

Typical Solo Dance Competition Events at Feiseanna in North America

GRADE LEVEL COMPETITIONS	Beginner Grade	Dancer has not yet taken a full year of Irish dance lessons, and must move to Advanced Beginner events as of the next year. Note: Dancers who have never competed but have taken more than one year of Irish dance lessons are not eligible for Beginner Grade.	<p>Solo dance competitors in the Grade levels will perform 2 steps of each event entered.</p> <p>Each dance is a separate event:</p> <p>reel (soft shoes)</p> <p>light jig (soft shoes; this dance is not typically offered above Novice Grade)</p> <p>slip jig (soft shoes)</p> <p>treble jig (hard shoes)</p> <p>hornpipe (hard shoes)</p> <p>(Note: A hop jig event, also called single jig, may be offered, but Teelin School does not teach steps for this dance, so Teelin students should never enter those events.)</p> <p>Some feiseanna offer other special competitions such as treble reel or set dance, however, those events do not count toward competition level progression.</p> <p>Grade level competitions require one adjudicator per event. Prizes are awarded in proportion to the number of entries and to the degree of proficiency shown.</p> <p>A competition group must have at least five competitors in order for a dancer's placement to count toward eligibility for advancement.</p>
	Advanced Beginner Grade	Dancer does not qualify as a Beginner, or any subsequent levels. A Teelin student is expected to remain in Advanced Beginner category for as long as he/she is eligible unless otherwise told by his/her teacher. An Advanced Beginner who wins 1st, 2nd or 3rd place will advance to the Novice category in that particular dance the next calendar year (January).	
	Novice Grade	Dancer has moved beyond the Beginner skills and is ready to perform more difficult steps in competition. For hard shoe dances (treble jig and hornpipe), Novice competitors are offered a choice of music tempo: "slow", also known as Oireachtas speed, or "fast", also known as traditional speed. (Beginner and Advanced Beginner hard shoe tempo is always traditional speed.) A Novice who wins a first place (or second place if more than 20 dancers in group, as of Jan 2013) will advance to the Prizewinner category in that particular dance.	
	Prizewinner Grade	Dancer does not qualify as a Beginner, Advanced Beginner or as a Novice. A dancer remains at Prizewinner Grade until qualified for Preliminary Championship according to official NAFC rules and his/her dance teacher's guidelines.	
	*Adult Category	Adult category events follow the descriptions above, except that an Adult Beginner is a competitor who never took Irish dancing lessons as a juvenile and is over 18 years of age. Competitors may not enter Adult category events if they have competed in Grade or Championship events within the previous five years.	
CHAMPIONSHIPS	Preliminary Champion	<p>In accordance with NAFC rules, this event is open to a competitor who has placed 1st in both a soft shoe and hard shoe competition at the Prizewinner level. A Teelin student is expected to place 1st in EACH Prizewinner dance (Reel, Slip Jig, Treble Jig and Hornpipe) before being eligible for prelim.</p> <p>Dancer must win two firsts in Preliminary Championship (with five or more competitors) to be eligible to compete in Open Championship.</p>	<p>Championship competitors will perform a minimum of two rounds of competition: one soft shoe round and one hard shoe round. Instead of the 2 steps performed for each dance at Grade levels, Championship competitors will perform either 3 reel steps or 2.5 slip jig steps for the soft shoe round (boys/men must perform reel for this round); and either 3 treble jig steps or 2.5 hornpipe steps, and/or a set dance for the hard shoe round.</p> <p>Championship events require at least three adjudicators. Scoring is based on the Irish Point System. Prizes are awarded in proportion to the number of entries and to the degree of proficiency shown.</p>
	Open Champion	<p>In accordance with NAFC rules, a dancer must compete in Preliminary Championship in order to qualify for Open Championship, and must qualify via the method currently in place (i.e. two 1st place wins).</p> <p>Open Champions must perform a set dance; if the event requires three rounds then they will also perform either treble jig or hornpipe.</p>	