

# **FESTIVAL RULES**

## **RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL COMPETITIONS HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE FESTIVAL DANCE TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION**

### **Eligibility**

1. In order to be eligible to compete at FDTA competitions a dancer must be a pupil at a dancing school where one or more of the teachers is a member of the FDTA at the date of the competition. Where a dancer transfers from one dancing school to another, they will not be eligible to compete at any Irish Dancing competition for a period of six months from the date of their first attendance at the new school.
2. The age group in which a dancer competes is to be reckoned at 1 January of that year. Solo dancers may only compete in their own age group. Team dancers may compete in an older age group subject to the rules for team dancing set out below.

### **Conduct at festivals - General**

3. At all Festivals organised by the FDTA, competitors may dance "local" at only one Festival. Each Festival will decide whether or not to have confined classes.
4. No competitor up to and including 11 – 12 Years may use make up or false tan unless exceptional medical grounds warrant it. Wigs are not permitted at any age.
5. Championship winners cannot be awarded a Most Promising Prize at the same Festival.
6. A Novice Dancer is someone who has not competed Solo at any other Open competition (excludes their own Class Festival or a confined/local competition).
7. If a dancer stops in any dance including a Championship, through error in dance, he or she will be disqualified. Competitors may complete their Championship, if desired but will not be marked.
8. Dancers may be penalised for obstructing another dancer on stage at the adjudicator's discretion. Accidental bumping shall not be penalised.
9. A member of the FDTA cannot compete as a solo dancer at FDTA competitions
10. No dancer may change or be seen to be in a state of undress in any public venue at any festival
11. All winners must present themselves on stage in full costume, including footwear, to receive their prizes. If a winner does not comply with this rule their prize will be handed to them by one of the stage stewards. (Special Awards will be an exception to this rule.)
12. Only teachers and festival organisers may be at the side or back of the stage or floor.
13. Competition Winners will be responsible for returning their cup or trophy in a good state of repair, clean and undamaged. Winners will be obliged to reimburse the FDTA the cost of any repairs.
14. A dancer must have competed in two solo classes to be eligible to compete in the Championship at that festival.

### **Competition structure**

15. The Reels, Any Light Jig and Treble Jig / Hornpipe classes are to be split into three sections as follows:

A NPW - Reel, Any Light Jig and Treble Jig / Hornpipe.

This includes all dancers who have not been placed first or second in an open festival. A dancer being a PW in Heavy Dancing does not eliminate them from the NPW Light Dancing. If a Dancer who is NPW competes in a Championship at any non-FDTA Festival, then they must forfeit NPW status and dance PW at all future Festivals.

Those placed first or second in a NPW class move to;-

B INTERMEDIATE - Reel, Any Light Jig and Treble Jig / Hornpipe

Those placed first or second in an Intermediate class move to;-

C. UPPER - Reel, Any Light Jig and Treble Jig / Hornpipe.

16. Only competitors in the Upper Treble Jig / Hornpipe class will be eligible to dance in a championship class .

17. Under 6 Years - In Non FDTA festivals a child who wins 1st or 2nd in an Under 6 Years open class moves to intermediate. In FDTA festivals an U6 who wins 1st in the open class, their teacher has the choice as to whether they go into Upper or Intermediate when they move into U7. An U6 who wins 2nd in the open class goes into Intermediate

18. A child in U6 can dance in U7 Championship if they have obtained 1st in their light dance and 1st in their heavy dance.

19. 1st, 2nd and 3rd places may be awarded in the NPW and Intermediate Treble Jig / Hornpipe classes. These classes cannot be split. Adjudicators must split ALL upper classes both light and heavy when awarding places.

### **Team dances**

20. Couples and Three Hand Dances. From Under 7 Years up to Under 11 Years there will be a couples and Three Hand Class in each age group. Dancers may compete in only one or other of these classes and at least one person must be in the age group. From Under 12 Years and above dancers may compete in both a Couples and Three Hand class.

21. Dancers may dance a couples in one age group and then dance up in an age group to accommodate an older dancer. A dancer can dance a maximum of two couples dances.

22. In Team Dancing a competitor may only dance twice in the age group (either twice in Standard teams or twice in Original teams or once in each class). However In Senior classes competitors may dance twice in each.

23. A competitor may not repeat the same dance within the age group.

24. A dancer must only compete in teams for their own school, except on the day of a Festival when they may fill in for another school, but must wear their own School Costume. Dancers who have already danced twice for their own School may not dance for another school.

25. No dancer may compete in a lower age group in team dancing.

26. Adult Classes: Competitors may only dance twice and must be over the age of 18 years.

27. Props may not be used in original team dancing. (A prop is considered to be anything over and above the dancers clothing). NB: Hats will be considered as a prop.

