age group.
4. Make-up will not be permitted for any dancer in the first two grades (Bungrád and Tusgrád or equivalent) up to and including the under 12 age group worldwide.
5. 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. When wearing body suits with skirts (commonly known as black-out attire) black tights (of a denier less than 70) must be worn from the age of 14 and above. As a point of clarification, this rule is not limited to just body suits but also to tops/ blouses and skirts/shorts of all colours and is in effect from the 14-15 age group upwards. Appropriate undergarments covering midriff must be worn.
6. In order to comply with health and safety measures, all dancers lining up side stage prior to any round at any competition will be required to perform the simple exercise of raising their arms to shoulder level unhindered. If unable to do this by the time of their rotation due to costume stitching or arm attachments, these competitors will not be permitted to perform.
7. Bun Grád competitions are confined to competitors who at the time of entry have never won 1st place (or being regraded as per below) in that particular dance in any age group or grade. Basic Steps only are permitted in Bun Grad.
8. Tus Grad confined to dancers who have never won 1st prize (or being graded as per below) for that particular dance in any age in Tus Grad, Mean Grad or Ard Grad. Dancers may perform either basic steps or their first hard/difficult version of each dance. Steps in Tus Grad Heavy Jigs and Hornpipe must be similar to those used in St.Patrick's Day and Blackbird.
9. In Bun Grád & Tus Grad competitions, one dancer moves up to next grade if there are less than 20 competitors, two dancers move up to next grade if there between 21 and 40 competitors and three dancers move up to next grade if there are over 40 competitors.
10. Mean Grád competitions are confined to dancers who at the time of entry have never won 1st place for that particular dance in Mean Grad or Ard Grád in that age group or a higher age group.
11. A Preliminary Championship must be adjudicated by 3 or more Adjudicators and must consist of 2 Rounds, 1 Light Round – and 1 Heavy Round – Dancers may compete in an Open or a Preliminary Championship or both.

RULES AND ELIGIBILITY:

- a. To be eligible to compete in a Prelim Championship: Dancers must not have placed in the

top 3 in an Open Championship judged by 3 or more adjudicators.

- b. Dancers must not have won a Preliminary Championship more than 2 times in the current year, HOWEVER, if there are 5 or less in a prelim competition the dancer is still eligible to compete in Preliminary Championship.
- c. Dancers must not have qualified for Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne in the current year or previous year. Dancers must not have recalled in the actual Championship at Oireachtas Rince na hEireann in the current year or previous year.
- d. Dancers having won 2 Preliminary Championships may not compete in any Mean grad competition for the remainder of the year however, if a dancer has won only one Preliminary Championship they may continue to compete in Mean grad (with the exception of the dances that they have won the Prelim Championship with).
- e. Dancers who qualify for Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne where there are five dancers or less in the competition at their Regional Oireachtas are exempt from this ruling. They may remain in the Preliminary Championships if they so wish.
- f. Boys who have qualified for Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne, but were not placed in the top 3 at their Regional Oireachtas and who otherwise fulfil the Prelim Criteria, may continue to compete in Preliminary Grade.

12. Dancers must perform to the following speeds:

- Bun Grad: Reel 122-124, Light Jig 116, Single Jig 124, Slip Jig 124, Heavy Jig 96, Hornpipe 144
- Tus Grad: Reel 116-118, Light Jig 116, Single Jig 124, Slip Jig 120, Heavy Jig 82, Hornpipe 130
- Mean/Ard Grad: Reel 113, Light Jig 116, Single Jig 124, Slip Jig 113, Heavy Jig 73, Hornpipe 113 • Traditional Set Dances: St. Patrick's Day 94, The Blackbird 144, Job of Journeywork 138,
- Garden of Daisies 138, King of the Fairies 130, Three Sea Captains 96, Jockey to the Fair 90

13. All competitors will be required a dance a MINIMUM number of 40 bars, except in Slip Jigs, Hornpipes & Bun Grad Reels where a MINIMUM number of 32 bars will be required.

14. Any form of unauthorised photography which has the capability to capture a dancer's image whilst in motion, using electronic or manual means e.g. mobile phones, ipads, standard cameras, video camcorders, cine recorder, commercial film, with or without flash enhancement, is forbidden during competition.

15. Changing of costumes, dressing and undressing, is not permitted in the halls or public areas.

16. No Block, en point, stationary or moving will be allowed for all ages up to and including under 12. However dancers will be competing in the 12-13 age group in the following year will be exempt from this rule from 1st September.

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

18. The Child Protection Designated Liason Officer for the Ulster Region is Chantelle Deazley. If you have any concerns for any child's safety at the event, please contact her: CPDLOUlster@gmail.com.

Other Rules

19. Any objections must be lodged in writing within one hour of result, accompanied by fee of £20.00.
20. The feis committee will not accept any responsibility for personal injuries or articles lost at the feis.
21. The feis committee reserves the right to transfer competitions/results to a different stage or to alternate competitions if it becomes necessary in order to help the feis run smoothly. The committee reserves the right to use a relief adjudicator.
22. The Feis committee reserve the right to refuse feis entries into the feis

Syllabus Approved:



Feis Registrar Uladh

Information

Waterfoot Hotel

Caw Roundabout

Derry

BT47 6TB

Tel: 02871 345500

For enquiries, please contact: **Rosetta Mc Conomy ADCRG**



07565482716



rosettamconomybradley@gmail.com



www.entrytable.ie

Entry Process

Entries will only be accepted from CLRG registered schools

ENTRIES CLOSE: 28th January 2026

ENTRY FEES:

Under 5 Championship £25

Under 6 Championship £30

Under 7 – Senior £40

Championship & Prelim: £45 (overall championship/prelim result, two solo results).

(Marks pack will be available online)

Grades:

Solo Dance: £7.

Trophy Dance: £10

£5 surcharge for any entries on the day

- Admission £5 per person.
- Entries for Championships and Grade Competitions will take place.
- Numbers will be collected on the day.
- Entry for the feis indicates that dancers entered and their parents/guardians agree to adhere to the feis and venue guidelines
- Fees are non-refunded except in the case that the event does not go ahead as planned.
- Tabulation: provided by Sukhy Nijjar.
- Practice Area will be provided.
- Teas/Coffees, sandwiches, snacks etc will be available to purchase.

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