

## **Open Platform Rules Hosted by Northern Lights Dance Academy**

1.1 Feiseanna are open to ALL dancers from ALL organizations in the world. Dancers can also be independent, i.e. do not have to be part of an organization or dance school.

1.2 In matters pertaining to dance the adjudicators' decision is final.

1.3 If someone wants to object to an adjudicator's decision the objection has to be presented in writing on the day of the feis together with a fee of \$50. If the objection is upheld, the fee will be returned; if not, the fee will be retained by NLDA.

1.5 Northern Lights Dance Academy reserves the right to refuse an entry.

2.1 No smoking (including vaping), drinking of alcohol or use of any illegal substances in the dancing hall.

2.3 The use of flash, videos, digital or motion picture cameras is prohibited except during award presentations, introduction and breaks (Official event photographers are exempt from this restriction). This is in accordance with child protection laws and prevents misuse. Anyone found to be photographing/filming dancing/dancers during competition will be asked to delete the footage and leave the venue.

2.4 During competitions adjudicators, musicians and tabulators may not be approached by anyone except by the Feis Committee.

2.5 Teachers, parents or instructors are not allowed to give instruction or direction to dancers while they are competing. Teachers not complying with this rule may be asked by the Feis Committee to leave the hall.

2.6 Only competitors in the current event and the Feis Committee are allowed side stage during a competition. A teacher may approach if acceptable by Stage Director.

2.7 NLDA operates a policy of appropriate attire for dancers in the dance venue when not in dance costume. This is for the protection of all dancers. NLDA appropriate is, a T-shirt covering midriff and leggings/jog pants/ shorts to mid thigh. Dance exercise wear is acceptable while practicing only. Changing rooms should be used for changing in and out of costume and not in the dance hall. Dancers should not sit in unzipped costumes during rounds of competition.

3.1 Jump-2-3 competition is open for dancers of any age. Dancers are required to dance 16 jump-2-3s or 16 hop-1-2-3s (promenade step) and can also compete in the beginner reel section. Once dancers compete in a another solo/premiership, they are no longer eligible for the Jump-2-3 competition.

3.2 Awards will be determined in proportion to the number of competitors.

**3.3 Dancers must be in FULL dancing costume including dance shoes when receiving awards. Dancers who are not in full dancing costume will not be allowed to accept an award.**

3.4 Dancers and teams must dance in numerical order. Dancers who arrive at the stage late and join the end of the line or who are not standing in correct numerical order may not be allowed to dance.

3.5 If a dancer fails to start at the correct time after the introduction is played, OR if a dancer stops and does not continue, then this dancer cannot score more than 1 point.

3.6 Any dancer who does a false / early start will be penalized for timing. A false / early start is defined as moving the back foot away from the usual standing position before the actual start of the step. As long as the ball of the back foot stays on the ground, the dancer may go up on toes. A point of the front foot is allowed, as well as a cut or similar movement. Examples for common movements that will be penalised, amongst others: taking a step before beginning the dance, doing an extra jump up etc.

3.7 The Step should be the same on both right and left foot. Anything that will not be done on the left foot should not be done on the right foot of the start.

3.9 A dancer will be penalised for “barging” / intentional bumping (i.e., awarded 1 point only for that round). In the case of accidental barging (particularly on small stages at local feiseanna), penalties will be at the Adjudicator’s discretion.

4.1 In the Solo Competitions dancers will dance 32 bars of each dance (excepting the Traditional Set). The dancers will be in a line on stage and they will come forward two at a time to dance their steps (excepting the Traditional Set). There will be no break in the music between each two dancers.

5.1 Beginner, Primary and Intermediate Competitions are open to those dancers who have not moved up from that respective grade in that dance for any organisation.

5.2 Dancers may participate additionally in one grade up per dance at a feis in the similar age group. E. g. Beginner and Primary for the Reel under 25.

5.3 In Beginner competitions where there are 5 or more participants, dancers who place 1st must move up to Primary.

5.4 In Primary competitions where there are 5 or more participants, dancers who place 1st must move up to Intermediate.

5.5 In Intermediate competitions where there are 5 or more participants, dancers who place 1st must move up to Open.

5.6 In Beginner, Primary and Intermediate: If there are fewer than 5 dancers, dancers may qualify to move up at their teacher’s discretion but may not drop down again. NLDA reserves the right to merge age groups to form qualifying competitions. It is often necessary to blend many ages to appropriate a qualification.

