

**IDTANA Southern Region Standardized Feis Syllabus  
Effective January 1, 2021**

**Note: If an item in the SR Standardized Feis Syllabus is not specified, the prevailing SR Oireachtas syllabus rule will be followed (July 2010)**

**Beginner Grade**

Age	Reel	Light Jig
Under 5	X	X
Under 7	X	X
Under 9	X	X
Under 11	X	X
Under 13	X	X
13 and Over	X	X

Options:

1. Add single jig for all age groups.
2. Add slip jig for all age groups.
3. Add treble jig for some age groups.
4. Add hornpipe for some age groups.
5. Separate boys into a separate competition if there are 5 or more boys entered in a specific dance within a single age group.
6. Add age groups by single year designations for example Under 5, Under 6, Under 7, Under 8, etc. **or** add older age groups if numbers are sufficient to create valid competitions. (amended Dec. 2016)

**Advanced Beginner Grade** (\*Hard shoes are traditional speed only)

Age	Reel	Light Jig	Single Jig	Slip Jig	TrebleJig*	Hornpipe*
Under 5	X	X	X	X	X	X
Under 7	X	X	X	X	X	X
Under 9	X	X	X	X	X	X
Under 11	X	X	X	X	X	X
Under 13	X	X	X	X	X	X
13 & Over	X	X	X	X	X	X

Options:

1. Separate boys into a separate competition if there are 5 or more boys entered in a specific dance within a single age group.
2. Add age groups by single year designations for example Under 5, Under 6, Under 7, Under 8, etc. **or** add older age groups if numbers are sufficient to create valid competitions. (amended Dec. 2016)

**Novice Grade** (\*Hard shoe, choice of speed)

Age	Reel	Light Jig	Single Jig	Slip Jig	Treble Jig*	Hornpipe*
Under 7	X	X	X	X	X	X
Under 9	X	X	X	X	X	X
Under 11	X	X	X	X	X	X
Under 13	X	X	X	X	X	X
13 and Over	X	X	X	X	X	X

In Novice competitions with 20 or more dancers, a dancer who wins 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a dance will advance to the Open/PW category in that particular dance (Dec 2012)

Options:

1. Add Traditional Set for some or all age groups
2. Separate boys into a separate competition if there are 5 or more boys entered in a specific dance within a single age group.
3. Add age groups by single year designations for example Under 5, Under 6, Under 7, Under 8, etc. **or** add older age groups if numbers are sufficient to create valid competitions. (amended Dec. 2016)

**Prizewinner Grade** (\*Hard shoe, choice of speed)

Age	Reel	Slip Jig	Treble Jig*	Hornpipe*
Under 7	X	X	X	X
Under 9	X	X	X	X
Under 11	X	X	X	X
Under 13	X	X	X	X
13 & Over	X	X	X	X

Options:

1. Add Traditional Set for some or all age groups
2. Add Non-Traditional Set for some or all age groups
3. Separate boys into a separate competition if there are 5 or more boys entered in a specific dance within a single age group.
4. Add light jig for some or all age groups.
5. Add single jig for some or all age groups.
6. Add age groups by single year designations for example Under 5, Under 6, Under 7, Under 8, etc. **or** add older age groups if numbers are sufficient to create valid competitions. (amended Dec. 2016)

	Reel	Light Jig.	Single Jig	Slip Jig	Treble Jig	Hornpipe
Beginner	X	X	X	X	X*	X*
Novice	X	X	X	X	X	X
Prizewinner	X	X	X	X	X	X

Options:

1. Add Traditional Set for some categories
2. Add an Advanced Beginner Category

**Adult and Master Level Competitions-Refer to highlighted section below**

**Figure Dances—Jan 1st-June 30th (8 bar introduction and 48 bars of dancing)**

<u>Age</u>	<u>2 Hand</u>	<u>3 Hand</u>
Under 10	X	
Under 13	X	X
Under 16	X	X
16 and Over	X	X

Options:

- 1) Add Under 8,--- 2Hand
- 2) Add Under 8, Under 10, --- 3Hands
- 3) Offer figure dances limited to solo grades (e.g. beginners only, prizewinner/champ only)
- 4) Offer unique figure dance events (original choreography, dance drama, parent/child etc)

**Ceili Dances for Feiseanna held from Jan 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>**

<u>Age</u>	<u>4 Hand (these dances are done “by the book”)</u>
Under 13	X
Under 16	X
16 and Over	X

Options:

- 1) Add Under 10, 4Hand
- 2) Add Under 10, Under 13, Under 16, 16 and Over, 8 Hands—by the book
- 3) Add Mixed Ceilis in any of the above age groups
- 4) Ceili teams may perform any figure as outlined in Ar Rinci Ceili - 2014

**Figure Dances----July 1<sup>st</sup>– Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> (8 bar introduction and 48 bars of dancing)**

<u>Age</u>	<u>2 Hand</u>	<u>3 Hand</u>
Under 9	X	
Under 12	X	X
Under 15	X	X
15 and Over	X	X

Options:

1. Add Under 7, 2 Hand
2. Add Under 7, Under 9, 3 Hand
3. Offer figure dances limited to solo grades (e.g. beginners only, prizewinner/champ only)
4. Offer unique figure dance events (original choreography, dance drama, parent/child etc)

## Ceili Dances for Feiseanna held from July 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>

Age	4 Hand (these dances are done "by the book")
Under 12	X
Under 15	X
15 and Over	X

### Options:

1. Add Under 10, 4 Hand
2. Add Under 10, Under 12, Under 15, 15 and Over, 8 Hand – by the book
3. Add Mixed Ceili in any of the above age groups
4. Ceili teams may perform any figure as outlined in Ar Rinci Ceili- 2014

## Championships

Age	Preliminary*	Open**
Under 9	X	X
Under 10	X	X
Under 12	X	X
Under 14	X	X
Under 16	X	X
16 and Over	X	X

All OPEN championship events will require three rounds in line with the SR Oireachtas Syllabus (Dec 2013)

1. Add age groups by single year designations (Under 7, Under 8, Under 11, etc)
2. Add additional age groups for older dancers
3. Add a third required dance (hard shoe or set dance as appropriate)
4. Add special solo competitions for preliminary or open championship dancers (separate or combined) which may include the following:
  - \*Opposite light shoe dance
  - \*Opposite hard shoe dance
  - \*Traditional Set
  - \*Non-traditional Set
5. 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 a group
6. Offer separate Open Championships for Boys and Girls---however
  - \*\* In Open Championships--Girls and Boys competitions may be combined in the syllabus. 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. If separate Boys and Girls competitions in Open Championships are offered in the syllabus, they may NOT be combined under ANY circumstances on the day of the Feis

## **Special Solo Competitions** (may be added at feis' discretion)

### Trophy Competitions:

- for specific age groups and/or grade in a selected dance
- For boys or girls separately or together

### Treble Reel

- all grades mixed
- separated by championship or grade categories
- separated by age groups as in solo competitions
- combined in larger age groups (e.g. Under 15 , 15 and Over)

## **DANCING COMPETITION RULES**

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016

1. In the case of all solo and team competitions in all grades, the age of a competitor on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Coimisiún, regardless of their domicile, and where applicable, 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:
  1. a) Conduct unbecoming a lady or gentleman.
  2. b) Failure to report on time to compete. (Penalty: disqualification from said event)
  3. c) Falsification of age or other important facts – i.e., teaching, award winning, competing under another competitor's name or number, etc.
4. Penalty for a) or c): Competitor will be disqualified from the Feis at which the occurrence happened and from all NAFC – registered Feiseanna for a period of one year beginning at the date of the occurrence.
5. Competitions may be closed if there are no competitors at the assigned stage ready to compete when the competition is scheduled or announced. May not pertain to a situation where competitors are involved in stage conflicts.
6. Solo competitors in First Feis (if offered), Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Novice or Open (Prizewinner), **Adult, and Master** level competitions:
  1. a) Must compete in their proper age group.
  2. b) Must be prepared to perform two steps in each event.
  3. c) Cannot change competition on the day of the Feis.
7. Steel taps or “bubble” heels on dancing shoes, display of awards, wearing of shorts or other unconventional dress is prohibited. Authentic Gaelic dress is desired. First Feis (if offered), Beginner and Advanced Beginner, aka Beginner I and II, must wear a class costume, or a skirt and blouse. All other categories are excluded from this rule. Modest attire is encouraged when a competitor is not dancing.
8. Competitor's number must be worn and visible to adjudicators when performing in all competitions, use of reflective plastic number covers is discouraged.

9. Awards will be determined in proportion to the number of entries in each competition and to the degree of proficiency shown.
10. Complaints regarding the running or rules of a Feis must be in writing, stating names and other factual information and signed by the complainant. A ten-dollar 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.
11. 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 or rental property will be punishable by law.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Competitors must answer all questions as required by the Feis Entry committee, including teacher's name, and enclose the entry fee when mailing. 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).
15. Entrants in any Championship event may not enter in any other (Grade) events, but may enter in Figure Dances. Entrants in Championships should specify, on the entry form, their choice of set dance. Entrants cannot change competition or category on the day of the competition.
  1. a) Dancers must qualify for open championship via the method now in place for preliminary championship, i.e. two 1<sup>st</sup> place wins.
  2. b) Dancers must compete in the preliminary championship competition in order to qualify for open championship
  3. c) The regional syllabus where the Feis is being held may have different qualifications for entry.
16. Combining male and female dancers in any age category is left to the discretion of each region of the IDTANA.
17. Preliminary Championships are open to those who, at any recognized Feis:
  1. a) Have won 1st place in both an open/prizewinner light and heavy shoe competition, and
  2. b) Have never won 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Open Championship. A dancer who wins two first place awards will move on to Open Championship at the next Feis they enter, or as soon as the second win is achieved, in any age category, in the following years. Only in the case of back-to-back Feiseanna (successive days), in which case the first win in the first Feis will not change the dancer's status for the second Feis. A dancer is required to perform a light shoe dance (reel or slip jig for ladies and reel only for men), and a hard shoe dance. A Feis can opt to offer either a) a set dance or b) a jig/hornpipe.
  3. c) The regional syllabus where the Feis is being held may have different qualifications for entry.
18. Championships and Preliminary Championships require at least three adjudicators.
19. 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.
20. The status of the dancer does not change unless there are five or more dancers in a competition.