28. Dance Drama. Ulster Championships only. Open age. 15 minutes maximum stage time allowed. Only one team per School

### **Ulster Championships**

29. Competitors for the Ulster Championship may only qualify at an FDTA Festival held in the 12 months prior to that Ulster Championship. To qualify a dancer must be placed by the adjudicator at a championship danced at the festival. In a championship with 10 or more dancers a minimum of 8 places must be awarded and up to a maximum of 10 places

may be awarded and these competitors will qualify for the Ulster Championships. Ties will be allowed. If there are ten competitors or less dancing in a Championship, a minimum of 3 places must be awarded and a maximum of 8 places. Places in non FDТА championships are not taken into account.

30. If competitor stops in a Championship, through error in dance, no mark shall be awarded and competitor cannot qualify for Ulster Championships at that Festival.

31. Ulster qualifiers must be submitted to the Chairperson at the end of the Festival, by the Festival secretary or if this is not possible, then at the next meeting of the Association. The Qualifying Secretary is responsible for making out the Master Sheet. Dancers who qualify for the Ulster Championships may only compete if the appropriate entry fee is paid by the closing date and if they meet the eligibility criteria set out at Rule 1 above.

32. Every School whose pupils wish to compete at the Ulster Championships must pay £50 sponsorship towards the event regardless of whether entry is in teams or solos. Dancers may not compete, notwithstanding qualification, if the sponsorship is not paid by their school.

### **Entries**

33. All entries must be submitted by an FDТА member on the entry forms proscribed by the FDТА. The entries must be sent to the Festival Secretary. The Fees must be sent to the Treasurer by way of a post-dated cheque made payable to the FDТА for the total fees due for all entries on the form. The Entry Form must be received by the Festival Secretary and the entry fees by the Treasurer before the Festival closing date. One week's grace will be allowed after the closing date. Thereafter entries and cheques will be returned to sender without exception and competitors will not be eligible to compete.

34. Late entries will only be accepted on the day if the School to which the competitor belongs who is wishing to enter late has submitted an entry by the closing date but the fees payable by that competitor will be double the standard entry fees for each dance.

### **Adjudicators**

35. The Adjudicator's decision will be final.

36. No person may approach the adjudicator during the festival other than the festival organisers.

### **Musicians**

37. Musicians may not be approached by dancers or their parents during the Festival.

38. Teachers may not approach musicians whilst a dancer is competing.

### **Complaints**

39. Any complaint against infringement of the rules must be submitted in writing to the Honorary Secretary, and accompanied by £5.00 within 2 days of the alleged infringement. The fee will be refunded if the complaint is upheld.

### **Child Protection**

40. All FDТА events shall be run in compliance with the FDТА Child Protection Policy

41. Any form of unauthorised photography which has the capability to capture a dancer's image whilst in motion, using electronic or manual means e.g. mobile phone, standard camera, video camcorder, cine recorder or commercial film with or without flash enhancement is expressly forbidden in competition

42. Visitors or guests at an FDTA competition may be excluded or requested to leave if the festival organisers decide entirely that their own discretion that it is in the interests of the FDTA to do so.

### Format of programmes

43. Rules 10,11 and 39 shall be included on each programme for an FDTA festival

44. A copy of the Rules shall be provided to each adjudicator before the commencement of an FTDA competition.

### Specimen Syllabus

44. The syllabus below has been included as a reference guide only

#### Under 7 Years

- 115 Reel Open (U6)
- 116 Any Light Jig (U6)
- 117 Treble Jig(U6)
- 1A Reel NPW
- 1B Reel Intermediate
- 1C Reel Upper
- 2A Any Light Jig NPW
- 2B Any Light Jig Intermediate
- 2C Any Light Jig Upper
- 3 Novice
- 4 Boys Any Choice
- 5 Couples Dance
- 6 3 Hand Dance
- 7A Heavy D Jig NPW
- 7B Heavy D Jig Int
- 7C Heavy D Jig Upper
- 8 Championship
- 9 Any Team (4 or more)

#### 8 – 9 Years

- 19A Reel NPW
- 19B Reel Intermediate
- 19C Reel Upper (Reel Champions Glenravel only)
- 19D Reel champions excluded (Glenravel only)
- 20A Any Light Jig NPW
- 20B Any Light Jig Intermediate
- 20C Any Light Jig Upper
- 21A Heavy D Jig NPW
- 21B Heavy D Jig Intermediate
- 21C Heavy D Jig Upper
- 22 Novice
- 23 Boys Any Choice
- 24 Couples Dance
- 25 3 Hand Dance
- 26 Any Team (4 or more)
- 27 Championship

#### 7 – 8 Years

- 10A Reel NPW
- 10B Reel Intermediate#
- 10C Reel Upper
- 11A Any Light Jig NPW
- 11B Any Light Jig Intermediate
- 11C Any Light Jig Upper
- 12A Heavy D Jig NPW
- 12B Heavy D Jig Intermediate
- 12C Heavy D Jig Upper
- 13 Novice
- 14 Boys Any Choice
- 15 Couples Dance
- 16 3 Hand Dance
- 17 Any Team (4 or more)
- 18 Championship (Under 8 Yrs)

