



CLÁR NA gCOMÓRTAS 2026

All Fleadhanna are subject to Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil as published by the Ardchomhairle of Comhaltas. All entrants are understood to have consulted Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil.

ENTRY PROCEDURE

I) Entries, in Irish, if possible, shall be submitted to the CCÉ Branch Rúnaí/ Branch Secretary not later than six weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions. The CCÉ Rúnaí/Branch Secretary shall submit these entries to the County Secretary/Rúnaí Chontae not later than five weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions. Late entries shall not be accepted after the closing date.

II) The fee structure is outlined on the Fleadh Entry Form.

NOTE: In duet and trio competitions, the appropriate competition entry fee for both CCÉ member and for non-member shall apply.

III) Fleadh Cheoil competitions are open to non-members of CCÉ, entries to be sent with the appropriate fee directly to the County Secretary six weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh Cheoil Competition.

IV) Competitors may not enter in the name of their teachers or in the name of any other organisation other than a Comhaltas Branch unit. Non-member of CCÉ should enter their names and home address. Full addresses should not appear on the Clár.

V) Competitors, who are members of CCÉ, who qualify from County/Regional Fleadhanna to Provincial Fleadhanna and from Provincial Fleadhanna to All-Ireland Fleadhanna, do not pay an entry fee to the Fleadh for which they have qualified but do pay venue admission charge at the Fleadh in question. Fleadh entry fees do not cover venue admission charges.

VI) Winners of O-18(D) Competitions, winners of Mixed Set O-35 (47K), Ladies Set O-35 (48K) and Pipe Bands any Age (30E) at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in the previous year are ineligible to compete in the same competition, in the County / Regional or Provincial Fleadh, having as current All-Ireland Champions in these competitions, right-of-entry to the successive Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. This does not apply to winners of Newly Composed Ballads, Amhráin Nua-Cheaptha and Newly Composed Tunes.

RESIDENCY

In the case of all solo competitions, duet and trio competitions, eligible competitors are confined to residents of the County or Region in which the Fleadh is being held. In the case of Céilí Dancing, Set Dancing, Céilí Bands, Marching Bands and Grúpaí Ceoil, it is recommended that as far as possible, these also be residents of the county or region. Competitors shall be deemed to be residents of the County or Region only if ordinarily resident in that County/Region for a period of not less than six months in the previous twelve prior to the date of the qualifying Fleadh. In the case of competitions for Newly Composed Ballads in Irish, Newly Composed Ballads in English, and Newly Composed Tunes, the composer must be a resident of the county or region.

AGE GROUPS

The following age groups apply to Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

- A U-12:** a person whose 12th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

- B 12-15:** a person whose 13th, 14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

- C 15-18:** a person whose 16th, 17th or 18th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

- D O-18:** a person whose 19th or greater birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

- E Any Age**

- F U-18:** a person whose 18th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

- G U-9:** a person whose 9th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

- H 9-11:** a person whose 10th or 11th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

- I 11-13:** a person whose 12th or 13th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

J 13-15: a person whose 14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

K Age Group K applies to Mixed Set O-35 and Ladies Set O-35. All members of the set must have their 36th or greater birthday on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

NOTE: In the event of a dispute, a certificate of age must be produced within 7 days of the competition, if requested by the County / Regional / Provincial / C.E.C. Rúnaí. Failure to do so will entail automatic disqualification.

- I) In all Solo competitions, a competitor must compete in his/her own age group only.
- II) In Duets, Trios, Grúpaí Ceoil, Céilí Band and Marching Band competitions, a competitor may compete only once in any age group of the aforementioned competitions. A competitor may also compete in a higher age group, provided s/he changes instrument, but in Duets and Trios a minimum of one competitor must be in the higher age category.
- III) In Céilí Dancing a maximum of two dancers in the case of 8-Hand Céilí Dance and a maximum of one dancer in the case of 4 Hand Céilí Dance are allowed to dance in the next higher age group only, regardless of whether they have danced in their own age group or not. i.e. two dancers for 8-Hand and one dancer for 4-Hand U-12 may dance 12-15 but cannot dance 15-18. The same applies for 12-15, 15-18 and over 18.
- IV) In Set Dancing a maximum of two dancers in the case of full sets and a maximum of one dancer in the case of half sets are allowed to dance in the next higher age group only, regardless of whether they have danced in their own age group or not, i.e. Two dancers for full set dancing teams U-12 may dance 12-15 but cannot dance 15-18. The same applies for 12-15, 15-18 and O-18.

TUNE CATEGORIES / CLASSIFICATIONS OF TUNES AS PER RIALACHA FLEADHANNA CEOIL

All competitions shall be traditional in character and in conformity with the Bunreacht of CCÉ.

Air (slow or lively including O'Carolan or harp repertoire), Reel, Polka, Hornpipe, March, Double Jig, Slip Jig, Hop Jig, Single Jig, Slide, Set Dance, Mazurka, Planxty, Fling, Barn Dance, Schottische, Clan March, Highland, German and dance tunes played for céilí dances as per *Ár Rince Céilí* published by CLRG.

NOTE: Competitors shall play each tune twice only. In the case of a tune, which is played singly, a competitor may play such a tune to a maximum of four times.

Selections are not permissible in solos, duet, trios and are only permissible in céilí band competitions B, C, & D, Grúpaí Cheoil and Marching Band competitions.

