



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. Any attendee wishing to opt out must contact OPIDF prior to their attendance. 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 5th May, 2024.

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 Visiting teachers must supply evidence of a valid Disclosure and Baring Service check (DBS) /Garda vetting or equivalent. This should be submitted via the OPIDF website prior to the visiting schools first event.
- 1.3.1 Visiting teachers must pay an annual visiting school fee of £25. This should be sent to the OPIDF bank account prior to the visiting schools first event.
- 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 if it is believed that the competitor has breached any of the entry 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 unless agreed by the OPIDF committee.
- 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 of £5 per dancer will apply.

1.5.4 All competitors are required either one light solo or heavy solo to enable them to compete in the open championship at grade feiseanna.

1.5.5 (a) To be eligible to dance at the World Championships, competitors (excluding beginners) must dance at a qualifying event.

(b) If a beginner competitor advances grade from beginner after the last qualifying event proof of grade movement must be provided for them to be eligible to compete at their new grade at the World Championships.

(c) If a competitor is injured on the date of a qualifying event and medical proof is provided, this competitor can qualify based medical grounds.

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).

1.6.3 Preliminary Championships are not a grade, however, may be added as an additional competition on some syllabi. To be eligible to be compete in the preliminary competition, competitors must not have previously won a preliminary competition or an open championship.

1.7 Age Divisions

1.7.1 The competitors age on January 1st determines their age division e.g. If the competitor is 9 years of age on January the 1st, their division will be under 9 (U9).

1.7.2 The 'First Reeler' competition is strictly for children in the age divisions U3 and U5.

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 to who this applies will be notified on the final syllabi.

- 1.7.5** (a) At grade feiseanna, championship competitions with 24 or more competitors will be split into two sections.
- (b) At the World Championships, competitions with 30 or more will be split into two sections.
- (c) Competitions will be split based on date of birth prior to the event.
- (d) Championship competitions with 3 or more boys will be split into a separate boys competition.
- 1.7.6** (a) Proof of age may be required.
- (b) Prior to the World Championships, 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** The syllabus provided is provisional until all entries have been received. OPIDF reserve the right to amend syllabi up to, and including the day of competition.
- 2.4.2** (a) Solo competitions are run in numerical order only, ascending from 1.
- (b) 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. All OPIDF TCRG's are trained in basic British Sign Language.
- 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 around 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 U11 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
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

Minimum Speed

76

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

Minimum Speed

66

Planxty Drúirí / Planxty Drury
 Pléaracha na Bandan / Humours of Bandon
 An Rógairé Buí / The Orange Rogue
 Rogha Iníon De Brún / Miss Brown's Fancy
 Planxty 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 Gauger Meisceach / The Funny Tailor / The Drunken Gauger

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

All age divisions

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. OPIDF shawls are also permitted.

4.1.2 (a) School logos or school names are not permitted on solo costumes.

(b) Competitor names or initials 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. Competitors will be told to dress appropriately. If this is not adhered to, the teacher of the competitor will receive a warning.

(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) Full wigs or bun wigs are not permitted in the U5 division in any grade.
(d) Hair bows, tiaras and hair accessories are permitted for all grades.
(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 First Reelers - 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 First Reelers - 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, 3 or 4 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** (a) Competitors who are U3 can compete in the First Reelers category throughout the year.
- (b) Competitions in U5 who dance in First Reelers and win advance to U5 beginners. Following this, grade movements 5.3.2 (a) and (b) apply.
- 5.4.2** Competitors in Intermediate are permitted to win at two events, both in solo and Premier Reel and Championship competitions, before moving to the next grade.

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 teacher or competitor infringing on the rulings. Any teacher or competitor who is disqualified forfeits their fees.

- 6.1** OPIDF reserves the right to cancel any competition due to any 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) Children should not be left unsupervised.
- (d) 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 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 in the auditorium/hall where dancing is taking place. Immediate action will be taken if this rule is not abided by.
- (c) Any adult found to be purchasing, enabling or accompanying minors with alcohol will be banned from future OPIDF events and will be asked to leave immediately.
- 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 significance, 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 complaints policy.