



VICTORIAN SOLO & CEILI CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026 SYLLABUS

Registered with AIDA Inc and An Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelacha Registration Number: 8713/26

DAYS ONLY TIMETABLE

Friday August 7th (from 6:00pm)

- 11, 12, 13, 14 Years Girls & Boys Championship
- Junior Traditional Set Dance Perpetual Shield

Saturday August 8th

- 15, 16, 17, 18 Years Girls & Ladies Championship
- 15, 16, 17, 18 Years Boys & Mens Championships
- Intermediate Traditional Set Dance Perpetual Shield
- 6 & Under, 7, 8, 9 and 10 Years Girls & Boys Championship
 - Minor Traditional Set Dance Perpetual Shield
- 19, 20/21, 22 & Over Ladies & Adult Championship
 - 19, 20 & over Mens Championships
- Senior Traditional Set Dance Perpetual Shield

Sunday August 9th

- Under 8, Under 10 & Under 12 Ceili
 - Dance of Champions
- Under 15, Under 18 and Open Age & Adult Ceili

**Venue: Bentleigh Secondary College
Performing Arts Centre,
4 Vivien St., Bentleigh East.**

Adjudicators: Donna Reilly-Cannon ADCRG, NSW
Bernadette Whelan ADCRG, NSW
Vicki Paulin ADCRG VIC

Musician: Brendan Dougan-Kittel South Australia

Ages: as at 1 January 2026

Entries Open: 9:00am Monday 22nd June

Entries Close: 11:59pm Friday 3rd July

Social Media Photography advice closing date: 11.59pm Friday 3rd July
(See Rule 31 below)

ENTRIES - FeisFWD

Open Championship: \$80

Preliminary + Open: \$120

*Preliminary Championship is being offered for all Girls Championships 9 Years & over -
Eligibility criteria listed below**

Traditional Set Dance: \$20

Ceili / Teams: \$15 per dancer per team

Family Fee (*includes digital program & copy of results for solo sections danced in*)
\$30 per family

Pre-purchased Printed Program: \$10

FeisFWD entry fee: \$5 per entry

- *Venue Fee to be included with entry*
- *A family discount of 30% will apply to families with three (3) or more dancers for solo only – **excludes** Teams, Traditional Set and Venue Fee (discount refunded upon application through registered teacher)*

Late entries will be accepted up to 48 hours after the closing date. A late fee of \$10.00 will apply and must be paid on lodgment of entry.

PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIP CRITERIA

1. Preliminary Championships will be offered in all Girls Championships 9 Years & over
2. Preliminary Championship will be danced as part of the Open Championship
3. Dancers must be graded Mean (or below) in all dances in order to be eligible
4. **Preliminary Championship result will be calculated on the first 2 rounds of the Open Championship awarding top three plus a prize ratio of 1 in 3 of eligible dancers thereafter**
5. Dancers cannot enter the Preliminary Championship unless they have entered the Open Championship in the same age group.

TRADITIONAL SET DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Minor – Mary Barrett Shield

Junior – Elizabeth Phelan Shield

Intermediate – Leonie McHardy Shield

Senior – Catherine Cosgriff Shield

Choice of Set Dance to be confirmed at time of entry

SOLO SYLLABUS

NOTE: For the 4, 5 & 6 years Mixed Girls and Boys Solo Championship sections, where insufficient entries are received (less than 5), age groups will be combined.