RECALL No ties are permitted for 1st, 2nd or 3rd place.

- ◆ An adjudicator may **recall** a competitor to perform again. In the event of a recall for solo, duet, or trio, one new piece must be performed.
- ◆ Recall for Céilí Bands requirements: Age Groups A and B: one new piece, C and D two new reels in succession.
- ◆ In Amhránaíocht and Singing, all age groups, one new song of the competitor's choice shall be sung from the submitted list of songs.
- ◆ Slow Airs: one new air of the competitor's choice shall be played from the submitted list of airs.
- ◆ Recalled competitors must present themselves within 30 minutes.
- ◆ Failure to report will forfeit advantage.
- ◆ Where adjudicators are seated apart, they shall mark their adjudication sheets separately and the final result is compiled using the points system (11, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1). In the event of a tie on points the following shall apply: The call steward / clerk will refer to the placing already given by the relevant adjudicators, and take the overall majority of the relevant highest placing already allocated to the tied bands, so as to calculate a final and clear result and to minimize the number of bands having to perform again. (The majority decision shall always apply: in the case of three and five adjudicators, a 2:1 and at least a 3:2 majority respectively will apply).
- ◆ In the event of a further tie, bands will be required to play as per recall above.

COMÓRTAIS AONARACHA – SOLO INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC COMPETITIONS

Electronic or amplified instruments are not acceptable in any competition. Where a standard piano is not available, the organising Fleadh Coiste must provide a weighted key electronic piano. Competitors are not permitted to use their own electronic piano.

One instrument only: With the exception of competitors playing Mouth-Organ and Grúpaí Ceoil Competitions, the following rule applies: In Solo, Duet, Trio, Céilí Band and Marching Band competitions, competitors may not change instrument or set tuning during the performance.

In all Rogha Ghléis / Miscellaneous, Tionlacan / Accompaniment competitions, the instrument being played shall be listed on the official Fleadh entry form. This competitor / instrument combination must be maintained at all subsequent Fleadhanna in that year and listed on Fleadh programmes.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1 Fidil – Fiddle | A B C D |
| 2 Bosca Ceoil – Button Accordion | A B C D |
| 3 FeadógMhór – Flute | A B C D |

Feadóg Mhór / Flute: Instruments to include traditional simple system wooden flutes, also Boehm system, Radcliffe system etc. The pitch of the instrument or the material from which it is made is irrelevant for entry.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| 4 Feadóg – Whistle | A B C D |
|---------------------------|----------------|

A whistle can be defined as an instrument with a fipple and not more than six finger holes. The pitch of the instrument or the material from which it is made is irrelevant for entry.

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 5 Cairdín Pianó – Piano Accordion | A B C D |
| 6 Consairtín – Concertina | A B C D |
| 7 Píb Uilleann – Uilleann Pipes | A B C D |
| 8 Cruit – Irish Harp | A B C D |
| 9 Orgán Béil – Mouth Organ | A B C D |

A diatonic instrument in a fixed key, as distinct from a harmonica. A harmonica is a chromatic instrument, incorporating the use of a mechanism or lever, and must be played in the Rogha Ghléis competition.

10 Bainseó – Banjo	A B C D
11 Maindilín – Mandolin	A B C D
12 Pianó – Piano	A B C D
13 Mileoideon – Melodeon	A B C D

The single row accordion is not a melodeon and is not acceptable in the melodeon competition.

14 Rogha Ghléis - Miscellaneous **A B C D**

This category caters for all instruments, on which the melody can be played, not catered for in Solo Instrumental Competitions listed in Rule 8, 1-13.

- ◆ Electronic, mains or battery-powered instruments are not accepted.
- ◆ In competitions for Rogha Ghléis/Miscellaneous, a competitor may compete on one instrument only.
- ◆ In all competitions the instrument being played, and tuning if relevant, shall be listed on the official Fleadh Entry form.
- ◆ The competitor/instrument combination must be maintained at all subsequent Fleadhanna in that year.
- ◆ In all Fleadh programmes the competitor listings for Miscellaneous Competitions shall include the competitor's name and instrument.

Note (A) Eligible Instruments

The following instruments **are eligible** based on long standing precedence, and previous consideration and Coiste Ceoil/Ardchomhairle ruling:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| ◆ Warpipes | ◆ Hammered Dulcimer |
| ◆ Chromatic Harmonica | ◆ Saxophone |
| ◆ Guitar | ◆ Clarinet |
| ◆ Tenor Guitar | ◆ Melodica |
| ◆ Ukulele | ◆ Recorder |
| ◆ 'Cello | ◆ Fife |
| ◆ Viola | |
| ◆ Any other instrument wishing to enter must be approved by emailing eolas@comhaltas.ie with a picture and description of the instrument. Email to be sent FAO: Oifigeach Ceoil agus Oifigeach Comórtais. | |

Note (B) Non-Eligible Instruments

The following instruments are **not eligible** based on previous consideration and Coiste Ceoil/Ardchomhairle ruling:

- ◆ Low Whistle
- ◆ Whistle in F (or any other keys)
- ◆ Flute in 'F' (or any other keys)
- ◆ 5 String Fiddle
- ◆ Jews Harp
- ◆ Plectrum Banjo
- ◆ Single Row Accordion."

