

**The Walsh Kelley School of Irish Dancing presents  
Carolina State Championships and Feis  
Saturday, March 7, 2026**

**LIMITED TO 375 ENTRIES.**

**200 Championship, 175 Grades**

**Entries MUST BE paid in order to be accepted under the cap.**

**Unpaid entries will not be accepted once the cap has been reached.**

**Entries must be postmarked/paid by February 14, 2026 to avoid late fees.**

**Changes to entries must be made prior to February 21, 2026 to avoid change fees.**

**No entries accepted after February 21, 2026. Absolutely no refunds, transfers, or credits!**

**VENUE**

**Courtyard Charlotte Waverly**

**6319 Providence Farm Lane**

**Charlotte, NC 28277**

**Group Rate: \$136/night**

**Last day to book: Friday, February 13, 2026**

**[Book your group rate for Walsh Kelley Feis March 2026](#)**

**Syllabus Approved \_\_\_\_\_ by Areleen Ni Bhaoill TCRG Southern Region Feis Liaison**

**Adjudicators and Musicians will be published on our website prior to the entry closing date**

**Questions regarding registration and all other inquiries [aine@walshkelleyschool.com](mailto:aine@walshkelleyschool.com)**

**SOUTHERN REGIONAL DANCING COMPETITION RULES**

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

Penalty for (a) or (c): Competitor will be disqualified from the Feis at which the occurrence happened and from all registered Feiseanna for a period of one year beginning at the date of the occurrence.

4. Competitions may be closed if there are no competitors at the assigned stage ready to compete when the competition is scheduled or announced. This does not pertain to a situation where competitors are involved in stage conflicts, and such conflicts will be handled by the stage monitor.
5. Steel taps or "bubble" heels on dancing shoes and any display of awards is prohibited. Authentic Gaelic dress is desired.
6. First Feis (if offered), Beginner and Advanced Beginner, aka Beginner I and II, must wear a class costume, or a skirt/pants

and top. All other categories are excluded from this rule. Modest attire is encouraged when a competitor is not dancing.

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

## 1. GRADE LEVEL RULES

### GRADE LEVEL RULES

1. Solo competitors in First Feis (if offered), Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Novice or Open (Prizewinner), Adult and Master competitions:
  - a. Must compete in their own age group.
  - b. Must be prepared to perform two steps in each event.
2. With the exception of First Feis and Beginner 1, a dancer's level is determined in each dance (Reel, Light Jig, Single Jig, Slip-Jig, Hornpipe, Treble Jig, and Traditional Set). Traditional Set Dances are limited to those dances determined by An Coimisiun Le Rince Gaelacha as traditional set dances.
3. A Feis Committee may combine competitions if there are less than 5 competitors entered as follows:
  - a. Three consecutive age groups, if including the youngest or oldest multi-year age groups, or up to five consecutive single-age groups, combined into the highest age group, within that grade.
4. Each region may determine the system for moving dancers from one grade to another, as they see appropriate for their region.
5. The syllabus is to contain all grade categories.
6. Competitors have the option to remain in the same category for the remainder of the Feis year.
7. A dancer, at the discretion of the teacher, may move into the next Grade (not Open Championships) without satisfying the requirements. However, once a dancer competes in the higher level, they can never move back to a lower category, (except as outlined in Rule 1, above).
8. Grade Levels
  - a. **First Feis:** A dancer who has never competed in a Feis. A dancer can only be in this category for a single day and cannot compete at any other level in the Feis. Dancers must compete with Basic Steps that coincide with the Grade Exam Syllabus.
  - b. **Beginner 1 (Beginner) Grade:** A beginner is a competitor who has not yet taken a full year of Irish Dance lessons, thereby giving beginners a full year with such status. A Beginner must move into the Beginner 2/Advanced Beginner category the next year. Dancers must compete with Basic Steps that coincide with the Grade Exam Syllabus.
  - c. **Beginner 2 (Advanced Beginner) Grade:** An advanced beginner who wins 1st, 2nd or 3rd place will advance to the Novice category in that particular dance. Competition dances are reel, light jig, slip jig, traditional treble jig and traditional hornpipe, as a minimum requirement. Dancers must compete with Basic Steps that coincide with the Grade Exam Syllabus.
  - d. **Novice Grade:** A novice who wins a 1st place will advance to the Open (Prizewinner) category in that particular dance. In Novice competitions with 20 or more dancers, a dancer who wins 1st or 2nd place in a dance will advance to the Open/PW category in that particular dance (Dec 2012)
  - e. **Open Prizewinner Grade:** A competitor who does not qualify as a beginner, advanced beginner or as a novice.
  - f. **Adult:** An Adult dancer is defined as any dancer who started Irish dancing at the age of 18 or older OR any dancer 18 or older who has not competed in at least five years in a youth competition AND has not placed in the top 3 of a Prelim Championship **within the last 10 years**, or competed in Open Championship levels in the youth/& Over levels **within the last 15 years**.
9. First Feis (if offered), Beginner 1, and Beginner 2 are required to dance at traditional speeds. Novice and Open/Prizewinner dancers may choose between traditional and Oireachtas speeds.
10. The following dance speeds must be adhered to:

	First Feis	Beg 1	Beg 2	Novice	Prizewinner
Reel	122	122	122	113	113
Light Jig	115	115	115	115	115

Slip Jig	122	122	122	113	113
Single Jig	124	124	124	124	124
Treble Jig			92	73/92	73/92
Hornpipe			138	113/138	113/138

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

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

## 2. CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL RULES

### CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL RULES

1. First place winners in the Open Championship category cannot return to a Preliminary or Open (Prizewinner) competition. Placing in a Regional or National Oireachtas does not change the status of a competitor. A dancer who moves into Open Championship must stay a minimum of 2 years. If after 2 years they have not placed they are allowed to return to Preliminary. An Open Championship dancer who places is not allowed to return to Preliminary until 2 years after their last placement. The regional syllabus where the Feis is being held may have different qualifications for entry.
2. Entrants in any Championship event may not enter in any other (Grade) events, but may enter in Figure Dances and Specials, i.e. Treble Reel Competition, etc.
3. Dancers must qualify for Open Championship via the method now in place for Preliminary Championship, i.e. two 1st place wins.
4. Dancers must compete in the Preliminary Championship competition in order to qualify for Open Championship
5. Preliminary Championships
  - a. Are open to those who at any CLRG-registered Feis:
    - i. Have placed 1st in both an Open (Prizewinner) light and heavy shoe competitions and
    - ii. Have never won 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an Open Championship.
  - b. A dancer who lives in the Southern Region and who wins 1st place in a second Preliminary Championship Competition in any Region MAY move up to Open Championship Competitions immediately, at the discretion of their dancing teacher.

- c. A dancer who lives in the Southern Region when they win 1st place in a second Preliminary Championship competition MUST move up to Open Championship Competitions no later than the one calendar year anniversary of the second Preliminary Championship win.
  - d. Preliminary Championship competitions with 26 or more competitors may be split in half according to age. \* In Preliminary Championships-Separate boys into a separate competition if there are five (5) or more boys entered in a specific competition within a single age group.
6. If three (3) or more boys are entered in a specific age group in a combined Open Championship competition, the boys and girls MUST be split into separate competitions.
  7. Every competitor in Preliminary or Open Championship must have a minimum of 8 rotations or 10 minutes between each of their rounds.
  8. In the event the same organization is running 2 feis' in one weekend the following must occur:
    - a. In championship competitions, 2/3 of adjudicators must be different from the previous day.  
\*\*\*NOTE: This rule has been rescinded for 2023, 2024 & 2025.\*\*\*
    - b. 2nd chance competitions may only be offered on one feis.

### 3. FIGURE / CEILI TEAM RULES

#### FIGURE / CEILI TEAM RULES

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

### 4. ADJUDICATORS & MUSICIANS

#### ADJUDICATORS & MUSICIANS

1. Musicians and adjudicators cannot be approached during a competition by anyone except the Feis Committee. No one can approach them while a competitor is performing.
2. Musicians employed by the Feis Committee will be solely under the direction and management of the Feis Committee on Feis day.
3. In matters pertaining to adjudication, the decision of the adjudicators is final.
4. Adjudicators are to monitor the quality of music at the stage(s) to which they are assigned.

5. Championships and Preliminary Championships require at least three adjudicators.
6. Each Feis is required to list their adjudicators on their syllabus and/or website at least three weeks before the close of entries, one-third of which are to be from outside the region where the Feis is being held.

## 5. COSTUME RULES

### COSTUME RULES

1. Makeup is prohibited on a dancer in the first three grades (First Feis (if offered), Beginner I and Beginner 2 or their equivalent) up to and including the under 12 age group. Make-up (including false eyelashes and tanner on the face) is not permitted for dancers, in either solo or team competitions, up to and including the Under 10 age group.  
  
Clarification: Both make up rules refer to the age group of the competition, not the actual age of the dancer. For example, 9-year-old dancers, competing in a team that is entered Under 12, may wear make-up or at a feis where the youngest Open Championship age group is Under11, then all dancers in that competition may wear make-up. These rules must also be announced from side stage at the event. Participants should be reminded that should they be in breach of these rules and be required to remove their make-up, that they risk missing their rotation in the competition.
2. Any competitor found to be using artificial carriage aids and subsequently refuses to remove same, will be subject to disqualification from that particular competition. Medically prescribed aids (proof of which may be required) will be exempt from this rule.
3. Competitors in competitions at the First Feis (if offered), Beginner I and Beginner 2 Grade will wear only the competitor's dancing school costume or a skirt/pants and top.
4. Costume Length: Length of costumes must adhere to principles of modesty and enable dancers to safely execute their movements and steps. Adjudicators who determine a costume to be too short or to lack modesty may ask a competitor to change into black tights (of a denier not less than 70 per cent) in order for the dancer to continue in the competition.

