



How will Oireachtas work this year?

This is a unique year and a challenging time to host an Oireachtas. The Southern Region is implementing a host of new procedures to keep our dancing families safe while competing.

Here is a helpful guide of what to expect when you arrive.

In a nutshell

Here is the vital stuff. But read below for more detail and information.

- Pick up your number card **BEFORE** you enter the ballroom.
- All number cards available from Thursday onward.
- You will receive a Spectator card also. **THIS IS IMPORTANT!**
- **Keep both your Number card and Spectator card for all three rounds AND awards.**
- Only enter the ballroom when your color is called.
- Once you enter the seated area, no more dancing.
- No dancing in the lobby.
- Holding lanes open at 7:15AM.
- Seating begins at **7:30AM**.
- Don't forget your gift bag!

Get your temperature checked:

To enter the hotel, you go through a temperature check area.

If you pass, you get a wristband.

Wristband colors change every day.

To enter the Oireachtas area of the hotel, from Friday onward, you will pass a second temperature check area.

If you have today's wristband color, show it and walk through.

If not, volunteers will check your temperature.

If you pass, you get a wristband for the day.

Pick up your Number card:

Thursday 4pm – 9pm: Go to the Gatlin Ballroom where you will perform your FIRST dance.

Friday 7am – 8pm: Go to the Registration Desk on Level 2. (Follow the signs)

Saturday 7am – 8pm: Go to the Registration Desk on Level 2. (Follow the signs)

Sunday 7am – 10am: Go to the Registration Desk on Level 2. (Follow the signs)

Get your Spectator card:

This will come with your Number card.

Keep it! It's important. You need it to enter the ballrooms.

If you dance over 2 days, **keep it for day 2.**

If you place, **keep it for awards.** You need it to enter.

Get your Program:

Log in to your Quickfeis account to access the digital program from Thursday onward.

If you pre-ordered a printed program, you can pick it up as follows:

Thursday 4pm – 9pm: Go to the Gatlin Ballroom where you will perform your FIRST dance.

Friday 7am – 8pm: Go to the Registration Desk on Level 2. (Follow the signs)

Saturday 7am – 8pm: Go to the Registration Desk on Level 2. (Follow the signs)

Sunday 7am – 10am: Go to the Registration Desk on Level 2. (Follow the signs)

Visit the Food Concessions:

The food concessions will be located close to the Gatlin ballrooms.

You do NOT need your Number card or Spectator card to access the vendor areas.

But you will need to go through our temperature check area.

Visit the Vendors:

Vendors will be located close to the Gatlin Ballrooms, with the exception of Tir na nOg tanning and the make-up appointments for Celtic Curls.

You do NOT need your Number card or Spectator card to access the vendor areas.

But you will need to go through our temperature check area.

Practice:

There are 2 practice floors in the Panzacola ballroom. There are taped boxes on the floor to keep dancers social distanced. Please adhere to them. No more than 32 dancers can be on the practice floor at once.

Many schools have a rented practice room or zone. They also have a limit to the number of occupants. Please observe the posted signs.

Please don't dance in the lobby outside the Gatlin or Panzacola Ballrooms.

Enter the ballroom to dance:

You will enter in blocks of color.

Look at your Spectator card to see your color.

Sometimes multiple colors can enter together if competitions are small.

Big competitions are divided into three color blocks.

Every ballroom will have one group seated, and the next group lining up.

You line up INSIDE the ballroom in socially distanced holding lanes.

Signposts at the door tell you what color is currently being checked in to the holding lanes.

When your color is up, show your Spectator card to the Buckalew staff on the door. (In high vis jackets)

Only ONE spectator may enter per dancer in that competition.

Be ready to dance! Costumes, shoes, make up, etc. done. You may dance quickly after sitting down.

Dancers can stay warmed up and limber in the holding lane before you are seated.

Loading into the holding lanes will start approximately 15 minutes before that color is seated so there's no rush.

First thing in the morning, the HOLDING LANES will open at 7:15am.

But SEATING will not begin until 7:30am. Once you come in, you need to stay seated, dancers cannot move round and practice so only come into the seated area when you are ready to sit.

Don't crowd the entrance for safety reasons. If there's a line outside, come back in a few minutes.

Sit in the ballroom:

The Buckalew staff will clear the previous group completely from the ballroom.

Then they will waive in the next group from the holding lane, to sit down.

They will load row by row so please follow their directions.

Sit quickly and get ready to dance.

Stay seated:

Once you are seated, you need to stay in your designated seats. Dancers can still stretch but in the area of your block of seats.

You will not be able to dance at the back of the ballroom as usual once you are seated. You need to stay in your seated area.

Buckalew Staff will re-direct dancers or spectators moving around or standing to watch, to go back to their seats.

Dance:

When you go side stage, listen to all directions.

Dancers will need to stand on designated spots, so that they remain socially distanced.

Don't forget your gift bag, to hold your number while you dance.

Solo dancers will dance one at a time for safety on every round, but for the first 2 rounds the music will run continuously for the length of 3 dancers, to save time.

Side stage staff will instruct dancers when to remove their mask and when to walk on stage.

There will be 8 bars of music between each dancer in the set of 3.

Once you dance, bow and leave the stage immediately. Do not return to the back of the stage.

Retrieve your mask before returning to the audience.

Trad sets will dance two at a time, each on a designated side of the stage. Please follow the directions of the side stage staff.

Leave the ballroom:

When everyone in a color block has danced, Buckalew staff will clear the room, other than teachers. You cannot stay or leave anything on your chair.

There is NO number check this year.

Come back for your next round:

You will repeat the same entry process for each round.

If you dance over 2 days, you will use the same Color and Spectator card on both days. So keep them safe!

Check the recalls:

No recalls will be announced or physically posted this year.

So, check Quickfeis for the list of recalls.

Enter ballroom for Round 3:

You will now need to show BOTH your Spectator card and your Number card. Only recalled dancers may enter for round 3.

Enter for awards:

If you were the last group to dance in a ballroom, you cannot stay there for awards. The room will be cleared, and you need to re-enter.

You will now need to show BOTH your Spectator card and your Number card. Only dancers who placed may enter for Awards.

Again, only one spectator may enter with the dancer.

On Friday and Saturday, we can accommodate all dancers who have placed together in the ballrooms so everyone can come in.

On Sunday, we need to rotate groups in and out by color. The order of awards will be announced via VisonMixer and QuickFeis.

Listen for World Qualifiers:

Irish dance friends are the best friends in the world and love to celebrate World Qualifiers with lots of hugging! Unfortunately, this can be dangerous during a pandemic.

So, World Qualifiers will be announced while dancers are seated with their families.

Everyone should stay seated during this process.

Final Results:

When your competition is called side stage, listen to all directions.

Dancers will need to stand on designated socially distanced marks side stage.

Masks will stay on for all of awards.

Dancers will be brought on stage in small groups, to receive their awards and take photos. They will stand on designated socially distanced marks. Then exit the stage and return to the audience.

World qualifiers (or the top group in Under 8's, Under 9's, Adults and Trad sets) will remain on stage. They will stand on designated socially distanced marks.

On Sunday, the awards ballroom will be cleared between groups, as there are too many recalled dancers to all enter together.

The Parade of Champions is virtual this year.

Best of luck to everyone!