

**IDTANA  
Southern Region  
24<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Oireachtas**



**COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**

**WE ARE ALL IN  
THIS TOGETHER!**

We reserve the right to update or change this information.



# INTRODUCTION

This will be an Oireachtas like no other. The challenge of a global pandemic has forced us to think outside of the box in planning this event, to be creative in providing an environment that keeps dancing families safe and healthy, while they celebrate their love for Irish dance.

Information will continue to come out, as we get closer to the event, but the goal of this document is to provide you with the KEY elements that will allow you to make the right decision for your family, on whether or not to attend the 2020 Southern Region Oireachtas.

## DEDICATED STAFF

We are hiring a team of staff whose sole purpose for the duration of the Oireachtas is to ensure that attendees maintain social distancing and mask protocols.

They will be clearly visible at our event in all ballrooms, lobbies and holding areas.

They will manage traffic in and out of the dancing ballrooms and awards ceremonies, making sure that the ballrooms are at safe capacity.

## FACE MASKS

All attendees need to wear a face mask in all public places. This is currently an Orange County mandate.

Face masks must be worn correctly i.e. it must cover your mouth and nose, at all times.

Dancers do NOT need to wear a mask **while they dance** on stage, but they can wear one if they so choose.

Dancers will deposit their mask side stage into their own gift bag, then retrieve and re-apply once they are finished dancing.

**Dancers cannot wear a facemask that identifies their school or the individual either side stage or onstage.**

If someone has a medical condition that precludes them from wearing a face mask, then we respectfully ask that you not attend this year.



## TEMPERATURE CHECKS

All attendees will be subject to temperature checks.

There will be temperature checks at all entrances to the hotel, plus an additional checkpoint to enter the Oireachtas area.

Attendees with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher will not be permitted into the event.

Wristbands will be given to those who pass the temperature check so only one check per day is required.

## HAND SANITIZER

Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the event.

Attendees are also encouraged to wash their hands as often as possible.

## WAIVER

All attendees or their legal guardians in the case of minors will need to complete an insurance waiver in advance. This will be available once entries have closed.

## ROOM SET UP

Our Oireachtas ballrooms measure between 13,500 and 27,000 square feet. These are much larger than usual.

Seating will be laid out in banks of two, with 6 feet of distance on all sides.

Each dancing family will be assigned 2 chairs only.

Seating may not be moved or reconfigured.

You will NOT be able to move directly from one ballroom to the next. Instead you will need to exit into the lobby and use the assigned entrance for the ballroom to which you are moving.



## AUDIENCE

In order to maintain social distancing, we need to reduce the number of people who normally have access to a ballroom during a competition.

Therefore **only ONE parent or guardian** may accompany a competing dancer into the ballroom.

Families will only be assigned 2 seats, one for the dancer, one for a parent or guardian. If a family has one parent with multiple children, they may bring the children into the ballroom but they all need to fit within the bank of 2 chairs. Please make every effort to arrange alternative care for the children not dancing so that we can limit number of people in the room. **Under NO circumstances will a second adult be allowed in with one dancer.**

**There will be a live video feed from all ballrooms that you can watch on your device.**

No family will be permitted to “hold chairs” with bags & dresses.

Seating will be sanitized overnight and from time to time during the day. However dancing families may bring a towel or blanket to cover their chairs, for maximum protection.

## ROOM ENTRY & NUMBER PICK UP

To enter any ballroom during a competition, **you must have a dancer competing in that specific competition.** Additionally for larger competitions, dancers will be grouped into blocks, and only one block may enter at a time.

Once you are done dancing each round, you need to vacate the room.

Dancer’s number cards will be available for pick **up the evening BEFORE the competition** so no traditional “check in” is required on the morning of a competition. You may also pick up your number **first thing in the morning**, on the day of your competition, regardless of the start time of that competition.

## TEACHERS ENTRY

Registered teachers will be given passes to gain entry to any of the ballrooms during competitions.

Front row seating will be for teacher’s only. Seating will be socially distanced.

Registered teachers will be given full access to the awards ceremony.



## HOLDING AREAS

Large “holding areas” will be available this year to hold attendees while you wait for your turn to enter the dancing ballrooms.

There is extensive lobby space and outdoor space outside the ballrooms. There will also be ballroom space available to wait in, where competitions are not taking place.

Each dancing ballroom will have a holding lane to allow the next group to check into the room and wait in line, while still maintaining social distancing.

## NUMBER OF DANCERS ON THE STAGE

**All dancers in solo championships will perform EVERY dance ONE AT A TIME this year.**

Trad Set competitors will dance 2 at a time. Each will have their own side of the stage.

They will have the full use of the stage. Exact dimensions TBD but they will be full size Oireachtas stages.

Dancers will have assigned spots side stage, with 6 feet of distance from one another.

## SCHEDULE

This year’s entry numbers are difficult to predict so a daily schedule will not be produced until after the entries close. Thank you for your patience on this matter.

Dancers performing one at a time means some competitions will be too long to run all on one day. So competitions with **more than 50 dancers entered**, (with the exception of Under 8 and Under 9 competitions) will dance their first two rounds one day, and their final round the day after.

Start times for each specific group within a large competition will be given this year so dancers don’t need to be there at the start of the entire competition.

If competitions are running late, it will be posted on social media, so you can delay lining up.

No competition will start early. Therefore no one needs to be at the ballroom entrance early “just in case.”



## PRACTICE AREAS

Practice areas will be provided as always however our dedicated staff will monitor these areas and limit the number of dancers.

Masks must be worn even when practicing.

## AWARDS

The awards ceremony will be very different this year.

**There will NOT be open access to the awards ceremony.**

Entry into the awards ceremony will be similar to entry into competitions.

You will need to check in at the door with one of our dedicated staff. In order to enter, you must be a recaller or a parent/guardian of one.

Each competition will be checked in one by one, and dancing families will need to exit after their competition has been announced.

**All recalled dancers will not be on stage together during awards.** They will be brought up in smaller groups, where we can maintain social distancing. They will be awarded their prize, take pictures then exit the stage.

**The Parade of Champions will be digital this year.** Our live streaming team will record each winner's parade piece and edit it together for release on social media.

**Dancers must wear a mask for the awards ceremony.**

Our dedicated staff will police the awards ceremony also to ensure social distancing and mask protocols are being followed.

## VENDORS

A reduced number of vendors will be operating this year.

Vendors will have their own protocol for additional precautions. Appointments or scheduling may be necessary to prevent a crowd gathering.



## WATER STATIONS

There will be no water stations this year due to the potential spread of Covid-19. So please bring water or you can purchase it at the hotel, for \$2 a bottle. (Premium brands cost more)

## CAMPING

**NO CAMPING will be permitted whatsoever.** So please do not bring chairs or lay blankets on the ground. For obvious reasons, we need to maintain the flow of traffic and allow social distancing.