Mixed Girls and Boys 4 Years Championship	Light Jig, Single-Jig, Any Reel
Mixed Girls and Boys 5 Years Championship	Light Jig, Single-Jig, Any Reel
Mixed Girls and Boys 6 Years Championship	Light Jig, Single-Jig, Any Reel
Sub Minor Boys 7 Years and Under Championship	Treble Jig (32 bars), Reel and Traditional Set Dance
Sub Minor Girls 7 Years and Under Championship	Treble Jig (32 bars), Reel and Traditional Set Dance
Sub Minor Boys 8 Years Championship	Treble Jig (32 bars), Reel and Traditional Set Dance
Sub Minor Girls 8 Years Championship	Treble Jig (32 bars), Reel and Traditional Set Dance
Minor Boys 9 Years Championship	Hornpipe, Reel and Set Dance in 6/8 Time
Minor Girls 9 Years Championship	Hornpipe, Reel and Set Dance in 6/8 Time
Minor Boys 10 Years Championship	Treble Jig, Reel and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Minor Girls 10 Years Championship	Treble Jig, Slip Jig and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Junior Boys 11 Years Championship	Hornpipe, Reel and Set Dance in 6/8 Time
Junior Girls 11 Years Championship	Hornpipe, Reel and Set Dance in 6/8 Time
Junior Boys 12 Years Championship	Treble Jig, Reel and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Junior Girls 12 Years Championship	Treble Jig, Slip Jig and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Intermediate Boys 13 Years Championship	Hornpipe, Reel and Set Dance in 6/8 Time
Intermediate Girls 13 Years Championship	Hornpipe, Reel and Set Dance in 6/8 Time
Intermediate Boys 14 Years Championship	Treble Jig, Reel and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Intermediate Girls 14 Years Championship	Treble Jig, Slip Jig and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Senior Boys 15 Years Championship	Hornpipe, Reel and Set Dance in 6/8 Time
Senior Girls 15 Years Championship	Hornpipe, Reel and Set Dance in 6/8 Time
Senior Boys 16 Years Championship	Treble Jig, Reel and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Senior Girls 16 Years Championship	Treble Jig, Slip Jig and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Junior Men 17 Years Championship	Hornpipe, Reel and Set Dance in 6/8 Time
Junior Ladies 17 Years Championship	Hornpipe, Reel and Set Dance in 6/8 Time
Junior Men 18 Years Championship	Treble Jig, Reel and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Junior Ladies 18 Years Championship	Treble Jig, Slip Jig and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Men 19 Years Championship	Hornpipe, Reel and Set Dance in 6/8 Time
Ladies 19 Years Championship	Hornpipe, Reel and Set Dance in 6/8 Time
Senior Men 20 Years and Over Championship	Treble Jig, Reel and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Senior Ladies 20 & 21 Years Championship	Treble Jig, Slip Jig and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Senior Ladies 22 Years & Over Championship	Treble Jig, Slip Jig and Set Dance in 2/4 or 4/4 Time
Adult Championship	Treble Jig (32 bars), Choice Slip Jig/Reel* (48 bars, 113), Choice Traditional Set

*** Note: Ladies to perform Slip Jig, Men to perform Reel. Non-Binary dancers have the option to choose either Slip Jig or Reel.**
Female Adult Dancers participating in Adult competitions entitled "Adult Competitions" both solos and teams are required to wear tights of a denier not less than 70.

AIDA VICTORIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

It is a condition of entry that the following rules are observed. AIDA members reserve the right to ask any person contravening these rules to leave the venue.

