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# Event Rules

## Introduction

OPIDF are an open platform federation, therefore, all dancers are welcome. All competitors and spectators who attend an OPIDF event are agreeing that their image may be used for printing, internet and public broadcasting. By agreeing to attend an OPIDF event, you are hereby agreeing to comply to the following rules.

These rules replace any previous rules and shall take effect from 6th June, 2022.

## 1. Event Entries

- 1.1 OPIDF do not discriminate, however, do reserve the right to refuse entry. Entry refusal may apply to schools or on an individual basis. If a teacher is refused entry, this refusal may not automatically apply to their dancers.
- 1.2 Competitors dance at their own risk.
- 1.3 The syllabus provided is provisional until all entries have been received.
- 1.4 By entering an OPIDF event, entrants warrant that all information they submit is correct including age/grade. OPIDF reserve the right to disqualify any competitor from a competition if it is believed that the competitor has breached any of the rules.

## 1.5 Rules Regarding Event Registration

- 1.5.1 All entries must be submitted only through the "OPIDF system".
- 1.5.2 No entries will be altered on the day.
- 1.5.3 (a) Entry fees will be taken by PayPal or Bank Transfer (see individual feis syllabi).  
Cash will not be accepted.  
  
(b) Entries are non-refundable.  
  
(c) Once an entry is submitted it must be paid for on or before the deadline. If a payment is late, it will incur a late fee of £5 per dancer.  
  
(d) OPIDF does not accept entries after the pre-pay deadline for the event, unless the OPIDF committee judges that there is an exceptional circumstance. If this is the case, a late entry fee will apply of £5 per dancer.
- 1.5.4 All competitors are required to dance at least 1 light solo and 1 heavy solo (not including Trophy Treble Reel) to enable the dancer to compete in the open championships at grade feiseanna.

**1.5.5** To be eligible to dance at the World Championships, competitors must dance at a qualifying event.

## **1.6 Grading for Entries**

**1.6.1** Entries should be based on the competitors grade. If a school/dancer is independent, they must abide by OPIDF rulings to participate in the event. Proof may be requested should it arise if grading is incorrect.

**1.6.2** (a) Competitors can 'double up' their entry to the above grade for example, beginner competitors can compete in both beginner and primary competitions, primary competitors can compete in both primary and intermediate competitions, and so forth.

(b) If the competitor was to win the higher of the grades entered, grade movement rules still apply (see ruling 5.3).

## **1.7 Age Divisions**

**1.7.1** The competitors age on January 1st determines their age division e.g. If the competitor is 8 years of age on January the 1st, their division will be under 8 (U8).

**1.7.2** The 'First Reeler' competition is strictly for children in the age division U4 or who are U6 and have never danced in a competition before.

**1.7.3** (a) For the 2-Hand Reel, competitors must enter the age group of the oldest dancer.

(b) For the 4-Hand Reel, the majority age determines the age division that the competitors enter. If there is a 50/50 split, teams must enter the age of the oldest competitors.

(c) Minor age competitors cannot mix with senior age competitors. Junior age competitors can mix with both minor and senior age competitors.

(d) Competitors cannot dance in more than one 2-Hand or 4-Hand competition. Competitors are permitted to dance in both a 2-Hand and 4-hand team as these are not the same competition.

**1.7.4** Competitions only run with a minimum of 3 competitors. Competitions with fewer than 3 competitors will be combined with another age division of the corresponding grade. Competitors who this applies to will be notified on the final syllabi.

**1.7.5** Competitions with 32 or more competitors will be split into two sections. Competitions will be split based on date of birth prior to the event.

**1.7.6** (a) Proof of age may be required.

(b) Prior to the World Champions, proof of age is compulsory.

## **2. Event Rules**

*The OPIDF committee can override an adjudicators decision if OPIDF rulings have not been applied.*

**2.1** Competitors are to be ready 1 hour prior to their competition. Times are provisional; competitions may run early and will not be held open, competitions may commence later than the time given.

**2.2** Competitors who are not in line when the competition commences will not be eligible to dance in that competition.

**2.3** Under no circumstances should competitors be approached whilst in the line, with no exception for teachers. A stage assistant will be present.

## **2.4 Event Structure**

**2.4.1** Solo competitions are run in numerical order only, ascending from 1.

**2.4.2** Starting numbers for trophy dances and championships will be decided prior to the competition and will be chosen at random.

**2.4.3** (a) Beginner competitors will be 'counted in' by a stage assistant, other grades will not.

(b) Competitors who are deaf or hard of hearing will be counted in, regardless of grade.