#### 9 – 10 Years

- 28A Reel NPW
- 28B Reel Intermediate
- 28C Reel Upper (Reel Champions Glenravel only)
- 28D Reel champions excluded (Glenravel only)
- 29A Any Light Jig NPW
- 29B Any Light Jig Intermediate
- 29C Any Light Jig Upper
- 30A TJ/HP NPW
- 30B TJ/HP Intermediate
- 30C TJ/HP Upper
- 31 Novice
- 32 Boys Any Choice
- 33 Couples Dance
- 34 3 Hand Dance
- 35 Championship

## 10 – 11 Years

- 36A Reel NPW
- 36B Reel Intermediate
- 36C Reel Upper (Reel Champions Glenravel only)
- 36D Reel champions excluded (Glenravel only)
- 37A Any Light Jig NPW
- 37B Any Light Jig Intermediate
- 37C Any Light Jig Upper
- 38A TJ/HP NPW
- 38B TJ/HP Intermediate
- 38C TJ/HP Upper
- 39 Novice
- 40 Boys Any Choice
- 41 Couples Dance
- 42 3 Hand Dance
- 43 Championship

## 9 – 11 Years

- 44 Any Team (4 or more)
- 45 Any Std Team (4 or more)

## 12 – 13 Years

- 54A Reel NPW
- 54B Reel Intermediate
- 54C Reel Upper (Reel Champions Glenravel only)
- 54D Reel champions excluded (Glenravel only)
- 55A Any Light Jig NPW
- 55B Any Light Jig Intermediate]#
- 55C Any Light Jig Upper
- 56A TJ/HP NPW
- 56B TJ/HP Intermediate
- 56C TJ/HP Upper
- 57 Novice
- 58 Boys Any Choice
- 59 Couples Dance
- 60 3 Hand Dance
- 61 Championship

## 11 – 13 Years

- 62 Any Team (4 or more)
- 63 Any Std Team (4 or more)

## 13 – 15 Years

- 80 Any Team (4 or more)
- 81 Any Std Team (4 or more)

## 11 – 12 Years

- 46A Reel NPW
- 46B Reel Intermediate
- 46C Reel Upper (Reel Champions Glenravel only)
- 46D Reel champions excluded (Glenravel only)
- 47A Any Light Jig NPW
- 47B Any Light Jig Intermediate
- 47C Any Light Jig Upper
- 48A TJ/HP NPW
- 48B TJ/HP Intermediate
- 48C TJ/HP Upper
- 49 Novice
- 50 Boys Any Choice
- 51 Couples Dance
- 52 3 Hand Dance
- 53 Championship

## 13 – 14 Years

- 64A Reel NPW 13-15
- 64B Reel Intermediate
- 64C Reel Upper (Reel Champions Glenravel only)
- 64D Reel champions excluded (Glenravel only)
- 65A Any Light Jig NPW 13-15
- 65B Any Light Jig Intermediate
- 65C Any Light Jig Upper
- 66A Tr Jig/H'pipe NPW 13-15
- 66B TJ/HP Intermediate
- 66C TJ/HP Upper
- 67 Boys Any Choice
- 68 Treble Reel
- 69 Couples Dance
- 70 3 Hand Dance
- 71 Championship

## 14 – 15 Years

- 72B Reel Intermediate
- 72C Reel Upper (Reel Champions Glenravel only)
- 72D Reel champions excluded (Glenravel only)
- 73B Any Light Jig Intermediate
- 73C Any Light Jig Upper
- 74B TJ/HP Intermediate
- 74C TJ/HP Upper
- 75 Boys Any Choice
- 76 Treble Reel
- 77 Couples Dance
- 78 3 Hand Dance
- 79 Championship

### **15 – 16 Years**

- 82 Reel Open
- 83 Any Light Jig Open
- 84 TJ/HP Open
- 85 Boys Any Choice
- 86 Treble Reel
- 87 Championship

### **15 – 17 Years**

- 94 Couples Dance
- 95 3 Hand Dance
- 96 Any Team (4 or more)
- 97 Any Std Team (4 or more)

### **Over 19 Years**

- 104 Reel Open
- 105 Any Light Jig Open
- 106 TJ/HP Open
- 107 Treble Reel
- 108 Championship 19 and over

### **Fees**

45. Entry fees for competitions shall be as advised on the festival syllabus. At present the entry fees are;-

**Solo: £2.50**

**Championship: £3.50**

**Couples & Threes: £1.00**

**Teams: 50p**

### **16 – 17 Years**

- 88 Reel Open
- 89 Any Light Jig Open
- 90 TJ/HP Open
- 91 Boys Any Choice
- 92 Treble Reel
- 93 Championship

### **17 – 19 Years**

- 98 Reel Open
- 99 Any Light Jig Open
- 100 TJ/HP Open
- 101 Boys Any Choice
- 102 Treble Reel
- 103 Championship (17-19 Yrs)

### **Over 17 Years**

- 109 Couples Dance
- 110 3 Hand Dance
- 111 Any Team (4 or more)
- 112 Any Std Team (4 or more)

### **Adults**

- 113 Any Adult Team (4 or more)