20. Each region may determine the system for moving dancers from one grade to another, as they see appropriate for their region. The syllabus is to contain all grade categories. A Feis Committee may combine two consecutive age categories into the higher of the two categories within that grade when less than five (5) competitors are entered.

21. **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 Advanced Beginner category the next year.

**Advanced Beginner Grade:** An advanced beginner who wins 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Novice Grade:** A novice who wins a 1<sup>st</sup> place will advance to the Open (Prizewinner) category in that particular dance.

**Open Grade (Prizewinner):** A competitor who does not qualify as a beginner, advanced beginner or as a novice.

**Adult Beginner:** An adult beginner is a competitor who never took Irish dancing lessons as a juvenile and is over 18 years of age.

## **Adult Dancers and Adult Competition in the Southern Region**

All items in this section relating to Adult dancers and Adult competitions were passed by the membership at the December 13, 2020 online Zoom meeting.

\*Southern Region feiseanna may offer a Masters level after January 1, 2021.

\*A Masters Preliminary dancer is defined as any dancer over the age of 25 who has previously placed in the top three of a youth Preliminary competition of five or more competitors.

\*A Masters Open level dancer is defined as any dancer over the age of 25 who has ever competed in a youth Open Championship competition.

\*Dancers over the age of 25 currently competing in either youth championship level may move at any time into the corresponding Masters level, but will then no longer be eligible to compete in a youth solo championship.

\*An adult dancer beyond Beginner 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 never placed in the top three in a Youth Preliminary competition of more than five competitors. (Background: The last line ensures that former competitive championship dancers enter the Mater level instead of the adult category)

\*All Southern Region feiseanna must offer Adult competitions, including Adult championships, starting May 1, 2021.

\*All Southern Region feiseanna must offer Master level competitions starting May 1, 2021.

\*All Masters levels consist of one light round (reel or slip jig) and one heavy round (treble jig or hornpipe) to facilitate the possibility of merging at Southern Region feiseanna. Feiseanna may offer additional Masters level competitions including traditional set, non-traditional set etc.

\*All Southern Region feiseanna may combine the Masters levels into one competition in the event that fewer than five Masters Preliminary level dancers are entered.

\*Dancers competing at the Adult Championship level may move to the Masters Prelim level per teacher's discretion.

\*For Masters level dancers to progress from Prelim to Open, youth competition rules apply. A win in any combined Masters competition of five or more competitors would count towards that progression.

\*The Southern Region is to offer separate solo championship competitions for Adults and Masters at our Regional Oireachtas starting in 2021, with traditional set as the third round for Adults, and non-traditional set as the third round for Masters.

\*Only dancers who meet the definition of "Adult dancer" may compete in Adult Ceili competitions. Masters level solo dancers competing in a Ceili must compete in the Youth Ceili categories.

22. 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.
23. Musicians employed by the Feis Committee will be solely under the direction and management of the Feis Committee on Feis day.
24. Teachers or team captains are responsible that their teams are complete and in position when the competition is announced. Competitors may compete in the next higher age group. A competitor may compete in no more than two different age groups for any one category (4-hand, 8-hand, etc.)
25. In matters pertaining to adjudication, the decision of the adjudicators is final.
26. Adjudicators are to monitor the quality of music at the stage(s) to which they are assigned.
27. First Feis (if offered), Beginner, and Advanced Beginner dancers are required to dance at traditional speeds. Novice and Open/Prizewinner dancers may choose between traditional and Oireachtas speeds. Adult dancers are allowed to dance traditional or Oireachtas speed dances in the novice and prizewinner grade levels. Refer to Master Category rules in regard to contemporary set dances.
28. The length of 2 hand and 3 hand dances in competition are to be 48 bars of music plus an 8 bar introduction
29. In consideration of safety and in fairness to dancers performing at a Feis, photography of any kind which has the capability of capturing a dancer's image while in motion is strictly forbidden.
30. 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 only; these are not be used for personal gain through commercial use or sale, and under no circumstances can they be published on any website or other areas, without the express written permission of the persons involved. 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: (a) away from the dancing stages and, (b) requested by a consenting parent, guardian, or dancer (over the age of 18).



31. 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.
32. Make up is prohibited on a dancer in the first three grades (First Feis (if offered), Beginner and Advance Beginner or their equivalent) up to and including the under 12 age group.
33. 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.
34. Each Feis is required to list their adjudicators on their syllabus and/or website. If adjudicators are not listed on the syllabus, they must be posted on the Feis website a minimum of three weeks prior to the Feis. Once the Feis has closed for entries the adjudicators names may be removed from the Feis website. One third of the adjudicators are to be from outside the region where the Feis is being held.
35. Competitors in girl's competitions at the First Feis (if offered), Beginner and Advanced Beginner Grade will wear only the competitor's dancing School costume or a skirt and blouse.
36. No substance that can become airborne should be used on any dance floor in an attempt to improve traction.