5.8 Dancers may not move back down grades - once a dancer has moved up a grade, they must compete at the new grade from that point forward. This applies whether they have moved up a grade in conjunction with the above rules, or whether a teacher has moved a dancer up a grade at their discretion & applies to both individual dances and premierships/championships. The only scenarios in which a dancer may dance the lower grade again after qualifying up to the next grade are:

5.8.1 Where the dancer moves up a level and is competing again within 4 week period, they can re-dance the current level at that next competition only if they have already entered and paid for it. Any further competitions (even if entered), the organiser must be informed of change of grade.

5.8.2 Where dancers have had a break from competing for a period of ten years or more, a dancer may start competing again from beginner level.

6.1 All official Céilí Dances as described in the book "Ár Rinci Fóirne" or otherwise accepted by WIDA (e.g. Tara Reel) can be entered for the Céilí Competitions. At Oireachtasai the Céilí dances that can be entered are determined by the syllabus of the respective event.

6.2 Céilí teams may only have 50% of the team from another age group. In all age groups except U12 (U11) and O30 (U29), a maximum of 2 of the 4 permitted dancers from another age group may be from an older age group with a maximum of 2 from a younger age group. Céilí teams in the U12 (U11) age group at the event may have up to 50% of the team from an older age group, while teams in the O30 (U29) age category may have 50% from a younger age group. At a major event a team with the same set-up may only enter in one Céilí competition

6.2.1 **U12 (U11) ceili teams:** Minimum of 50% of team must be U12 (U11). The remaining 50% of the team may be older. For example, in a ceili team of 8 dancers, this means that a minimum of 4 dancers must be the correct age for the U12 (U11) age group and a maximum of 4 dancers may be older.

6.2.2 **U17 (U16) ceili teams:** Minimum of 50% of team must be the correct age for the U17(U16) age group. A maximum of 25% of the team may be older and a maximum of 25% of the team may be younger. This means that in a ceili team of 8 dancers, a minimum of 4 dancers must be the correct age for the U17 (U16) age group, a maximum of 2 dancers may be older and a maximum of 2 dancers may be younger.

6.2.3 **U30 (U29) ceili teams:** Minimum of 50% of team must be the correct age for the U30 (U29) age group. A maximum of 25% of the team may be older and a maximum of 25% of the team may be younger. This means that in a ceili team of 8 dancers, a minimum of 4 dancers must be the correct age for the U30 (U29) age group, a maximum of 2 dancers may be older and a maximum of 2 dancers may be younger.

6.2.4 **Senior ceili teams:** Minimum of 50% of team must be Senior. The remaining 50% of the team may be younger. For example, in a ceili team of 8 dancers, this means that a minimum of 4 dancers must be the correct age for the Senior age group and a maximum of 4 dancers may be younger.

6.4 Each time a movement starting with Promenade step begins, it should be started with the right foot.

6.5 Each dancer is only allowed to be part of one team within a given age group. Dancing for several teams in different age groups is allowed.

6.6 Length of the dances:

1. All progressive dances (e.g. Fairy Reel): once through
2. Cross Reel, Duke Reel, 8-Hand Jig, 8-Hand Reel, High Cauleed Cap, Morris Reel, 16-Hand Reel, St. Patrick's Day, Trip to the Cottage, Tara Reel: up to and including 1st Tops doing 1st figure
3. Gates of Derry: up to and including the Gates (16 bars) after the Telescope
4. Glencar Reel: once through
5. Lannigan's Ball: once through
6. Sweets of May: up to and including See Saw
7. Three Tunes: up to and including Hook and Chain
8. 4-Hand Reel (First 96 bars) and Humours of Bandon (First 96 bars) as described in the Ceili Book, Ar Rince Foirne.

6.7 Recommendation on embellishments: Embellishments are defined as additions to ceili dances that are not included in the ceili book/annotation. In general, it is advised that everything that is included in the ceili book/annotation be included in the dance, while anything not included in the ceili book/annotation may be considered an embellishment. Movements that are in the ceili book/annotation but are not more closely specified (e.g., where footwork is not specified/hand counts, etc.) are open to individual interpretation.