15 Tionlacan – Accompaniment A B C D

This category caters for instruments that use melodic accompaniment as opposed to melody. The accompanist in this accompaniment competition should not be penalised for starting first, i.e. setting the tempo. This accompaniment must be played throughout the performance. The aim of the competition is to adjudicate on the accompaniment only. In all Accompaniment competitions the instrument being played shall be listed on the Official Fleadh Entry Form. This competitor/instrument combination must be maintained at all subsequent Fleadhanna in that year. In all Fleadh Programmes, the competitor listings for Accompaniment Competitions shall include the competitors name and instrument. A maximum of two musicians are permitted to play for accompaniment competitions.

16 Bodhrán A B C D

A maximum of two musicians is permitted to play for competitors in the Bodhrán competition.

17 Drumaí Céilí – Céilí Band Drums A B C D

A maximum of two musicians is permitted to play for competitors in the céilí drumming competition.

COMPETITIONS 1–17:

Age groups A and B: One tune from each of two tune categories listed above.

Age Group C: One tune from each of three tune categories listed above.

Age Group D: One tune from each of four tune categories listed above.

NOTE: Senior Fiddle (1D), Flute (3D), Whistle (4D), Uilleann Pipes (7D) and Harp (8D) must include a slow air as one of their four tunes.

- ◆ Competitors shall play each tune twice only. In the case of a tune, which is played singly, a competitor may play such a tune to a maximum of four times.
- ◆ Selections are not permissible in solos, duet, trios and are only permissible in céilí band competitions B,C, & D, Grúpaí Cheoil and Marching Band competitions.

FOINN MHALLA – SLOW AIRS

18 FoinnMhalla, Fidil – Fiddle Slow Airs	A B C D
19 FoinnMhalla, Píob Uilleann – Uilleann Pipes Slow Airs	A B C D
20 FoinnMhalla, FeadógMhór – Flute Slow Airs	A B C D
21 FoinnMhalla, Feadóg – Whistle Slow Airs	A B C D
22 FoinnMhalla, Cruit – Harp Slow Airs	A B C D

- ◆ **Each Competitor shall submit a list of airs to the adjudicator and play as outlined in Age Groups A-D**

Age Group A: 1 air from list of 2 (adjudicator's choice)

Age Group B: 2 airs from a list of 4 (adjudicator selects the first, competitor the second)

Age Group C: 2 airs from list of 6 (adjudicator selects the first, competitor the second)

Age Group D: 2 airs from list of 8 (adjudicator selects both airs)

- ◆ Only slow airs in the traditional idiom will be accepted.
- ◆ No penalty shall be levied on a competitor in the Slow Airs Competition, if he/she plays the air through, only once.

CEOL BEIRTE AGUS CEOL TRÍR

23 Ceol Beirte – Duets **A B C D**

24 Ceol Trír – Trios **A B C D**

Age Groups A and B: One tune from each of two tune categories listed above

Age Group C: One tune from each of three tune categories listed above

Age Group D: One tune from each of four tune categories listed above

- ◆ A Duet shall comprise of two melody instruments. A senior duet (Age Group D) shall comprise of two different melody instruments. Duet members must at all times play the melody of the tune.
- ◆ A Trio shall comprise of three melody instruments. A senior trio (Age Group D) shall comprise of at least two different melody instruments. Trio members must at all times play the melody.
- ◆ In Duets and Trios, full names and addresses and Comhaltas Branches where appropriate, of all participants must be listed on the entry forms. The instrument being played by each competitor in the ensemble shall be clearly listed with the competitors name on the Official Fleadh Entry Form and subsequently in Fleadh Programmes. This competitor/instrument combination must be maintained at all subsequent Fleadhanna in that year; having qualified, no substitution of instrument or person allowed.

BANNAÍ CÉILÍ – CÉILÍ BANDS

25 Buíon Cheoil Chéilí – Céilí Bands **A B C D**

A céilí band shall consist of not less than 5 and not more than 10 members.

Age Group A: Céilí Bands shall play one tune from each of two tune categories

Age Group B: Céilí Bands shall play two reels in succession and one tune from one other tune category.

Age Group C: Céilí Bands shall play two reels in succession, plus one tune from each of two other categories.

Age Group D: Senior Céilí Bands, tunes required are two reels in succession, two jigs in succession and a maximum of two tunes from each of two other tune categories.

GRÚPAÍ CEOIL**26 Grúpaí Ceoil****A B C D**

- ◆ Grúpaí Ceoil shall consist of a minimum of 4 and maximum of 20 members.
- ◆ Each group shall perform its own choice of music for a minimum of 6 minutes and a maximum of 8 minutes, but with a limit of 10 minutes on stage. In competitions for Grúpaí Ceoil, whistlers and lilters may be included, as well as players of bodhrán and bones, but piano and drums are not permitted.
- ◆ Special attention should be paid to selection of tunes and efforts should be made to play tunes other than jigs, reels and hornpipes, e.g. slow airs, set dances, marches, flings, mazurkas, polkas, slides, schottisches, planxties, barn dances, clan marches, harp music and waltzes etc. to provide as much variety as possible. Slow airs need not be played by a solo performer.
- ◆ The programme presented by all Grúpaí Ceoil must be from within the Irish traditional idiom.
- ◆ Attention should also be given to instrumental arrangements and presentation of the music.
- ◆ A list of music pieces in the order to be played, e.g. slip jig, march, etc. and a list of instruments shall be submitted by each group leader to the competition clerk prior to the performance.