## 6. MODESTY RULES

### MODESTY RULES

#### FROM AN COIMISIUN

- 6.1. Changing costumes, dressing and undressing of dancers will not be acceptable in the halls or public areas. For the sake of modesty and in the interests of safety of young people, dancers will not be permitted to walk around the feis scantily dressed.
- 6.2. Respect for fellow competitors on stage is a requirement at all times.
- 6.3. Lack of respect or courtesy for fellow competitors by aggressive dancing on stage will be subject to penalty at the discretion of each individual adjudicator.
- 6.4. Length of costume must adhere to principles of modesty and enable dancers to safely execute their movements and steps. Adjudicators who determine a costume to be too short or to lack modesty may ask a competitor to wear black tights (of a denier not less than 70 percent) in order to continue in the competition. For competitions adjudicated by a panel of more than one adjudicator, all adjudicators on the panel must agree to asking the dancer to wear tights. Effective March 1, 2022.
- 6.5. Appropriate undergarments covering the midriff must be worn. Undergarments must provide full coverage. Dancers wearing undergarments that do not cover the areas of the body as in the illustrated example will be asked to put on black tights of a denier of not less than 70%. This is monitored by the adjudicator. For competitions adjudicated by a panel of more than one adjudicator all adjudicators on the panel must agree to ask the dancer to

put on tights. (Effective March 1, 2022)

## 7. REFUND POLICY

7.1. The Feis WILL NOT give any refunds for any reason including consequences for violations of these rules.

Entry fees per competitor per competition are as follows:

Solo Dancing	\$12.00
Figure Dancing (per dancer)	\$12.00
Soda Bread	\$12.00
Future Championships	\$50.00
Preliminary Championships	\$50.00
Open Championships	\$60.00
Traditional Set	\$12.00
Non Traditional Set	\$12.00
T-shirts (available by preorder only)	\$20.00
Family Fee	\$35.00
Late Fee per competitor	\$20.00
Maximum Family Fee **	\$200.00

\*\*Does not include family admission fee, t-shirts, or late fees per competitor. Any changes to an entry requested after February 21, 2026 will be subject to a \$5.00 fee per change plus any added competition fees. Change fees are capped at \$10.00 per competitor. A \$35 fee (payable in cash) will be assessed for any check returned unpaid by the bank.

### BEGINNER GRADE

Age	Reel	Single Jig	Light Jig	Slip Jig
Under 5	205RL	205SN	205LJ	205SJ
Under 6	206RL	206SN	206LJ	206SJ
Under 7	207RL	207SN	207LJ	207SJ
Under 8	208RL	208SN	208LJ	208SJ
Under 9	209RL	209SN	209LJ	209SJ
Under 10	210RL	210SN	210LJ	210SJ
Under 11	211RL	211SN	211LJ	211SJ
Under 12	212RL	212SN	212LJ	212SJ
Over 12	213RL	213SN	213LJ	213SJ

### ADVANCED BEGINNER GRADE

Age	Reel	Single Jig	Light Jig	Slip Jig	T/J	H/P
Under 6	306RL	306SN	306LJ	306SJ	306TJ	306HP
Under 7	307RL	307SN	307LJ	307SJ	307TJ	307HP
Under 8	308RL	308SN	308LJ	308SJ	308TJ	308HP
Under 9	309RL	309SN	309LJ	309SJ	309TJ	309HP
Under 10	310RL	310SN	310LJ	310SJ	310TJ	310HP
Under 11	311RL	311SN	311LJ	311SJ	311TJ	311HP
Under 12	312RL	312SN	312LJ	312SJ	312TJ	312HP
Under 13	313RL	313SN	313LJ	313SJ	313TJ	313HP
Over 13	314L	314SN	314LJ	314SJ	314TJ	314HP

## NOVICE GRADE

Age	Reel	Single Jig	Light Jig	Slip Jig	T/J	H/P
Under 7	407RL	407SN	407LJ	407SJ	407TJ	407HP
Under 8	408RL	408SN	408LJ	406SJ	408TJ	408HP
Under 9	409RL	409SN	409LJ	409SJ	409TJ	409HP
Under 10	410RL	410SN	410LJ	410SJ	410TJ	410HP
Under 11	411RL	411SN	411LJ	411SJ	411TJ	411HP
Under 12	412RL	412SN	412LJ	412SJ	412TJ	412HP
Under 13	413RL	413SN	413LJ	413SJ	413TJ	413HP
Under 14	414RL	414SN	414LJ	414SJ	414TJ	414HP
Under 15	415RL	415SN	415LJ	415SJ	415TJ	415HP
Over 15	416RL	416SN	416LJ	416SJ	416TJ	416HP

