

Federation of Love, Loyalty and Friendship

Open Platform Irish Dance Federation Rules and Regulations (OPIDF)

By agreeing to attend an OPIDF event, you are hereby agreeing to comply to the following rules.

Age Divisions

- The competitors age on January 1st determines their age division e.g. If the competitor is 8 on January the 1st, their division will be under 8 (U8).
- Competitions with 32 or more competitors entered will be split into two sections. Competitions will be split based on date of birth prior to the event.
- For 'Major' Championship events proof of age may be required prior to the competition.



Feiseanna and Championship Event Entries

- OPIDF are an open platform federation, therefore, all dancers are welcome. **OPIDF do not discriminate, however, we do reserve the right 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.
- Competitors dance at their own risk.
- OPIDF has an online system for entries. All entries must be submitted only through the "OPIDF system". No entries will be altered on the day.
- Entry fees will be taken by PayPal or Bank Transfer (see individual feis syllabus). Cash will not be accepted.
- 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.
- Initial entries onto the OPIDF online system should be based on the competitors own organisations/associations grades/results. If a school/dancer is independent, they must abide by OPIDF rulings for the event. Proof may be requested should it arise that a dancer has been moved down a grade.
- **NEW:** Competitors can double up their entry to the above grade e.g. Beginner to Primary, Primary to Intermediate, Intermediate to Open. This will come at a discounted cost. For example, a Primary competitor can dance in both the Primary and Intermediate grades. If the competitor was to win the higher of the grades entered, grade movement rules would still apply.

- 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.
- Entries are non-refundable. Once entries have closed, all entries must be paid for.
- OPIDF only runs solo and trophy/championship competitions with a minimum of 3 competitors. Competitions with fewer than 3 competitors will be combined with another age of the corresponding grade. Competitors who this applies to will be notified on the final syllabus.
- The syllabus provided is provisional until all entries have been received.
- OPIDF events run on two different syllabus - a grades syllabus and a championship syllabus. Check each individual event.
- The 'First Reeler' competition is strictly for children who are in the age division U4 or who are U6 and have never danced in a competition before.

Competition Rules

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

- Competitors are to be ready 1 hour prior to their competition. Some competitions may run early and will not be held open. Times are provisional and competitions may commence later than the time given.
- Competitors who are not in line when the competition starts will not be eligible to dance in that competition.
- Under no circumstances should dancers be approached whilst in the line, with no exception for teachers. A stage assistant will be present.
- Solo competitions are to be run in numerical order only, ascending from 1.
- Starting numbers for trophy dances and championships will be decided prior to the competition and be in a random order.
- 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 dancers to give time to retract back to the line. Treble reel competitions will run on a pickup system, with no 8-bar break. Premier Reel, championships and first reelers competitions will not be run on a pick-up system.
- Competitors will dance the following bars:
 First Reeler: 16 bars independently
 U6 and Beginner Reel: 24 bars
 Solos: 32 bars
 Treble Reel: 16 bars
 Primary, Intermediate, Premier Reel and Open U8: 32 bars
 Championships (Open U10 and above): 32 bars Slip jig/Hornpipe, 40 bars Reel/Heavy Jig
 Overall grade champion competition: Step down the line of Reel (16 bars)

- When in line, competitors are to stand with their feet placed or heels side by side.
- Beginner and Primary competitors will be 'counted in'. Other grades will not.
- 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.
- Competitors must do right and left foot on all steps, with exception of the light jig, hop jig and beginner slip jig.
- Beginner competitors are to use simple movements only: skips, 1,2,3's, sevens, hops, cuts, over 2,3's, points, single heels, jumps, stamps, toes, trebles, tips.
- 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.
- Block or on-toe movements are not permitted for dancers in age groups U10 and below.
- Apart from the moonwalk and straddle jump, which are not permitted, all other movements are allowed in Intermediate and Open grades.
- Event music will be of open speed for light rounds - Reel (113), Light Jig (116), Hop Jig (124), Slip Jig (113). For heavy rounds, beginner competitors will have the choice of beginner speed music - Heavy Jig (92), Hornpipe (138) or open speed music Heavy Jig (73), Hornpipe (113).

Stops/Slips

- Competitors who fall can re-dance and will be judged on their second dance, at the adjudicators discretion.
- Competitors who unintentionally slip and pick up, continuing with their dance, will not be penalised.
- Competitors who stop (e.g. forgetting their step) are encouraged to continue their dance but are not eligible to be placed within the top 3 for that round.
- Any competitor who stops and doesn't pick-up will receive a zero for that round.
- Any competitor judged to be barging or intentionally impeding another dancer will be marked at the adjudicators discretion.

Traditional Set Rules

- Traditional set dances are: step - right and left foot, set - right foot only.
- All traditional versions/variations of traditional set are accepted. They should be traditional and no additional choreography should be added.

- Competitors will dance the following traditional set speeds:

Saint Patrick's Day: 94

The Blackbird: 144

Jockey to the Fair: 90

Garden of Daisies: 138

Job of Journeywork: 138

Three Sea Captains: 96

- Click throughs/forward heel clicks are not permitted in traditional set dances. Competitors will be penalised at the adjudicators discretion.
- During the traditional set, when competitors are in a line of 3 they should not cross in front of other competitors. Competitors who do not comply with this will not be eligible to place in the top 3 for the traditional set round.

Attire Rules

Stage assistants will highlight those in the incorrect attire. Any dancer who does not comply with attire rulings will not be eligible to be placed in the top 3.