BANNAÍ MÁIRSEÁLA – MARCHING BANDS**27 Buíon Cheoil Mairseála, Cháirdín / Accordion Marching Bands F D****28 Buíon Cheoil Mairseál, Feadóg Mhór / Flute Marching Bands F D****29 Buíon Cheoil Mairseála, Rogha Ghléis /****Miscellaneous Marching Bands F D****30 Buíon Cheoil Mairseála Phíb / Pipe Marching Bands E**

Please note the age categories, which apply to these competitions

- ◆ Each band must play a minimum of two marches, plus a selection from the list of tunes classifications/ tune categories above page 5.
- ◆ Performance time shall be from 10 Minutes (minimum) to 12 Minutes (maximum). Two marks shall be deducted for each minute or part thereof, under 10 or over 12 minutes.
- ◆ Bands shall compete in an outdoor arena of 40 x 20 meters.

AMHRÁNAÍOCHT – SINGING

31 AmhráinGhaeilge (Mná) – Irish Singing (Ladies)	A B C D
32 AmhráinGhaeilge (Fir) – Irish Singing (Men)	A B C D
33 English Singing (Ladies) – AmhráinBhéarla (Mná)	A B C D
34 English Singing (Men) – AmhráinBhéarla (Fir)	A B C D

Age Group A: Two songs of his / her choice – ceann mall (slow) and ceannmear (lively).

Age Groups B and C: Two songs from a list of four submitted (two slow and two lively).

- ◆ The first song is selected by the adjudicator and the second contrasting song by the competitor.

Age Group D: Two Songs from a list of six submitted (4 slow and 2 lively).

- ◆ The first song is selected by the adjudicator, and the second contrasting song by the competitor. Lists must clearly denote the lively songs.

FEADAÍL AGUS PORTAIREACHT – WHISTLING AND LILTING

35 Feadaíl – Whistling	A B C D
36 Portaireacht – Lilting	A B C D

Age groups A and B: One tune from each of two tune categories listed above.

Age Group C: One tune from each of three tune categories listed above

Age Group D: One tune from each of four tune categories listed above

ÁMHRÁIN AGUS CEOL NUACHEAPTHA – NEWLY COMPOSED SONGS AND TUNES

- 37 Amhráin Nua Cheaptha, Gaeilge – Newly Composed Songs in Irish** **E**
- 38 Newly Composed Songs in English – Amhráin Nua Cheaptha, Béarla** **E**
- 39 Píosaí Cheoil Nua-Chumtha – Newly composed Tunes** **E**
- ◆ The tune or song must not have been previously entered in any Fleadh Cheoil competition, nor have been previously published or commercially recorded.
 - ◆ The composer(s) must be resident of the county or region in which the song or tune is entered.
 - ◆ The tune/song name must be maintained at all subsequent Fleadhanna in that year. In all Fleadh programmes the competitor listings for Competitions 37, 38 & 39 shall include the competitor's name and the name of the tune/song.
 - ◆ The newly composed tune must be traditional in character and must adhere to the tune categories specified for Fleadh Cheoil competitions.
 - ◆ A written copy of the song, or tune in staff notation only, signed by the composer must be submitted with the competition entry not later than six weeks prior to the first day of the County or Regional Fleadh competitions. The CCÉ Rúnaí / Branch Secretary shall submit these entries to the County Secretary / Rúnaí Chontae not later than five weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions. Only this original version of the tune, as submitted with entry, is acceptable in performance, i.e. no edits or changes are accepted should the tune or song subsequently qualify for Provincial or All-Ireland Fleadhanna. This original version must be performed at subsequent competition(s) should the tune qualify.
 - ◆ The newly composed tune shall be played two times through. The first time through, only the original version of the tune, as submitted with entry, is acceptable in performance; however, the second time through, variations are permitted. The newly composed song must have a lively tempo or slow tempo as previously defined. The tune

or song must be performed by a solo musician or singer, without accompaniment. The composer(s) may designate a musician or singer to perform the tune or song, and this performer may reside outside the county or region of the original entry.

- ◆ The tune or song will be judged solely on the merits of the composition and not on the standard of the performance.
- ◆ The name and full address of the composer(s) shall be written on the sheet containing the tune notation / song lyrics. A copy of the original song lyrics / tune will be forwarded together with the Fleadh results to the appropriate Provincial Fleadh and to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann if the song / tune qualifies.

COMÓRTAIS RINCE CÉILÍ / CÉILÍ DANCING

Competitions 40-43: Rince Céilí / Céilí Dancing Competitions

Ladies 8-Hand, Mixed 8-Hand, Ladies 4-Hand, Mixed 4-Hand Age Groups A, B, C and D

Competitors may only perform 4 Hand or 8 Hand Céilí Dances from *Ár Rincí Céilí* (Revision September 2014) and subsequent updates in the Céilí dancing handbook issued by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha, this set list approved by An Coiste Rince, CCÉ

1) ENTRIES:

CCÉ members: in Irish, if possible, Names of 8 team members for 8 Hand Céilí and 4 team members for 4 Hand Céilí, together with appropriate entry fee, shall be submitted to the CCÉ Branch Rúnaí/Branch Secretary not later than six weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions. The CCÉ Rúnaí/Branch Secretary shall submit these entries to the County Secretary/Rúnaí Chontae not later than five weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions.