6.8 Ceili dance speeds are:

- Reels 113
- Jigs 116
- Fairy reel 113 or 121
- Gates of Derry 121

\*\*\*We allow different speeds/bars for different organizations. Please let the Stage Manager know your needs.

10.1 Dancers may only participate in two premierships at a feis. Dancer must dance first in the grade they are and then can also compete in one above. (If a dancer, is in Beginner Premiership, then they can also dance Primary Premiership).

10.2 Dancers may only participate in Premiership or Open Championship if they danced at least 2 solos in the grade competitions. The 16 bar Fun treble reel in the open section of local feiseanna will not count towards this solo.

## 11 PREMIERSHIPS

11.1 Participants in the Beginners Premiership have to dance the Reel and the Light Jig. In Primary Premiership, they can choose between Reel and Light Jig/Treble Jig.

11.2 Participants in the Intermediate Premiership in age groups younger than U12 (e.g. U11 and below) have to dance a Reel and either a Light Jig or a Treble Jig. Dancers in age groups U12 and over must dance Reel and Treble jig in Intermediate Premiership.

11.3 The scores on both dances will be combined to an overall score. The winner will be awarded a trophy (instead of a medal as in the single competitions).

11.5 The following three dances determine which grade premiership a dancer may enter:

- Reel
- Light Jig
- Treble Jig

11.6 Beginner Premiership is for dancers who are in beginner for 2 or 3 of the above dances.

11.7 Primary Premiership is for dancers who are in primary for 2 or 3 of the above dances.

11.8 Intermediate Premiership is for dancers who are in Intermediate for 2 or 3 of the above dances. A dancer moves from Intermediate Premiership to Preliminary Championship when they have won 4 dances in Intermediate, 2 of which must be hardshoe dances.

11.9 If a dancer is in 3 different grades for the listed dances then they enter the premiership of the middle grade. Example:

Beginner – Treble Jig, Primary – Light Jig, Open – Reel: Premiership – Primary

## 12 PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS

12.1 Participants in the Preliminary Championships have to dance either a Reel (48 bars) or Slip Jig (40 bars) and either a Treble Jig (48 bars) or Hornpipe (40 bars). For dancers over 25 each dance is reduced by 8 bars if requested.

Please note that dancers progress from Intermediate Premiership into Preliminary Championship when they have a total of 4 dances in Open, two of which must be hardshoe dances. A dancer who has not yet reached this qualification may continue to dance Intermediate Premiership until they have done so. Dancers only become eligible for the Open Championships at local Feiseanna when they have won 2 Preliminary Championships in which there have been a minimum of 3 participants.

13.1 Participants in Championships at local feiseanna have to dance either a Reel (48 bars) or Slip Jig (40 bars) and either a Treble Jig (48 bars) or Hornpipe (40 bars) (for dancers over 25 each dance is reduced by 8 bars) and if required a third round (Modern Set). This will be at the judges' discretion. If there are 10 or more dancers in the championship a recall of 50 %

“plus 1” of the dancers is advised. The dancers with the highest scores in the first two rounds will then be recalled to dance a Modern Set.

13.4 Any dancer who has won an Open Championship including a Soft- and a Heavy round at any time with a minimum of 3 participants is ineligible to dance Preliminary Championship. Thus, when a dancer wins an Open Championship (provided that the above requirements are met), they may only dance Open Championships from this point onwards.

13.5 Open Championship is for dancers who have won 2 Preliminary Championships or have won an Open Championship at any time with a minimum of 3 participants. Upon winning an Open Championship (including at oireachtasai/international events), dancers will automatically move into open for all dances that were previously in other levels prior to the championship. This renders dancers who have won an open championship under the aforementioned conditions ineligible to dance solos in any grades other than open. Exception: Dancers in the younger age groups who only dance softshoe in a championship. In this case, the dancer would move into open for softshoe dances only and not for hardshoe.

