

IDTANA-MIDATLANTIC REGION FEIS RULES

Section One-Registration

1. Feis organizers must submit a registration form to the Mid-Atlantic Region Feis Committee for approval of any new or existing Feis.
2. Registrations must be submitted no later than 8 months prior to the feis date. Once approved, the appropriate fee must be submitted within 30 days of approval date, and proper insurance must be submitted within 30 days prior to the feis date. A \$100 penalty fee will be assessed for any feis that does not comply.
3. Any requests made less than 8 months will be subject to a \$50 late fee. Registration fee for a one day feis is \$200. Registration fee for a two day feis is \$250, the registration fee for a back-to-back feis is \$360. Registration fees are non-refundable.
4. Each organization/school requesting a feis date will have one date per calendar year considered/approved. After requests from all organizations/schools have been satisfied, requests for additional feiseanna dates will be considered.
5. All proposed feiseanna must have a teacher liaison (TMRF, TCRG or ADCRG) associated with their feis.
6. Any approved feis wanting to change their approved date; change the number of days over which the feis will be held; or change their location (different city and/or state) will require approval from the MAR feis committee.

Rules 1-5, approved 11/14/2020

Rule 2, amended 2/27/2022

Rule 6, approved 2/27/2022

Section Two-Feis Requirements

1. In the case of all solo and team competitions in all grades, the age of a competitor on 1st 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 1st 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:
 - a) Conduct unbecoming a lady or gentleman.
 - b) Failure to report on time to compete. (Penalty: disqualification from said event)

c) Falsification of age or other important facts – i.e., teaching, award winning, competing under another competitor's name or number, etc.

Penalty for a) or c): Competitor will be disqualified from the Feis at which the occurrence happened and from all MAR – registered Feiseanna for a period of one year beginning at the date of the occurrence.

4. 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.

5. Solo competitors in Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Novice or Open Prizewinner competitions:

- a) Must compete in their own age group.
- b) Must be prepared to perform two steps in each event.

6. 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, a skirt and blouse, a shirt and trousers, or a kilt. Modest attire is encouraged when a competitor is not dancing. Adjudicators who determine a costume to be too short or to lack modesty may ask a competitor to change into black tights (of a denier not less than 70 percent) in order for the dancer to continue in the competition. When wearing body suits with skirts (commonly known as black-out attire), dancers Under 14 and older must wear black tights (of a denier not less than 70).

7. Competitor's number must be worn and visible to adjudicators when performing in all competitions; use of reflective plastic number covers is discouraged.

8. Awards will be determined in proportion to the number of entries in each competition and to the degree of proficiency shown.

9. 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 \$50 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. Competitors must answer all questions as required by the Feis Entry committee, including teacher's name, and enclose the entry fee when registering. 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).

14. Entrants in any Championship event may not enter in any other (Grade) events, but may enter in Figure Dances and/or Ceiii dance. 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. a) Dancers must qualify for Open Championship via the method now in place for Preliminary Championship, i.e. three 1st place wins. b) Dancers must compete in the Preliminary Championship competition in order to qualify for Open Championship c) The regional syllabus where the Feis is being held may have different qualifications for entry.

(Note) Preliminary Championship dancers who win 3 first places in a calendar year must move to Open Championship the following calendar year. When a third 1st place win is achieved over several calendar years, the dancer must move to Open Championship the following weekend.

15. Championships and Preliminary Championships require at least three adjudicators.

16. 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.

17. The status of the dancer does not change unless there are five or more dancers in a competition.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. Musicians employed by the Feis Committee will be solely under the direction and management of the Feis Committee on Feis day.

21. In matters pertaining to adjudication, the decision of the adjudicators is final.

22. Adjudicators are to monitor the tempo of music at the stage(s) to which they are assigned.

23. The length of 2 hand and 3 hand dances in competition are to be 48 bars of music plus an 8 bar introduction.

24. 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. 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 to 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).

25. 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.

26. Make up is prohibited on a dancer up to and including the Under 10 age group.

27. Any competitor found to be using artificial carriage aids and who 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.

28. 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.

29. No substance that can become airborne should be used on any dance floor in an attempt to improve traction.

30: Championship stage sizes should be at least 24 feet wide by 20 feet deep. Solo and figure dancing stages should be at least 20 feet wide by 16 feet deep. Choreography stages should be at least 24 feet wide by 20 feet deep.

Championship stages dancing three at a time must be at least 32 feet wide by 24 feet deep. This is limited to those dancing under the age of 14.

Non-championship stages dancing three at a time must be at least 24 feet wide by 20 feet deep for each age group as prescribed by An Coimisiun. The adjudicator has the authority to dance two or three at a time, unless otherwise specified in the syllabus.