Non-members of CCÉ: in Irish, if possible, Names of 8 team members together with the appropriate entry fees, shall be submitted directly to the County Secretary six weeks prior to the Fleadh Cheoil.

Late entries shall not be accepted after the closing date.

II) AGE CATEGORIES:

(A) Under 12: a person whose 12th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(B) 12-15: a person whose 13th, 14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(C) 15-18: a person whose 16th, 17th or 18th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(D) Over 18: a person whose 19th or greater birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

NOTE: In the event of a dispute, a certificate of age must be produced within 7 days of the competition, if requested by the County / Regional / Provincial / C.E.C. Rúnaí. Failure to do so will entail automatic disqualification.

III) Mixed 8 Hand Céilí Dance Teams in 12-15, 15-18 and Senior must consist of four male and four female dancers and two male and two female dancers in mixed 4 Hand Céilí Dance Teams

IV) U-12 Mixed 8 Hand Céilí Dance Teams should, as far as possible, consist of 4 male and 4 female, but must contain minimum of three male in the case of 8 Hand Céilí and a minimum of one male in the case of U-12 Mixed 4 Hand Céilí.

V) A maximum of two dancers in the case of 8-Hand Céilí Dance and a maximum of one dancer in the case of 4 Hand Céilí Dance are allowed to dance in the next higher age group only, regardless of whether they have danced in their own age group or not. i.e. two dancers for 8 Hand and one dancer for 4 Hand under 12 may dance 12-15 but cannot dance 15-18. The same applies for 12-15, 15-18 and senior.

VI) No competitor may dance more than once in any one competition i.e. any dancer may not compete with two different teams in the same competition or in the same competition in more than one County/Region and Province.

VII) SUBSTITUTION: A maximum of two dancers in the case of 8-Hand Céilí dance and a maximum of one dancer in the case of 4-Hand Céilí can be substituted at the first round and at each subsequent round of the competition. This also applies to All Ireland Senior Winners who qualify automatically for Fleadh na hÉireann in the following year. In the event of a recall, no further substitution is allowed.

- VIII) RECALL:** The following applies: U12, 12-15, 15-18 and Senior. It is essential to dance a body and one new figure of the same dance. It is essential that the same dancers will dance in the event of a recall and no substitutions are allowed for a recall. Recalled competitors must present themselves within 30 minutes. Failure to report will forfeit advantage.
- IX)** Two 4-hand dances will not meet the requirements of 8-Hand Competition.
- X)** The adjudicators will signify that they have seen enough of the dance by ringing a bell. Competitors are advised to have the selected dance rehearsed in full.
- XI)** Simple and appropriate dress code: no school of dancing costumes allowed; no dancing wigs allowed; no tips or built-up shoes allowed. "Pomps" and Boys "Reel" shoes are permitted.
- Note: Toe or heel tips or a combination of both are not allowed whether these are 'built in' at time of manufacture or added after purchase of shoes. Only shoes with a plain smooth sole are permitted.**
- XII)** Marching on and off stage to music accompaniment is not permitted.
- XIII)** The adjudicators' decision is final.
- XIV)** The managers/mentors/teachers of céilí dancing teams register in writing the name of dance, dancers, as well as age and substitution details on the day of the competition.
- XV)** Managers, mentors, teachers etc are not allowed to coach teams during performance.
- XVII)** Managers, mentors, teachers are allowed to communicate with the musicians prior to performance on stage.
- XVIII)** Winners of over 18 (D) Céilí dancing: Ladies and Mixed competitions at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in the previous year are **ineligible** to compete in the same competition at County/Regional or Provincial Fleadh.
- XIX)** The organising committee is responsible for providing the musical accompaniment. All teams must dance to the music provided. Musical accompaniment is confined to acoustic instruments only – no electronic devices such as rhythm/drum machines or such like devices are allowed. Keyboard in piano mode only may be used. Musicians must be competent to play for all Céilí dances and be familiar with the tunes required.

- XX) Dancing to pre-recorded music tracks is not allowed for céilí dancing competitions. The same musical accompaniment must be used for all competitors in any one competition in céilí competitions.
- XXI) Only amplification/P.A. system(s) supplied by the organising coiste is allowed.
- XXII) Failure to comply with the above rules shall lead to disqualification.

RINCE SEIT / SET DANCING

Competitions 44-48: Comórtas Seit Traidisiúnta/Set Dancing Competitions: *Ladies Full Set (A, B, C, D), Mixed Full Set (A, B, C, D), Mixed Half Set (F & D), Mixed Full Set (K) Ladies Full Set (K).*

Competitors may only perform traditional sets and half sets from the official list approved by Coiste Rince. For Mixed and Ladies sets over 35 (K) all members of the set must be over 35 on January 1st of the year of entry.

I) ENTRIES:

CCÉ members: In Irish if possible, Entry Form showing names of 8 team members for full sets and 4 team members for Half Sets, together with the appropriate entry fees, must be submitted to the CCÉ Branch Rúnaí/ Branch Secretary not later than six weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions. The CCÉ Rúnaí/Branch Secretary shall submit these entries to the County Secretary/RúnaíChontae not later than five weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions. Late entries shall not be accepted after the closing date.