1. Competitors must be pupils of teachers registered with An Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelacha. Dancers are required to be registered with AIDA Inc. for the current year.
2. Dancers must be resident in Victoria and fulfil the requirements as set down by AIDA Victoria Inc.
3. All Dancer Registrations must be completed and confirmed with the Pupil Registrar, with a competitor number allocated to the dancer, at the time of the entry closing date and time.
4. **Entries are to be submitted using FeisFWD.** Please check with your teacher which sections you are eligible to enter. Please ensure that your AIDA Registration number and age are correct and that the Family Fee has been included.
5. All competitors must be ready to commence their section at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. The Feis organizing committee have the right to commence sections up to 30 minutes prior to the advertised start time.
6. It is the competitors' responsibility to be in the marshalling area when called; otherwise, they will miss their section.
7. AIDA Vic reserves the right to amend the order of dances at any time.
8. Competitors will be required to dance to music supplied by the Association.
9. If there is a problem with the music, either manual or recorded, the dancer will be permitted to re-dance.
10. If a dancer loses a heel or complete shoe, he/she may stand back allowing the other dancer to continue dancing uninhibited. Such a dancer will then be allowed to re-dance.
11. If a dancer falls the adjudicator **must** ring the bell. The dancer will be permitted to re-dance at the adjudicator's discretion.
12. a) If the judges ring the bell to stop a performance during the last eight (8) bars in Round 1 or Round 2, the dancers will only be required to dance the last 16 bars of that dance.
b) If the judges ring the bell to stop a performance during any part of an open solo set dance, the dancer will perform the entire dance for their re-dance.
c) If the adjudicators ring the bell to stop a performance any sooner than the last eight (8) bars during a RE-DANCE in Round 1 or Round 2, the judges will decide (by majority vote conducted via the organising committee) if a full dance is required or if an exception can be made to require only the last 16 bars of that dance. (March 2025)
13. Should a dancer bump or slip, they may be allowed to re-dance at the adjudicator's discretion.
14. Where a dancer fails to finish his/her performance in any given round, in a Championship/Premiership, the dancer is to be given zero marks by each adjudicator for that round.
15. **The ZERO POINTS RULE will apply**
 - a. *If a competitor fails to dance or complete the first round of a Solo Championship, they will receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round. As a courtesy, they will be allowed to dance the second round and whilst they will receive marks from each adjudicator, they will automatically receive ZERO points and will not be allowed to progress further in the Championship.*
 - b. *If a competitor fails to dance or complete the second round of a Solo Championship, they will receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round and will not be allowed to progress any further in the Championship.*
 - c. *A competitor who fails to dance or complete the open set dance round will receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round, and cannot appear in a medal-winning position.*

- d. The term “complete” means that all bars as outlined in the syllabus are danced without any stops (other than brief, choreographed pauses).
- e. Competitors beginning to dance before or after the stipulated 8-bar introduction will automatically receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round.
- f. Competitors beginning to dance before or after the stipulated set dance introduction will automatically receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round.
16. 16. Lead Round - heavy dancing. In all competitions all heavy dances i.e. Jig and Hornpipe, the Lead Round **must** be danced on both right and left foot. **Where a dancer is required to perform a step on the right foot and left foot, all movements in the first 8 bars of footwork must be replicated on the opposite foot in the second 8 bars.**
17. No block, over toe, en point movement, stationary or moving is allowed to be performed in any age group up to and including the 11 years.
18. Facial make up is not permitted for any dancer under the age of 10 years. Tanning of the legs is permitted.
19. Length of costumes must adhere to principles of modesty and enable dancers to safely execute their movements and steps. 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.
20. In order to protect dancers from hazardous objects on stage while competing, costumes may not be decorated with feathers.
21. Appropriate underwear must be worn. Where tights are worn they must be of a denier not less than 70.
22. The use of artificial arm/carriage aids is not permitted. Any competitor found to be using artificial carriage aids, and subsequently refuses to remove same, will be subject to disqualification from that particular competition.
23. Respect for fellow competitors on stage is a requirement at all times. Lack of respect or courtesy for fellow competitors by aggressive dancing on stage will be subject to penalty at the discretion of each individual adjudicator.
24. The Adjudicator’s decision is final; no correspondence will be entered into.
25. To receive prizes or awards, competitors must be in full dancing costume including **light** shoes.
26. Dancers are reminded to wear appropriate dress at all times whilst at the Feis (especially in the Hall/Auditorium area). Tracksuit pants/shorts & tops must be worn whilst practicing, warming up or not in costume. The wearing of only leotards/bloomers when not in costume is not considered suitable attire.
27. All dancers must change in the dressing rooms.
28. No food or drink is to be consumed in the main area of the hall.
29. Smoking is not permitted within any part of the premises.
30. No hairspray or aerosol sprays are to be used in the main area of the hall, change rooms or foyer.

31. Social Media and Video / Photography

AIDA Victoria prioritises child safety but understands the importance of celebrating the hard work and achievements of dancers participating at this event.

Live streaming / or posting of results (image and / or name) may occur if deemed appropriate by the AIDA Vic Executive. This will be conducted by an AIDA Vic appointed Social Media Team who may take photographs and videos of competitors, competitions and prize giving ceremonies.