**2.4.4** (a) Solo competitions will run on a pickup system for all competitors. Competitors will dance in groups of two or three and there will be an 8-bar break between each group of competitors to give time to retract back to the line. After finishing their dance, competitors should leave the stage to the side without obstructing the next dancers.

(b) Treble Reel competitions will run on a pickup system, with no 8-bar break.

(c) Premier Reel and Championships may not run on a pick-up system. See individual syllabi.

**2.5** Competitors are only to leave the line when the adjudicator releases them. If a competitor leaves the line whilst the competition is still in motion, they may receive a zero for that round.

## **2.6 Slips/Stops**

**2.6.1** Competitors who fall can re-dance and will be judged on their second dance, at the adjudicators discretion.

**2.6.2** Competitors who unintentionally slip and pick up, continuing with their dance, will not be penalised.

**2.6.3** (a) Competitors who stop due to a mistake but continue immediately will not be eligible to place within the top 3 for that round.

(b) Competitors who stop due to a mistake for a longer period or without completing their dance will receive a zero for that round.

**2.6.4** A competitor judged to be barging or intentionally impeding another dancer will be marked at the adjudicators discretion.

## **3. Rules of Dancing**

**3.1** Any competitor moving schools must not compete with steps belonging to their former school (even with permission from former teachers). Competitors are to dance the steps of their current school. If it should come to light that a competitor has used old steps from a previous school and proof is provided, the competitor will be disqualified.

## **3.2 Step Structure**

**3.2.1** (a) Reel, Light Jig, Hop Jig & Slip Jig - The lead around may be danced on the right foot twice or can it can be danced on the right and left foot. The steps following the lead around must be performed on the right and left foot.

(b) Heavy Jig & Hornpipe - The lead and two steps must each be performed on the right and left foot.

(c) For all steps that require a left foot, all movements must be identical to that of the right.

**3.2.2** Beginner competitors are to use simple movements only: skips, 1,2,3s, sevens, hops, cuts, back 2,3s, over 2,3s, points, single heels, stamps, back toes, trebles, tips and single jumps.

**3.2.3** Primary competitors may advance their steps, however, the steps must be of appropriate difficulty and not that of an Open style. Judged at the adjudicators discretion.

**3.2.4** Apart from the backwards moonwalk and split straddle jump (identified as 180 degrees outwards at hip level or close to), all other movements are permitted in Intermediate and Open grades.

## **3.3 Toe Movements**

**3.3.1** Block/toe stands or on-toe movements are not permitted for competitors in age groups U10 and below.

## **3.4 Traditional Set Dances**

*Competitors who do not comply to the traditional set dance rulings will not be eligible to place in the top 3 for the traditional set round.*

**3.4.1** Traditional set dancers are: step - right and left foot, set - right foot only.

**3.4.2** Competitors should not cross over other competitors, with the exception of 'lead arounds'.

**3.4.3** (a) All traditional versions/variations of traditional set dances are accepted. They should be danced in a traditional style and no additional choreography should be added.

(b) Click throughs/forward heel clicks are not permitted in any traditional set dance.

(c) 'Rocks' in any traditional set dance must be fully completed.

(d) 'Boxes' need to be executed (identified as both shoes touching at the toe piece and heel).

(e) St. Patrick's Day: Competitors must hit their toe to their heel. Banging of the toe on the floor is not permitted.

## **3.5 Modern Set Dances**

*Only set dances included in the following list may be performed at the OPIDF events. Minimum metronomic speeds as outlined below must be adhered to.*

### **Am 2/4 - 2/4 Time**

Bóthar An Lóiste / The Lodge Road

### **Minimum Speed**

76

Glóir Rodney / Rodney's Glory  
An Londubh / The Blackbird  
Planxstaí Daibhéis / Planxty Davis  
Rí na Síog / King of the Fairies  
Titim Paris / The Downfall of Paris

#### **Am 4/4 - 4/4 Time**

Cuan Eochaille / Youghal Harbour  
Cúlú Bonaparte / Bonaparte's Retreat  
An Fiach / The Hunt  
Gairdín na Nóiníní / Garden of Daisies  
An Greas Giúrnála / Job of Journeywork  
Madame Bonaparte / Madame Bonaparte  
An Píobaire / The Piper  
Rásaí Chill Choinnigh / Kilkenny Races  
An Réice Fáin / The Rambling Rake  
An Súisín Bán / The White Blanket  
Cladhaire na Súile Gorma / The Blue Eyed Rascal  
An Mangaire Fáin / The Roving Pedlar  
Na Ceithre Máistrí / The Four Masters  
Aon agus Dó na Píobaireachta / Ace and Deuce of Piping