Non-members of CCÉ: Entry Form showing 8 team members for full sets and 4 team members for Half Sets, together with the appropriate entry fees, shall be submitted directly to the County Secretary not later than six weeks prior to the Fleadh Cheoil Competition.

II) AGE CATEGORIES:

(A) Under 12: a person whose 12th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(B) 12-15: a person whose 13th, 14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(C) 15-18: a person whose 16th, 17th or 18th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(D) Over 18: a person whose 19th or greater birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(F) Under 18: a person whose 18th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(K) Age Group K applies to Competition 47K – Mixed Set over 35 and Ladies Set over 35

NOTE: In the event of a dispute, a certificate of age must be produced within 7 days of the competition, if requested by the County / Regional / Provincial / C.E.C. Rúnaí. Failure to do so will entail automatic disqualification.

III) Mixed Full Set Dancing Teams in 12-15, 15-18 and Senior must consist of four male and four female dancers and two male and two female dancers in Mixed Half set Dancing Teams.

IV) U 12 Mixed Full Set Dancing Teams should, as far as possible, consist of four male and four female, but must contain a minimum of three male in the case of full sets.

V) A maximum of two dancers in the case of full sets and a maximum of one dancer in the case of half sets are allowed to dance in the next higher age group only, regardless of whether they have danced in their own age group or not, i.e. two dancers for full set dancing teams under 12 may dance 12-15 but cannot dance 15-18, the same applies for 12-15, 15-18 and Senior. In Mixed Set O-35s – all dancers must be over 35 years.

VI) No competitor may dance more than once in any one competition i.e. any dancer may not compete with two different teams in the same competition or in the same competition in more than one County/Region and Province.

VII) SUBSTITUTION: A maximum of two dancers in the case of full set and a maximum of one dancer in the case of Half Set can be substituted at the first round and at each subsequent round of the competition. This also applies to All Ireland Senior and O-35 Winners who qualify automatically for Fleadh na hÉireann in the following year. In the event of a recall, no further substitution is allowed.

VIII PARTS: Competitors in the O18(D) and over 35(K) set dancing competitions are required to dance three parts of a traditional set or half set. Two of the parts will be of their own choice and one part selected by the adjudicators. The adjudicators selection will be made prior to the start of the competition. Teams will be informed of the adjudicators choice as they take to the stage. Selected figures must be danced in the order of that set: e.g. Fig 1, Fig 3, Fig 5.

Competitors in the Junior Set dancing A, B, C and Half Set F will be required to dance two parts of a traditional set.

IX) ADJUDICATION: Where adjudicators are seated apart, they shall mark their adjudication sheets separately and the final result compiled using, using the present points system (11, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1). In the event of a tie of points the following shall apply: The call steward/clerk will refer to the placing already given by the relevant adjudicators, and take the overall majority of the relevant highest placing already allocated to the tied teams, so as to calculate a final and clear result and to minimize the number of teams having to perform again. (The majority decision shall always apply: in the case of three and five adjudicators, a 2:1 and at least a 3:2 majority respectively will apply). In the event of a further tie, teams will be required to dance as per recall at (x) below.

X) RECALL: U12, 12-15 and 15-18: One new part (not previously danced in the competition by the team). Senior and Over 35: One new part (not previously danced in the competition by the team). When a team has selected a set with only three parts they must dance one new part from a different set. It is essential that the same dancers will dance in the event of a recall and no substitutions are allowed for a recall. Recalled competitors must present themselves within 30 minutes. Failure to report will forfeit advantage

CLÁR NA gCOMÓRTAS 2026

- XI) While competitors in the full set competition may also dance in the half set competition and vice-versa, only recognised traditional half sets (from official list approved by Coiste Rince) will be accepted e.g. Wexford Half Set. East Galway Half Set etc. Adapting or converting a recognised full set to a half set is not permitted.
- XII) The managers/mentors/teachers of Set dancing teams register in writing the name of dance, dancers, as well as age, substitution details and parts of sets being danced on the day of the competition.
- XIII) All dancing must cease at the end of the recognised part. Simple and appropriate dress code, no school of dancing costumes are allowed. No dancing wigs are allowed, no tips or built up shoes are allowed.

Note: Toe or heel tips or a combination of both are not allowed whether these are 'built in' at time of manufacture or added after purchase of shoes. Only shoes with a plain smooth sole are permitted.

- XIV) Marching on and off the stage to music accompaniment is not permitted.
- XV) The adjudicators' decision is final
- XVI) Managers, mentors, teachers are not allowed to coach teams during the performance
- XVII) Managers, mentors, teachers are allowed to communicate with the musicians prior to performance on stage
- XVIII) Winners of over 18 (D) set dancing: Ladies and Mixed competitions, half-sets and O-35s at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in the previous year are **ineligible** to compete in the same competition at County/Regional or Provincial Fleadh
- XIX) Teams must provide their own live music. Musical accompaniment is confined to acoustic instruments only No electronic devices such as rhythm/drum machines or such like devices are allowed. Keyboard in piano mode only may be used. Only amplification/PA system(s) supplied by the organising coiste is allowed.
- XX) Dancing to pre-recorded music tracks is not allowed for set dancing
- XXI) Ten days prior to the competition adjudicators shall be provided with the names of the sets that **may** be danced.
- XXII) Failure to comply with the above rules shall lead to disqualification.