## **BEGINNER**

For all age groups:

- Reel
- Light Jig
- Slip Jig
- Single Jig
- Treble Jig
- Hornpipe
- Traditional Set: St. Patrick's Day
- PREMIERSHIP

## **PRIMARY**

For all age groups:

- Reel
- Light Jig
- Slip Jig
- Single Jig
- Treble Jig
- Hornpipe
- Traditional Set: Jockey to the Fair or Blackbird
- PREMIERSHIP

## INTERMEDIATE

For all age groups:

- Reel
- Light Jig
- Slip Jig
- Single Jig
- Treble Jig
- Hornpipe
- Traditional Set: Job of Journeywork, King of the Fairies or Garden of Daisies
- PREMIERSHIP

## OPEN

For all age groups:

- Reel
- Slip Jig
- Treble Jig
- Hornpipe
- Traditional Set: The Hunt, Three Sea Captains or White Blanket
- Preliminary or Open CHAMPIONSHIP

## **Costume Rules:**

- Beginner School Costumes: dark, solid color skirt (ie.: black, green, navy) with white polo shirt for females, dark slacks and white polo for males or school costume.
- Primary School Costume: dark solid color skirt with white polo for females, dark slacks and white polo for males or school costume.
- Intermediate: School Costume or solo dress
- Open: School costume or Solo Dress
- All: No jewelry allowed except stud earrings. No open back dresses, neckline should cover collarbone and appropriate length for all dresses.
- Any black hard/soft irish dance shoe can be worn. White laces and/or white leather is also acceptable. Buckles may be worn as well.
- 18.1 A dancer may be allowed to re-dance if a Costume malfunction occurs as long as the dancer waits for the adjudicator to ring the bell. If a dancer stops dancing due to a costume malfunction without the adjudicator's permission, the dancer will be disqualified from the competition.
- 18.2 Dancers in breach of these rules will not be able to place in the top 3 of a result.

All steps		Right & Left foot otherwise will result in a score of 1 for that round (including starting on left but switching to right)
Lead Rounds		Don't have to be danced, only 32/40/48 bars requirement
Lead Rounds	Light Jig (all grades)	Are exempt for Right /Left Rule
	Beginners Reel	Are exempt for Right /Left Rule
	Beginners Slip Jig	Are exempt for Right /Left Rule
Grade Solo Dances		32 Bars, except traditional sets
Solo Steps	Beginners	Skips, threes, sevens, hops, jump over / leap, cuts, points, single heels, jump, stamp, toes (at the back, no weight), kick the heel (as in St. Patrick's Day), trebles, brushes/tips.
	Exception	Rocks allowed in St Patrick's Day
All Grades	Light Jig/Single Jig	The allowed moves are: Skips, threes, sevens, hops, jump over / leap, cuts, points, single heels, jump, stamp, toes (at the back, no weight), kick the heel (as in St. Patrick's Day).
	Primary	In Primary competitions the following movements in addition to the beginners material are allowed: Front clicks, through clicks (passing clicks), rocks, Full turns.
	Inter/Open	All movements allowed
	up to and including u11	NO toe stands or toe walks (or otherwise weight-bearing movements en pointe) allowed.
	Exception	In double age group e.g u12 U11s may do the above movements
	up to and including u12	Triple Clicks are not allowed

Premiership	Beginner	Light Jig
		Reel
	Primary	Light Jig or Treble Jig
		Reel
Intermediate	Younger than U12 Light Jig or a Treble Jig plus Reel	
	U12 and over must dance Treble Jig and Reel	
Preliminary Championship		Reel 48 bars or Slip Jig 40 bars
(Local Only)	and	Treble Jig 48 bars or Hornpipe 40 Bars
Open Championship		Reel 48 bars or Slip Jig 40 bars
		Treble Jig 48 bars or Hornpipe 40 Bars
	Over 25	Reel 40 bars or Slip Jig 32 bars
		Treble Jig 40 bars or Hornpipe 32 Bars
Open Championship		
Recall		
Local Judges Discretion	Less than 10 Dancers	All Dance
	Greater than 10 dancers 50%	10 dancers 5 recalls 11 dancers 6 recalls
Traditional Sets	Local Feisanna	Step on right and left foot and set on right foot
Modern Sets	Local Feisanna	Step on right and left foot and set on right foot

	Reel	Light Jig	Single Jig	Slip Jig	Treble Jig	Hornpipe
Beginner	121	116	121	121	85	138
Primary	113	116	121	113	85 or 73	138 or 113
Intermediate	113	116	121	113	73	113
Open	113			113	73	113
Modern Set Minimum Speeds					66	76

Speeds: Above is a chart of suggested speeds, however should your organization desire a different speed, it must be given to the stage manager before the dancer dances. If a dancer doesn't notify the stage manager, then the above speeds will be played.