#### **Minimum Speed**

76

#### **Am 6/8 - 6/8 Time**

Na Trí Captéin Mara / The Three Sea Captains  
Na Buachaillí Báire / The Hurling Boys  
Cuimil An Mála / Rub The Bag  
Cuir Thart An Crúsca / Hurry The Jug  
An Maide Droighnéan / The Blackthorn Stick  
Lá Fhéile Pádraig / St. Patrick's Day  
An Marcach Chuig an Aonach / Jockey to the Fair  
Planxstaí Drúirí / Planxty Drury  
Pléaracha na Bandan / Humours of Bandon  
An Rógaire Buí / The Orange Rogue  
Rogha Iníon De Brún / Miss Brown's Fancy  
Planxstaí Aodh Ó Domhnaill / Planxty Hugh O'Donnell  
An Scéalaí / The Storyteller  
An Geag Síléaladh / The Sprig of Shillelagh  
An Ceoltóir Fáin / The Wandering  
Bean an Ghlantacháin / The Charlady  
An Bheidhleadóir ag an Crann Sí / The Fiddler Around The Fairy Tree  
An Gaueger Meisceach / The Funny Tailor / The Drunken Gauger

#### **Minimum Speed**

66

### **3.6 Bars of Dancing**

- 3.6.1** First Reeler, Treble Reel: 16 bars  
Beginner Reel, Boys Cup Beginner/Primary: 24 bars  
Solos, Premier Reel, 2-Hand/Boys Cup Intermediate/Open: 32 bars  
Championships (Open): 32 bars Slip jig/Hornpipe, 40 bars Reel/Heavy Jig  
4-Hand Reel: 96 bars

### **3.7 Metronomic Speeds**

- 3.7.1** The following speeds will be played at OPIDF events;

First Reeler	Reel	121
Beginner	Reel	121
	Light Jig	116
	Hop Jig	124

	Slip Jig	124
	Heavy Jig	88
	Hornpipe	138
All other grades	Reel	113
	Light Jig	116
	Hop Jig	124
	Slip Jig	113
	Heavy Jig	73
	Hornpipe	113
Traditional Set Dances	St Patrick's Day	94
	Blackbird	144
	Jockey to the Fair	90
	Three Sea Captains	96
	Job of Journeywork	138
	Garden of Daisies	138

#### 4. Attire

*Stage assistants will highlight those in incorrect attire. Any dancer who does not comply with the attire rulings will not be eligible to place in the top 3. Shirts are to be tucked into skirts/trousers.*

4.1 Competitors must wear the correct attire related to their age/grade.

#### Beginner and Primary Grade

##### All age divisions

##### **Females - compulsory**

Plain black long-sleeved leotard

Plain black skirt

OPIDF shawl

**Embellishments of any kind are not permitted - this includes embroidery and ribbons.**

##### **Permitted but not compulsory**

Lace sleeves

##### **Males - compulsory**

Plain black long-sleeved shirt

Plain black trousers

OPIDF green tie or bow tie

**Embellishments of any kind are not permitted - this includes embroidery and ribbons.**

##### **Permitted but not compulsory**

Plain black kilt, waistcoat, braces

#### Intermediate and Open Grades

Competitors are permitted to wear solo dresses/waistcoats/jackets.

#### All Grades

##### **All age divisions**

##### **Females**

White poodle socks - diamanté stoned are permitted or black tights - no lighter than 70 denier.

##### **Males**

Plain black socks.

## **Figures**

Class costumes are permitted. However, rulings 4.1.3. b, c and d must be applied.

**4.1.2** School logos or school/competitor names are not permitted on solo costumes.

**4.1.3** (a) Competitors must wear appropriate attire at all times; bloomers, hot pants and sports bras are undergarments and must be worn as such.

(b) The chest area must be covered. Transparent material is not permitted.

(c) Dresses and skirts are to be of a suitable length, above the knee and below the buttocks.

(d) Skirts should allow for movement when raising the leg. Tight sport skirts and trousers are not permitted. Competitors may be asked to change their costume if principles of modesty are not adhered to or if an adjudicator is unable to see the execution of steps.

**4.1.4** (a) Jewellery of a religious nature is permitted.

(b) Stud earrings are permitted. Hoop, drop or dangle earrings are not permitted.

## **4.2 Makeup and Hair**

*The choice of hairstyle and amount of make-up and fake tan applied is to be in good taste and be appropriate to the competitors age division.*

**4.2.1** Fake tan is ONLY permitted for Intermediate and Open grade competitors.

**4.2.2** (a) Beginners hair should be simple.

(b) Full wigs are not permitted in beginner grades.

(c) Hair bows, tiaras and hair accessories are permitted for all grades.