Rules 1-30, approved 12/13/2020

Section Three-Administration

1. The feis committee will use a multitude of factors when determining the eligibility of a feis, including, but not limited to, location, proximity of bordering region feiseanna, the proximity to an established feis, and the feis cap. The MidAtlantic Region will be divided into three sub-regions:

Northern Tier - Northwest & Central Upstate NY

Central Tier - Westchester, NYC, Long Island, Southeast Upstate NY, Northern PA, Northern NJ

Southern Tier - Southern PA, Southern NJ, Delaware

2. An established feis is defined as a feis that has occurred for two consecutive years or more on the specific date, March 2020 and prior. An established feis can retain their date annually with on-time submission of fees & proof of insurance. Any additional feiseanna that a school/organization host will not be considered an established feis.

3. A syllabus must include all minimum syllabus requirements as seen on the sample syllabus posted on the MAR website.

4. The MAR Executive Board and the MAR Feis Committee reserve the right to deny a feis registration for any feis that does not fall into the scope of any existing criteria if it appears it will inhibit or interfere with an approved feis on the same weekend.

5. The MAR Feis Committee must receive in writing any notification of a violation occurring at an MAR approved feis, identifying the name and contact information of the person submitting the violation. A violation is defined as any instance where a feis rule was not adhered to, ie. stage size requirements. A substantiated violation will be presented to the MAR Executive Board for their review. The Feis organizer will be given ten days to respond. Any determination resulting in a valid violation will result in written notification to the Feis organizer advising remedy of violation must occur by or before their next Feis. A representative of the MAR Feis Committee and/or Executive Board must attend the feis to verify compliance. If the violation is still present, the following action will be taken:

1) Formal notification (certified mail/return receipt) given to the Feis organizer that their feis will be suspended the following year. 2) Notification

regarding the suspension will also go to the IDTANA President 3) In order to be reinstated, a written plan to remedy must be submitted to the Feis Committee and/or MAR Executive Board. 4) Further violations, or non-compliance could result in further action left to the discretion of the MAR Executive Board.

Rules 1-5, approved 12/13/2020

Section Four-Syllabus Requirements

1. Painting, Art, Drawing, Cooking, Irish Language, or Music Competitions must be added to a syllabus.
2. Special Needs competitions are mandatory in the Beginner and Advanced Beginner categories.
3. Hop Jig competitions are mandatory in the Beginner and Advanced Beginner categories.
4. Adult competitions must be offered in every category, Beginner through Preliminary Championships. Adult female dancers must wear black tights. Adult competitions CANNOT be combined with other age groups.
5. Mid-Atlantic feiseanna have the option to allow boys to compete against the girls of the same age in Open Championships.
6. Open competitions should be mandatory 3 round competitions. Open Championships should be single year age group. Prelim levels should be single age groups up to 17 and over.
7. Mid-Atlantic feiseanna have the option to allow boys to compete against the girls of the same age in Open Championships.
8. All Championship competitions can dance 3 at a time up to and including U14.
9. All Reels in the Grades must be 2 at a time; other dances can be 3 at a time up to and including U14.
10. MAR feiseanna may not offer 2nd chance competitions.
11. The Mid Atlantic Region no longer allows blackout Feiseanna.
12. The Mid-Atlantic syllabus should state that each feis is a private event run by the host school or host organization and reserves the right to accept or refuse admission to the event.

Section Five-Category Requirements and Advancements

1. Beginner - A beginner is a competitor who has not taken Irish Dancing lessons from a registered teacher prior to September 1st of the previous year. Reel will dance 2 at a time, all ages. Solo costumes are not permitted. Class costumes, or skirts and blouses only.
2. Advanced Beginner - Dancer remains an advanced beginner in each dance until he/she wins 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. Dancer moves up to novice only for the dance(s) in which he/she has previously won 1st, 2nd, or 3rd. Reel will dance 2 at a time, all ages. Solo costumes are not permitted. Class costumes, or skirts and blouses only.
3. Novice - A novice is a dancer who has previously won a 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Adv. Beginner. If a dancer has previously won 1st in Novice competition, he/she must move up to Prizewinner for the dance(s) in which he/she has won 1st place. Reel will dance 2 at a time, all ages. Adult Competitions May Not Be combined with other age groups in any category. Adult female dancers must wear black tights.
4. Prizewinner - A prizewinner is a dancer who has previously won 1st in Novice in a particular dance. Reel will dance 2 at a time, all ages. Adult Competitions May Not Be combined with other age groups in any category. Adult female dancers must wear black tights.
5. Preliminary Championships - Choice of Reel (48 bars) or Slip Jig (40 bars), AND Jig (48 bars) or Hornpipe (40bars) Adult Competitions May Not Be combined with other age groups in any category. Adult female dancers must wear black tights.
6. Open Championships – 3 rounds - Choice of Reel (48 bars) or Slip Jig (40 bars) AND Jig (48 bars) or Hornpipe (40 bars). Set piece of own choice. Under 9 MUST dance a Traditional Set.

Please see our feis syllabus sample for full syllabus requirements.

Updated 4/13/2026