If you or your child DO NOT wish to be photographed or appear on AIDA Vic social media platforms in any capacity, you can advise this by emailing our Child Safety Officer – childsafety@aidavic.com by closing date of entries

No cameras, tape recorders, video cameras, mobile phones cameras, pagers or mobile phones are to be used by members of the audience whilst a competition is in progress. Under Government copyright, privacy and safety laws, all unauthorized recording of sound and image is strictly prohibited. Any offender will be requested to leave the audience by an AIDA Vic member who will delete illegally copied sound / vision.

Please note:

Other than photographs taken by the AIDA Vic Social Media Team, all photographs of the competitors, competitions and presentations may only be taken for personal use. They must not be redistributed, sold, lent or passed onto third parties. Professional photography equipment will not be permitted inside the venue.

32. Competitors enter at their own risk regarding injury. AIDA Victoria Inc. will take all due care to provide a safe environment but will not accept any liability for injuries sustained. Lodgement of an entry will be deemed to be an acceptance of this provision by a dancer.

33. Lodgement of an entry shall be taken to signify that the Teacher, Parents and Pupils concerned accept these rules in full and agree to strictly abide by them.

34. Parents are responsible for their children's behaviour both within and outside the hall.

CEILI SYLLABUS

- **Dancers may enter a maximum of 5 Ceili Sections (Four Hand, Six Hand and Eight Hand) One Progressive Dance plus Own Choreography 2, 3, 4 Hand and Figure Dance sections.**
- **There is no limit to the number of teams per school**

Under 8	Walls of Limerick Girls (64 Bars), Walls of Limerick Mixed (64 Bars) <u>118bpm</u> Sections may be combined once entry numbers are confirmed Eight Hand Girls, Eight Hand Mixed – Choice of Figure and speed
Under 10	Walls of Limerick Girls (64 Bars), Walls of Limerick Mixed (64 Bars) <u>118bpm</u> Sections may be combined once entry numbers are confirmed Four Hand Reel Girls (2nd Figure), Four Hand Reel Mixed (2nd Figure) <u>116bpm</u> Eight Hand Girls, Eight Hand Mixed – Choice of Figure Six Hand Girls, Six Hand Mixed – <u>Fairy Reel 116bpm – one rotation (96bars)</u> Two Hands (48 Bars 2 at a time on stage to open music speed 113 combined Girls & Mixed) Three Hand (48 Bars 2 at a time on stage to open music speed 113 combined Girls & Mixed)
Under 12	Four Hand Reel Girls (<u>2nd Figure</u>), Four Hand Reel Mixed (<u>2nd Figure</u>) <u>116bpm</u> Eight Hand Girls, Eight Hand Mixed – Choice of Figure and speed Six Hand Girls, Six Hand Mixed – <u>Fairy Reel 116bpm – one rotation (96 bars)</u> Two Hand (48 Bars 2 at a time on stage to open music speed 113 combined Girls & Mixed) Three Hand Girls, Three Hand Mixed (Maximum 96 Bars) Under 12 Progressive Dance <u>Walls of Limerick</u> (3 rounds 96 Bars) Junior Figure Dance (Under 12)
Under 15	Humours of Bandon Girls (<u>2nd Figure</u>), Humours of Bandon Mixed (<u>2nd Figure</u>) <u>115bpm</u> Eight Hand Girls, Eight Hand Mixed – Choice of Figure and speed Six Hand Girls, Six Hand Mixed – <u>Duke Reel – 114bpm – (96 bars)</u> Two Hand Girls, Two Hand Mixed (Maximum 72 Bars) Three Hand (48 Bars 2 at a time on stage to open music speed 113 combined Girls & Mixed) Own Choreography Four Hand Jig (48 Bars one at a time to Jig 116 combined Girls & Mixed) Intermediate Progressive Dance – <u>Harvest Time Jig</u> (2 rounds, (128 bars) Intermediate Figure Dance (Under 15)