- OPIDF does not permit competitors to walk round venues in just 'bloomers', 'hot pants' and 'sports bras'. Appropriate clothing should be worn at all times.
- Jewellery of a religious nature may be worn. Studded earrings are permitted.
- Dress and skirt lengths are to be of an appropriate length, above the knee and below the buttocks. Competitors may be asked to change their costume if this is not adhered to.
- No transparent material should be worn on the chest area.
- No names or school logos are permitted on grade attire or solo dresses.
- Artificial carriage aids are forbidden.

Beginners (age U10 and below)

Shirts are to be tucked into skirts/trousers. Trousers and skirts should not be too tight.

Females:

- Plain white polo shirt
- Plain black skirt
- Plain black western bow-tie is permitted but not required

Males:

- Plain white polo shirt or long or short-sleeved shirt
- Plain black trousers
- Kilts are permitted
- **NEW:** Black waistcoats, belts, braces, ties or bow-ties are permitted but not required



Beginners (age U12 and above) and Primary

Primary dancers are not permitted to wear solo dresses.

Females:

- Black polo-shirt, t-shirt or leotard
- Black skirt
- Black dress
- **Small** embellishments are allowed including ribboned skirts and celtic knots

Males:

- Plain white or black polo shirt or long or short-sleeved shirt
- Plain black trousers
- **NEW:** Black waistcoats, belts, braces, ties or a bow-tie are permitted but not required
- Intermediate and Open dancers are permitted to wear solo dresses.
- Female competitors should wear white poodle socks - diamanté/stoned socks and black tights are permitted. Leggings are not permitted in any grade.

Make-up/Hair

The choice of hairstyles and amount of make-up and fake tan applied is to be in good taste and be appropriate to the age group.

- Fake tan is only permitted for Intermediate and Open grade competitors.
- Hair bows, tiara and accessories are permitted.
- **NEW:** Beginner's hair should be simple, bun wigs are permitted for competitors who are aged 6 and over. Full wigs are not permitted in beginner age divisions.

Footwear

- Shoes should be plain black leather shoes (unless white forms an original part of the shoe) both for dancing and presentations. Patent and coloured shoes are not permitted.
- White soft shoe laces and white tape are permitted for open grades **only**.
- Primary and above grade competitors of any age are permitted to wear buckles on heavy shoes.
- Buckles and/or elastics are not permitted on soft shoes, with the exception of males, who are permitted to wear plain black elastics on their reel shoes.

Awards and Presentations

- All competitors will be placed in all dances.
- Competitors must remain in the correct grade attire and footwear for presentations and the collection of their results. Competitors in the wrong attire will be asked to change.
- Competitors will be called two times for their result. If they do not collect the result within this time, they will forfeit the award for that result.

Results & Moving of Dancers

OPIDF has an online grading system in place in which dancers will be moved into the required grade (if applicable) post competition. OPIDF committee members move dancers based on the rulings below.

- If a tie occurs within the top 5 positions of a Championship. The competitors who are 'tied' in position will be both asked to re dance a step from a dance of the adjudicators choice.
- Competition results for all dances will be sent to teachers after competitions.
- Competitors aged under 6 who have competed in the 'First Reelers' competition are not eligible to compete in this competition again. They must move to the under 6 beginner age division. Competitors who are under 4 can compete in this category throughout the year.
- Competitors in under 6 who dance at beginner grade are permitted to win at two events, both in solo and Premier Reel competitions, before moving to the next grade.
- If there are 4 or less competitors in any competition, there will be no grade movement for that competition. If there are 5 or more competitors in a competition, grade movement applies.
- **NEW:** If there are 10 or more competitors in age under 8 and above beginner grade categories, the 1st - 3rd placed competitors will move up to the next grade for solo, Premier Reel and Treble Reel competitions.
- If there are 9 or less competitors in age under 8 and above beginner competitions, only the 1st placed competitor will move to the next grade.
- Competitors in Primary who place 1st must move up to the next grade (5 or more).
- Competitors in Intermediate are permitted to win at two events, both in solo and Premier Reel competitions, before moving to the next grade.
- If competitions are combined, the above rulings still apply.

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.

- **Steps should not be demonstrated whilst competitors are dancing.** 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. If tuition becomes unreasonable and distracting those responsible will be approached.
- Protests are prohibited and will not be accepted regarding any score or result of a decision.

- OPIDF does not tolerate physical violence and verbal abuse. Any instance of physical violence or abuse during an OPIDF event will result in a ban from future events.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- OPIDF accepts no responsibility for damage or loss of personal property, including that of vendors.
- Strictly no smoking, vaping or drugs are permitted at OPIDF event venues.
- Alcohol is not permitted at OPIDF events. **Immediate action** will be taken if this rule is not abided by.
- Under no circumstances should a parent or teacher approach an adjudicator.
- Strictly no videoing or photography is permitted whilst dancers are in competition. Videoing and photography is permitted for the “overall grade champion” competition and during results and award presentations only (See Media inc. Social Media Policy).
- 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).
- All complaints, no matter how significant or insignificant, are to be followed by OPIDF's 'Complaint Procedure, found on the Teachers Conduct '. **Do not approach** the committee unless the correct complaint procedure steps have been met prior. Complaints will not be acknowledged after a 3 month period following an event.
- OPIDF reserves the right to cancel any competition due to weather, number of entries or any other circumstances deemed necessary.
- OPIDF reserve the right to disqualify any competitors infringing on the above rulings. Any competitor who is disqualified forfeits their fees.

OPIDF reserves the right to amend and update these rules and such changes will become effective as soon as the rules are published.