



FITZPATRICK
S C H O O L O F
IRISH DANCE

**COMPETITION
GUIDELINES**

Feiseanna

- A feis is a local dance competition wherein dancers advance through level.
- Only students of teachers certified by An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha (CLRG) are eligible to compete at sanctioned feiseanna.
- Dancers represent FSID and may only compete with Katie's permission.
- Feiseanna are registered through [Quickfeis.com](https://www.quickfeis.com) or [Feisworx.com](https://www.feisworx.com).
- Each feis has a syllabus with info, caps/limits, timelines etc. to review prior to registering.

The Majors

- Teams are a significant part of the competition and qualify based on teacher's discretion. Teams include the 4-Hand Ceili (Oireachtas only), 8-Hand Ceili, Choreography (12-hand), and Dance Drama.
- **Oireachtas** (November): To qualify for solos, dancers must be in Preliminary and approved by Katie. There are also traditional set dance competitions for Prizewinner dancers.
- **Nationals** (July): Dancers must be Open Championship or have qualified at Oireachtas.
- **Worlds** (April): Dancers must qualify at the Oireachtas or Nationals.

Progression

- Solos are categorized by levels (e.g. grades) and age.
- Age groupings are determined by the dancer's age of January 1 of the year in which the competition is held (e.g. if your dancer is 8 years old as of Jan 1st, they dance in U8).
- There are five dances at Grade level: light jig, reel, slip jig (girls only), treble jig and hornpipe. Dancers perform two steps of each dance for a certified adjudicator.

Beginner 1

Beginner 2

Novice

Prizewinner

**Preliminary
Championship**

**Open
Championship**

Progression

First Feis: Dancer competing in their very first feis. Once a dancer competes in this category, they move to Beginner 1 or Beginner 2.

Beginner 1: Competitor who has not yet taken a full year of Irish dance lessons. Because the feis year (Jan-Dec) is different than the school year (Sept-June), dancers may keep Beginner status until December of their second year of lessons. *To advance out of Beginner 1: Compete through dancer's second year of instruction or earlier with Katie's permission.*

Beginner 2: Competitor taking dance for more than one year. Heavy shoe tempo is fast (traditional) speed. *To advance out of Beginner 2: Place 1st, 2nd or 3rd; move up in that particular dance by the next calendar year or earlier with Katie's permission.*

Novice: Competitor is offered a choice of heavy shoe tempo: slow or fast (traditional). *To advance out of Novice: place 1st; move up in that particular dance by the next calendar year or earlier with Katie's permission.*

Prizewinner/Open: Competitor remains at Prizewinner until they place 1st in the core dances (reel, slip jig, treble jig, hornpipe). If a feis has fewer than 5 competitors, dancer must earn an additional 1st. *To advance out of Prizewinner: place 1st twice in core dances.*

Preliminary Championship: Competitor performs one round of soft (48 bars of reel or 40 bars of slip jig) and one round of heavy (40 bars of hornpipe or 48 bars of treble jig) for a panel of three judges. A dancer who wins two 1sts in one calendar year will move to OC the following year. If the second 1st does not occur within the same feis year as the first win, as soon as the second win is achieved the dancer moves up to OC. *To advance out of Preliminary: place 1st twice overall.*

Open Championship: Competitor performs one round of soft, one round of heavy and a set dance.

Eligibility

- To start competing, dancers must have passed both their jig and reel.
- Competitive dancers are required to attend weekly classes as well as monthly workshops.
- Please consider a private lesson in advance of a feis!

Attire

- FSID class costume or black leotard and skirt through Novice as well as for all team dances.
- [HAIR TUTORIAL HERE](#)
- “Black and white” feis means dancers wear all black instead of normal costumes. Example here:
- Competition number is pinned onto your dancer’s waist.
- Make-up and tanning is not permitted for dancers up to and including the Under 12 age group.
- Dancers qualify for solo dresses when they reach Prizewinner! Solos/wigs must be approved by Katie.

Feis Requirements

1. Register your dancer to compete in every dance even if they no longer need to qualify to move up.
2. When two or more FSID dancers are attending the same feis, try to coordinate teams (e.g. 2- or 4-H).
3. Please share results with fitzpatrickschoolofirishdance@gmail.com after each feis.



Here's to the start of an incredible journey!

**HAVE FUN
AND BE
PROUD!**

**WORK FOR
YOUR GOALS
AND REAP THE
REWARDS!**

**SUPPORT
YOUR FSID
FAMILY!**