Under 18	Four hand Reel Girls (First Figure), Four Hand Reel Mixed (First Figure) 113bpm Eight Hand Girls, Eight Hand Mixed – Choice of Figure and speed
Open Age	Humours of Bandon Girls (1st Figure), 115bpm Humours of Bandon Mixed (1st Figure) 115bpm Eight Hand Girls, Eight Hand Mixed - Choice of Figure and speed Six Hand Girls, Six Hand Mixed – Glencar Reel – 114bpm - two rotations (112bars) Two Hand (48 Bars 2 at a time on stage to open music speed 113 combined Girls & Mixed Three Hand (48 Bars 2 at a time on stage to open music speed 113 combined Girls & Mixed) Senior Progressive Dance (16 & over) – Rince Fada (3 rounds 96 Bars) Own Choreography Four Hand Jig Girls (Maximum 96 Bars) Own Choreography Four Hand Jig Mixed (Maximum 96 Bars) Senior Figure Dance (Open Age)
Adult	Antrim Reel (Danced twice though, 128 bars, as a progressive dance with a maximum of 8 dancers. Danced 2 teams at a time on stage with the leading couple at the top of the room or to the left of the adjudicator.) speed 116bpm Female Adult Dancers participating in Adult competitions entitled “Adult Competitions” both solos and teams are required to wear tights of a denier not less than 70.

Dance	Part A	Part B
Morris Reel	Lead Around, Body and 1st Figure (Tops only)	Lead Around, Body and 2nd Figure (Tops only)
Cross Reel	As above	As above
Eight-hand Reel	As above	As above
Eight-hand Jig	As above	As above
Trip to the Cottage	Lead Around, Body and 1st Figure (1st Tops only)	Lead Around, Body and 2nd Figure (Tops only)
High Caule'd Cap	Lead Around, Body and 1st Figure (1st Tops only)	Lead Around, Body and 2nd Figure (1st Tops only)
St. Patrick's Day	Lead Around, Body and 1st Figure (Tops only)	Lead Around, Body and 2nd Figure (Tops only)

Ceilí Dancing Championships Rules and Directives

1. These rules and directives must be read in conjunction with the general rules and other relevant sections of this syllabus. Please note that some rules for the Victorian Ceili Championships vary from those pertaining to the Australian Championships.
2. The full name of each team member must be listed on the official entry team list and submitted by the official closing date of entries. Any subsequent changes must be notified in writing to the Organising Committee.
3. All Ceilí teams entered as Teams A B C etc. must dance in the position in which they are balloted, and the composition of the whole team cannot be changed after the entry has been submitted.
4. A dancer must not be a member of more than one team in the same competition except in the case of an unforeseen emergency and then only with the consent of the Organising Committee.
5. An emergency is defined as an event which happens either within 7 days immediately preceding, or during the course of the Championships. A formal application must be made in writing to the Organising Committee, and medical emergencies must be accompanied by a medical certificate. In the event of an unforeseen emergency, the acceptance of the written application will be determined by the Organising Committee.
6. If a team presents to marshalling and is not the team as listed on the entries; where no official notification of change has been received by the Organising Committee, the team will be permitted to dance but will not appear in the official result.
7. Apart from the variations described below, dances must be performed in accordance with the latest edition of Ar Rincí Ceilí, unless otherwise indicated in the directive on ceilí dances published by CLRG. Movements and figures must be performed in the order specified and the dancers must move in the manner stipulated. Where neither Ar Rincí Ceilí nor the directive specifies how a particular movement should be performed, the teacher may use his/her discretion with regard to interpretations. Unnecessary embellishments must be avoided.