COMPETITION 49: RINCE AR AN SEAN NÓS

- I This competition is intended for Traditional Style Sean Nós dancing.
- II Competitions are open to non-members as well as to members of Comhaltas.

AGE CATEGORIES:

- (A) Under 12:** a person whose 12th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- (B) 12-15:** a person whose 13th, 14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- (C) 15-18:** a person whose 16th, 17th or 18th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- (D) Over 18:** a person whose 19th or greater birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

NOTE: In the event of a dispute, a certificate of age must be produced within 7 days of the competition, if requested by the County / Regional / Provincial / CEC Rúnaí. Failure to do so will entail automatic disqualification.

- III One dance tempo of competitor's own choice to be performed. (This must not exceed three minutes). Any combination of rhythms e.g. jig-reel or hornpipe-reel is not permitted.
- IV No tips or built up shoes allowed.

Note: Toe or heel tips or a combination of both are not allowed whether these are 'built in' at time of manufacture or added after purchase of shoes. Only shoes with a plain smooth sole are permitted.
- V No props of any kind allowed.
- VI The organising Committee is responsible for providing the musical accompaniment. All dancers must dance to the music provided. No electronic devices such as rhythm / drum machines or such like devices are allowed. Keyboard in piano mode only may be used.
- VII Dancing to pre-recorded music tracks is not allowed for sean-nós dancing competitions.
- VIII The same musical accompaniment must be used for all competitors in any one competition in sean-nós dance.

- IX Only amplification / PA system(s) supplied by the organising coiste is allowed.
- X The adjudicators' decision is final.
- XI Failure to comply with the above rules shall lead to disqualification.
- XII Winners of Over 18 (D) Sean Nós Dancing Competition at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in the previous year are **ineligible** to compete in the same competition, in the County / Regional or Provincial Fleadh.

As with official Fleadh Cheoil competitions, except Comhrá Gaelige, the following applies to all rince céilí, rince seit and rince ar an sean-nós competitions, in line with Rule 50.

Winners of First and Second prizes shall qualify from County / Regional Fleadhanna to Provincial Fleadhanna in the same year, together with a maximum of one other competitor in each competition, if the adjudicator is satisfied that the competitors have reached a sufficiently high standard in the appropriate grade.

Endorsement: Where a competitor other than first or second prize winner is recommended, the appropriate, original, adjudication sheet, suitably endorsed and signed by the Adjudicator, must accompany the official returns. Recommendations not accompanied by such a sheet cannot be accepted by Provincial Council. Such Recommendations are entirely a matter for the Adjudicator and **should only be made in the case of an exceptionally good performance.**

COMÓRTAS 50: COMHRÁ GAEILGE:

Aois Grúpaí: Fé-9, 9-11, 11-13, 13-15 and 15-18*Entry and eligibility etc. as per pages 1-2*

- I) The focus of the competition is conversational Irish.
- II) Five prize winners qualify from County (Regional) to Provincial Fleadhanna and five prize winners qualify from Provincial to the All-Ireland Fleadh in each age group. At All-Ireland Level 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes are awarded. A percentage mark must be shown on each competitor's adjudication sheet.

III) COMPETITION:

The competitors are assessed under the following categories:

- ◆ Accuracy and Fluency; 55
- ◆ Information; 25
- ◆ Poem or Story; 20 (Singing a song **is not** acceptable as a substitute for the poem/story)

The 'Information' Section is adjudicated as follows:

Competitors U-9 will be expected to have knowledge of Comhaltas.

Competitors U-11 and U-13 will be expected to have knowledge of Comhaltas and the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Competitors U-15 and U-18 will be expected to have knowledge of Comhaltas, The Gaelic Athletic Association, Conradh na Gaeilge, Glór na nGael, Raidió na Gaeltachta, TG4 and Udarás na Gaeltachta.

In the case of Comhaltas emphasis will be on local Comhaltas activity.

IV) DURATION: The duration of time allocated to each competitor is as follows: inclusive of the poem or story extract, which is no more than 2 mins.

U-9: 6-7 Minutes

9-11: 6-7 Minutes

11-13: 9-10 Minutes

13-15: 9-10 Minutes

15-18; 11-12 Minutes

COMPETITION 51-52: STORYTELLING / SCÉALAÍOCHT

Storytelling: Storytelling is an oral, not a visual art. The telling depends on the use of the human voice with all its variations, nuances, modulations, turns of phrase, timing and punch lines. There is no place in storytelling for theatrical movements or costume. Preferably the storyteller should assume a sitting or standing position and movement should be minimal, confined to hand gestures and facial expression.

A story should not be confused with a recitation, a monologue or verse speaking. The idea of the old storyteller sitting by the fire, entertaining his or her neighbours, should be a good guideline as to what storytelling is.

Purpose of the competition: To encourage, among the emerging young population of Comhaltas members, the preservation of the tradition of storytelling & scéalaíocht in our culture and to help in producing a number of storytellers of a standard up to public performance level to complement the excellent standards that have been achieved in the musical, vocal and dancing traditions.