(d) Full wigs or bun wigs are not permitted in the U6 division in any grade.

(e) Headwear of a religious nature is permitted.

## **4.3 Footwear**

**4.3.1** Unless white forms an original part of the shoe, shoes should be plain black leather, not including patent leather.

**4.3.2** White soft shoe laces and white tape are permitted for intermediate and open grades only.

**4.3.3** Buckles on heavy shoes are permitted for primary and above grade competitors only.

## **4.4 Artificial Carriage Aids**

**4.4.1** Artificial carriage aids are forbidden. Any competitor found to be using an artificial carriage aid will be disqualified. Medically prescribed apparatus (proof of which will be required) is permitted.

## **5 Results**

**5.1** If a tie occurs within the top 5 positions of a championship, the competitors who are tied in position will be asked to re dance a step from a dance of the adjudicators choice.

## **5.2 Presentations**

**5.2.1** Competitors must remain in the correct grade attire including footwear for presentations. Competitors in the incorrect attire will forfeit their award.

**5.2.2** Competitors will be called two times for their results. If an award is not collected, the award will be forfeited.

## **5.3 Grade Movement**

**5.3.1** If there are 4 or less competitors in any competition, there will be no grade movement. If there are 5 or more competitors in any competition, grade movement applies.

**5.3.2** (a) If there are 10 or more competitors in a beginner grade competition (with the exception of U6 - see ruling 5.4.1), the 1st - 3rd placed competitors will move up to the next grade.

(b) If there are 9 or less competitors in a beginner grade competition (with the exception of U6 - see ruling 5.4.1), the 1st placed competitor only will move up to the next grade.

**5.3.3** Competitors in the primary grade who place 1st must move up to the next grade if competitor numbers regarding grade movement comply with those in rule 5.3.1.

**5.3.4** A championship is formed of 2 or 3 dances of which scores are combined. In the case of championship events, grade movement in the championship also applies to the dancers Premier Reel grade.

**5.3.5** If age divisions are combined, the above rulings still apply.

## **5.4 Non-Grade Movement**

**5.4.1** Competitors in beginner grade U6 are permitted to win at two events, both in solo and Premier Reel competitions, before moving to the next grade.

**5.4.2** Competitors in Intermediate are permitted to win at two events, both in solo and Premier Reel competitions, before moving to the next grade.

**5.4.3** Competitors who are U4 can compete in the 'First Reelers' category throughout the year.

## **6 Principle Rules**

*Any issue arising that is not covered in these rules will be referred to the committee, whose decision will be final. Teachers are to ensure this conduct is shared with parents/guardians and dancers prior to an OPIDF event. OPIDF reserve the right to disqualify any competitors infringing on the rulings. Any competitor who is disqualified forfeits their fees.*

**6.1** OPIDF reserves the right to cancel any competition due to weather, number of entries or any other circumstances deemed necessary.

- 6.2** (a) OPIDF does not tolerate bullying and non-sportsmanship like behaviour. All OPIDF members and visiting schools participating at events should be polite and respectful to each other.
- (b) OPIDF does not tolerate disorderly behaviour which disrupts the use and enjoyment of the venue occupied by OPIDF. Any such behaviour will result in removal from the event. If there is any damage caused, the dance school of the responsible participant(s) will have to reimburse the host.
- (c) Abusive, libellous or defamatory comments on social media relating to OPIDF or its members, which portrays OPIDF in an conflicting manner, will result in disciplinary action (See Media inc. Social Media Policy).
- 6.3** OPIDF accepts no accepts no responsibility for damage or loss of personal property, including that of vendors.
- 6.4** (a) Strictly no smoking, vaping or drugs are permitted at OPIDF event venues.
- (b) Alcohol is not permitted at OPIDF events. Immediate action will be taken if this rule is not abided by.
- 6.5** Under no circumstances should a parent or teacher approach an adjudicator.
- 6.6** (a) Only videographers/photographers authorised by OPIDF are permitted to record/ photograph competitions.
- (b) For attendees, there is strictly no videoing or photography permitted whilst dancers are competing. This excludes overall grade/champion of champions competitions, results and presentations.
- 6.7** (a) Steps should not be demonstrated whilst competitors are dancing.
- (b) Teachers should keep hand movements discrete whilst dancers are competing. Teachers are not to stand in the middle isles or in the front of the audience displaying hand movements.
- (c) If tuition becomes unreasonable and distracting those responsible will be approached.
- 6.8** **Complaints**
- 6.8.1 (a) All complaints, no matter how significant or insignificant, are to be followed by OPIDF's complaint procedure. Do not approach the committee unless the correct complaint procedure steps have been met prior. The complaint procedure can be found on the OPIDF website.