8. Ceili dances not performed in the correct order per 'Ár Rincí Céilí 2014' and/or are not compliant in performing the required part (A or B) as stipulated in this syllabus, shall receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from each adjudicator and cannot be featured in the final result.
9. In the case of mixed teams, the mixed component must dance the figure.
10. For the purpose of the Victorian Championships Part A and Part B of the stipulated 8 Hand dances (other than the Sweets of May, Gates of Derry, Lannigan's Ball and The Three Tunes) will be as follows:
 - For the purposes of these Championships:
 - **The Gates of Derry** and **Lannigan's Ball** will be regarded as eight hand dances
 - In the case of **The Sweets of May**, teams will perform the dance from the beginning up to and including the 3rd Figure
 - In the case of **The Gates of Derry** teams will dance from the beginning up to and including the 'swing around' of the 1st repeat of the dance
 - In the case of **Lannigan's Ball** teams will perform the full dance
 - In the case of **The Three Tunes** teams will perform the dance from the beginning up to and including the **Hook and Chain**
11. A team in a competition for Ceili, own choreography or figure dancing may include dancers who are under the age limit stipulated for the competition subject to conditions 11 – 15.
12. A teacher may include a number of dancers not exceeding 50% of a Ceilí team or 50% of a figure team without seeking prior permission, but must inform the competition organisers in writing prior to the competition and furnish the names of the underage dancers.
13. Where the number of under aged dancers allowed dance in the higher age group exceeds 50% in ceilí or 50% in figure, only 50% in Ceilí or 50% in figure may also compete in teams in the lower age group.
14. The members of a team must be the pupils of the same school.
15. Up to 50% of a girls' team competing in a girls' Ceilí championship may also dance across in a competition for mixed teams.
16. Maximum number of Ceilí championships in which a dancer can take part is five (5) whether in one or more age groups. (This does not include Progressive Dance, Own Choreography & Figure Dance sections)
17. Directives of CLRG for Ceilí dancing will apply. Refer to the 2026 World Syllabus. For the purposes of the Victorian Championships, in a mixed Ceili team, any number of boys will be allowed as long as it does not exceed 50% of the team.
18. Adult dancers may compete in Open Ceili Teams, with the understanding that this may affect their eligibility to compete in Adult competitions overseas. In Australia, competing in Open Ceili teams will not affect a dancer's eligibility to compete in Adult Solo competitions in Australia.
19. Adult Ceili Section Eligibility – An adult ceili dancer is classed as an Irish Dancer aged 18 years or over who no longer wants to compete in the mainstream Ladies/Men sections and hasn't competed in any competition other than an adult section in the previous 5 years.
NOTE: An Adult Irish Dancer who has competed in non-adult sections in the previous 5 years due to the lack of availability of adult sections, may apply via their teachers, to their State Branch, for the 5-year stipulation to be waived. These dancers, however, must not have placed in the top 50% of a non-adult championship section (including online competitions) where the section contained more than 5 competitors. Applications need to be submitted at time of entry. (Special Resolution Vote - June 2024)
20. Female Adult Dancers participating in Adult competitions entitled "Adult Competitions" both solos and teams are required to wear tights of a denier not less than 70.

Own Choreography Championships Rules and Directives

Own Choreography Reel in Couples (2Hand) Under 15

Dance must comprise a maximum 72 bars (not including introduction) of Reel music

1. No story allowed, either read or sung.
2. Inappropriate, offensive, provocative, violent or explicit sexual content must not be included.
3. Must be performed in team costume.
4. Teachers are permitted to use pre-recorded accompaniment for Choreography Sections. Where a team opts to use pre-recorded accompaniment, the teacher must comply with all rules pertaining to same.
5. The number of teams per school is unlimited in either mixed, girls or both.
6. Each team member should dance continuously for the duration of the dance.
7. Pauses found in Ceilí dancing permitted.
8. Steps are permitted if desired.
9. Dancers may (up to 50%) dance in both a girls and a mixed team.
10. Where a teacher has insufficient dancers within an age group, a maximum of 50% of underage dancers may be included in a team.
11. Dance must be performed in soft shoes.

NOTE: All other age groups will dance 48 bars. Other rules above (with the exception of Rule 10) still apply

Own Choreography Three Hand Under 12

Dance must comprise of a maximum of 96 bars (not including the introduction) of Reel music

1. No story allowed, either read or sung.
2. Inappropriate, offensive, provocative, violent or explicit sexual content must not be included.
3. Must be performed in team costume.
4. Teachers are permitted to use pre-recorded accompaniment for Choreography Sections. Where a team opts to use pre-recorded accompaniment, the teacher must comply with all rules pertaining to same.
5. The number of teams per school is unlimited in either mixed, girls or both.
6. Each team member should dance continuously for the duration of the dance.
7. Pauses found in ceilí dancing permitted.
8. Steps are permitted if desired.
9. Dancers may (1 in 3) dance in both a girls and a mixed team.
10. Where a teacher has insufficient dancers within an age group, a maximum of 50% (1 in 3 for 3 Hand) of underage dancers may be included in a team.
11. Dance must be performed in soft shoes.