## PRIZEWINNER/OPEN GRADE

Age	Reel	Slip Jig	T/J	H/P
Under 7	507RL	507SJ	507TJ	507HP
Under 8	508RL	508SJ	508TJ	508HP
Under 9	509RL	509SJ	509TJ	509HP
Under 10	510RL	510SJ	510TJ	510HP
Under 11	511RL	511SJ	511TJ	511HP
Under 12	512RL	512SJ	512TJ	512HP
Under 13	513RL	513SJ	513TJ	513HP
Under 14	514RL	514SJ	514TJ	514HP
Under 15	515RL	515SJ	515TJ	515HP
Over 15	516RL	516SJ	516TJ	516HP

## FUTURE CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION – OPEN TO DANCERS WHO ARE NOT CURRENTLY COMPETING IN PRELIMINARY OR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

*Reel (3 Steps/48 bars) or Slip Jig (2 ½ steps/40 bars) and Treble Jig (3 steps/48 bars) or Hornpipe (2 ½ steps/40 bars)*

Age	
Under 9	509SP
Under 12	512SP
Under 15	515SP
Over 15	516SP

**Note:** This competition is offered as a practice opportunity only. Awards and placements will be given; however, the results will not count for a level change.

## NON-TRADITIONAL SET DANCE

*Only Prizewinner dancers eligible*

Age	
Under 12	512NTS
Under 14	514NTS
Over 14	515NTS

## TRADITIONAL SET DANCE



*Only Novice and Prizewinner dancers eligible*

Age	
Under 10	510TS
Over 10	511TS

## FIGURE DANCING

Age	2H	3H	Any Dance
Under 9	9209FD	9309FD	
Under 11	9211FD	9311FD	
Under 13	9213FD	9313FD	
Under 15	9215FD	9315FD	
Over 15	9216FD	9316FD	
Adult	9299FD	9399FD	
Parent/Child**			9200FD

\*\*Parent/Grandparent and child/children. 48 bars performed in reel or jig time. Each dancer must enter the competition.

## Ceili

Age	4H*	6H*	8H*
Under 9	9409FD	9609FD	9809FD
Under 11	9411FD	9611FD	9811FD
Under 13	9413FD	9613FD	9813FD
Under 16	9416FD	9616FD	9816FD
Over 16	9417FD	9617FD	9817FD
Adult	9499FD	9699FD	9899FD

\*Must be official book dances

## ADULT COMPETITIONS

Adult	Reel	Light Jig	Slip Jig	Treble Jig	Hornpipe	Trad Set
Beginner	299RL	299LJ	299SJ			
Adv Beginner	399RL	399LJ	399SJ	399TJ	399HP	399TS
Novice	499RL	499LJ	499SJ	499TJ	499HP	499TS
Prizewinner	599RL	599LJ	599SJ	599TJ	599HP	599TS

## ADULT CHAMPIONSHIP

*Reel or Slip Jig, Treble Jig or Hornpipe and Trad Set dance of choice*

Age	
Adult	699AC

Open to dancers competing in the adult category. NOTE: There must be at least 5 competitors registered for this competition.

## ADVANCED ADULT PRELIMINARY

Age	
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Over the age of 18 who has previously placed in the top three Prelim Championship or competed in Open Champ in youth levels	799AAP
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## ADVANCED ADULT OPEN

Age	
Over the age of 18 who has previously competed in a youth/& over open championship competition or has won two Advanced Adult Preliminary competitions at a feis.	799AAO

## PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS

*Reel or Slip Jig and Treble Jig or Hornpipe*

Age	
Under 9	609PC
Under 10	610PC
Under 11	611PC
Under 12	612PC
Under 13	613PC
Under 14	614PC
Under 15	615PC
Under 16	616PC
Under 17	617PC
Over 17	618PC

## PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIP

### NON-TRADITIONAL SET DANCE

Age	
Under 10	610SD
Under 12	612SD
Under 14	614SD
Under 16	616SD
Over 16	617SD

## OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

*Reel or Slip Jig, Treble Jig or Hornpipe and Set dance of choice*

Age	
Under 9	709OC
Under 10	710OC
Under 11	711OC
Under 12	712OC
Under 13	713OC
Under 14	714OC
Under 15	715OC
Under 16	716OC
Under 17	717OC
Under 18	718OC
Under 19	719OC
Over 19	720OC

*Boys and girls will dance separately if there are 3 or more boys in an age group*

#### **PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIP**

#### **TRADITIONAL SET DANCE**

Age	
Under 9	609TS
Over 9	610TS

#### **SODA BREAD COMPETITION**

Age	
All ages	800SB