The story: Must be Irish in character, told in a local accent and local style. Competitors who speak with an accent that is not Irish are welcome provided their story is 'Irish in character'. The theme can be humorous, serious, (or a mixture of both), historic or contemporary.

Duration: For the purposes of scheduling, tellers are required to keep their stories to between 4 and 8 minutes (note change for 2020 guidelines) in duration in competitions. Adjudicators may deduct points if competitors run over.

Storytelling Adjudication Criteria

Story: Clear narrative is put across. Characters, places and events are well developed and described with a creative use of language. Recitations, monologues or verse speaking are from a different genre and should therefore be discouraged.

Telling: There is a sense of character and personal style in the telling. Audience interest is kept throughout with natural flow and 'fireside' ease and with humour or emotion where appropriate.

Interpretation and/or originality. New stories and old stories are welcome and can be on any topic or theme and above all, Irish in character.

Key considerations should be:

- ◆ Has an original story been well conveyed?
- ◆ Has an old story been re-imagined and/or delivered creatively?
- ◆ Has a new story been created and told in the traditional Irish style to a good standard?

Length – a minimum of 4 minutes and maximum of 8 minutes

Suggested marking system:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Confidence / sincerity of storyteller | 20% |
| (b) Accuracy and fluency of speech | 40% |
| (c) Overall impact of story | 40% |

TREOIRLÍNTE DO CHOMÓRTAS SCÉALAÍOCHTA

Scéalaíocht: Is ealaín béil atá sa scéalaíocht seachas ealaín físeach. Braitheann insint scéile ar guth an scéaláí. Úsáidtear rithim, ardú agus ísliú gutha, imeartas focal agus frásaí ar leith chun an insint scéil. Ní bhaintear leas as gluaiseachtaí nó feisteas atá drámatúil. Ba chóir don scéalaí fanacht in a seasamh nó in a suí gan mórán gluaiseacht thart seachas gluaiseachtaí lámhe nó gothaí gnúise.

Ní aithriseoireacht nó véarsaíocht atá sa scéalaíocht. Moltar d'iomaitheoirí glacadh leis an scéalaí thraidisiúnta ag suí cois tine ag insint scéil dá chomharsana mar shampla a léiríonn céard is scéalaí traidisiúnta ann.

Cuspóir: Suim a mhúscailt i sean ealaín na scéalaíochta i measc comhaltaí óga an Comhaltais agus caighdeán maith a chothú maidir le cur i láthair agus roghnú scéil. Chun an caighdeán céanna a chothú sa réimse scéalaíochta is atá bainte amach sna réimsíceoil agus amhránaíochta.

An Scéal: Caithfidh saintréithe Éireannacha a bheith léirithe sa scéal. Ba choir go mbeadh an scéal curtha i láthair i stíl agus i gcanúint loganta. Tá fáilte roimh iomaitheoirí nach bhfuil canúint Éireannach acu fhad is a bhfuil saintréithe Éireannacha léirithe ag an scéal atá á insint acu. Is féidir téama drámatúil, greannmhar (nó meascán de dhráma agus greann) stairiúil nó nua-aimseartha a bheith sa scéal.

Fad an scéil don chomórtas: Le aghaidh ar sceidealú comórtais tuigtear do nglacfar le fad ama idir 4 agus 8 nóiméad chun an insint scéil (Tabhair faoi ndearadh an athrú fad ama le haghaidh treoirlínite 2020). Gearrfar piónós ar iomaitheoirí a sháraíonn an teorann ama.

Moltóireacht:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (a) Cur i láthair agus dáiríreacht an scéaláí | 20% |
| (b) Soiléireacht urlabhra agus cruinneas teanga | 40% |
| (c) Éifeachtíomlán an scéil | 40% |

GENERAL RULES (ABRIDGED)

Competitors must perform in person at the competition venue (except Newly Composed Song, Amhráin Nua Cheaptha and Newly Composed Tunes) and compete in the order in which they are called by the Call Steward. A competitor who fails to present himself/herself when called for a specific competition, and who has not notified the Call Steward on duty, of a just cause for his/her absence, shall be disqualified from the competition.

- ◆ The Call Steward shall terminate a competition after the completion of the performance by the last available competitor, unless the Call Steward has been previously notified that the missing competitor is detained while competing in another competition, in which case the competition shall be kept open for a maximum of fifteen minutes. Once the Call Steward has closed the competition, it cannot be reopened.
- ◆ No communication with the adjudicator is permissible on the day of the competition at the Fleadh venue, except through the stewards.
- ◆ Prompting and / or coaching of competitors during the course of any competition is prohibited.
- ◆ Adjudicators may withhold the awarding of a first prize, should competitors fail to reach a meritorious standard.
- ◆ Winners of First and Second prizes shall qualify from County / Regional Fleadhanna to Provincial Fleadhanna in the same year together with a maximum of one other competitor in each competition, if the adjudicator is satisfied that the competitors have reached a sufficiently high standard in the appropriate grade. Winners of First and Second prizes shall qualify from Provincial Fleadhanna to Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann in the same year.
- ◆ Within Ten days after the Fleadh, a copy of the adjudication sheet, in respect of his / her own entry will be made available to a competitor on the payment of an appropriate fee plus postage.
- ◆ Disputes involving interpretation of Fleadh Rules shall be resolved by reference to 'Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil'.