NOTE: All other age groups will dance 48 bars. Other rules above (with the exception of Rule 10) still apply

Own Choreography Four Hand Open Age

Dance must not exceed 96 bars of music, not including introduction

1. Dance must be in 6/8 timing – jig.
2. No story allowed either read or sung.
3. Inappropriate, offensive, provocative, violent or explicit sexual content must not be included.
4. Must be performed in team costume.
5. Teachers are permitted to use pre-recorded accompaniment for Choreography Sections. Where a team opts to use pre-recorded accompaniment, the teacher must comply with all rules pertaining to same.
6. The number of teams per school is unlimited, in either mixed or girls sections or both.
7. Each team member should dance continuously for the duration of the dance.
8. Pauses found in ceilí dancing permitted.
9. Steps are permitted.
10. Dancers may (up to 50%) dance in both a girls and a mixed team.
11. Where a teacher has insufficient dancers within an age group, a maximum of 50% of underage dancers may be included in a team.
12. Dance must be performed in soft shoes.

NOTE: All other age groups will dance 48 bars. Other rules above (with the exception of Rule 11) still apply

Figure Dancing Championships Rules and Directives

1. These rules and directions must be read in conjunction with the general rules and other relevant sections of this syllabus and those contained in the 2026 World Syllabus.
2. Every dance must be capable of being performed on a stage not greater than 30' x 30' i.e. 9.14m X 9.14m.
3. Each team must consist of no fewer than eight (8) dancers and not more than sixteen (16) dancers.
4. Dance must be performed in team costume.
5. Each dance must portray by movements an Irish theme or item.
6. Basic steps found in Ar Rincí Ceilí are strongly recommended. **Solo dancing steps are not permitted as part of a Figure Dance.**
7. Each team member must be on stage from the commencement of the dance and shall dance continuously for the duration of the dance except where, to emphasise a figure, short pauses for up to 4 bars may be permitted.
8. Where an entire team pauses to emphasise a figure etc. the pause must not exceed four bars of music. Pauses for longer than 4 bars by some team members are allowed (as in ceili dancing) if other team members continue to dance.
9. Teachers are required to submit an account of their dance prior to the commencement of the competition. This account must not exceed 200 words. Please note that a 'word' is two or more letters.
10. Where a team opts to use pre-recorded accompaniment, the teacher must comply with all rules pertaining to same.
11. A dance must not exceed 4 minutes duration from the beginning to end of the dance. All music will be strictly timed.

12. Each dance will be timed and the timing will commence from the start of the music playing and finish when the music stops. Additional music will be permitted for walk offs.
13. Only Irish music or music of related ethnic origin in 2/4, 4/4, 6/8 or 9/8 time, or a combination of those times will be permitted. Any change of music must be for at least 16 bars.
14. The arrangements for musical accompaniment are set out below.
15. There is no restriction on hand movements and hand claps are permitted.
16. Elements to be considered in a team's performance include:
 - a. Portrayal of story through Dance;
 - b. Figure Content;
 - c. Footwork and execution;
 - d. Teamwork and Presentation.
17. Directives from An Coimisiún as contained in the World Syllabus 2026 will apply.
18. Stance and body movement must be performed with modesty in mind.
19. The throwing of a dancer or any form of acrobatics including, but not limited to somersaults, backward and forward rolls, handstands etc. are strictly prohibited.
20. The story will be read prior to each team's performance and no music will be permitted while the story is being read.
21. The members of a team must be members of the same dancing school.

Choreography and Figure Dancing Championships: Musical Rights

Where a team opts to use pre-recorded accompaniment, it is imperative that the person submitting music for use as accompaniment for a Choreography or Figure Dance either, owns all rights to the music, or has been licensed to use the music for the purpose of a stage performance.

