

## Mid-America Oireachtas 2016 Syllabus



**Schaumburg, IL**  
**November 25, 26 & 27**

### GENERAL RULES:

1. Competitors are restricted to amateurs whose teacher holds an A.D.C.R.G. or T.C.R.G. and are paid-up members of An Coimisiun, I.D.T.A.NA and I.D.T.A.M.A., and reside in the Mid-America region. All A.D.C.R.G's and T.C.R.G's in the school must be paid – up members in all three organizations listed above.
2. The guideline for entry is that dancers have met one of the following qualifications between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016.
  - a. Dancers Under 8, Under 9, and Under 10 may be entered at the teacher's discretion.
  - b. Dancers Under 11, Under 12, and Under 13 must be 1st, 2nd or 3rd place medal winners in the Prizewinner Category at a feis in the Mid-America or Mid-Atlantic regions in each of the four dances (Reel, Slip Jig, Treble Jig, Hornpipe). Dancers in these age groups who compete in Preliminary Championship must place in the top 50% at a feis in the Mid-America or Mid-Atlantic Region.
  - c. Dancers in the Under 11 age group will automatically qualify if they were recalled in the Under 10 category in the previous year.
  - d. All dancers Under 14 and higher must be in Open Championship or must win in the top 50% of a Preliminary Championship competition in the Mid-America or Mid-Atlantic Region on at least one occasion.
  - e. A dancer who qualified for the North American Championships at the previous Oireachtas is also qualified for this Oireachtas.
3. Competitor's age shall be determined, as of January 1, 2016. Teachers will be responsible to ensure that their pupils are entered in the proper age group. Competitors must be prepared to show proof of age, if birthday is January 1st.

Entry fees are as follows:

Solo Championship	\$ 55.00
Ceili	\$ 15.00
Figure Choreography	\$ 15.00
Dance Drama	\$ 15.00
Traditional Set	\$ 20.00
Family Fee	\$ 50.00
Maximum per family	\$200.00 (Plus \$50 Family Fee)

Oireachtas 2016 Entries: [www.quickfeis.com](http://www.quickfeis.com)

Submit one check per dance school payable to: **OIREACHTAS 2016**

Entry mailing address is available on the Quickfeis.com entry website.

All fees are to be mailed with the School Commitment Form on or before October 1, 2016.

*NOTE:* Oireachtas Entry Fees will be assessed a fine if not paid in full on or before the postmark date stated in the syllabus. The fine is to be 10% of the total fees when 1-5 days late and then 20% 6-10 days late. If the total fees are not paid after 10 days then they will be assessed a 50% fine on the total fees being paid.

4. The Committee reserves the right to reject any entry for cause, and to cancel or postpone all or part of the competition. The decision of the Committee is FINAL in all matters connected with the Mid-America Oireachtas.
5. Mid -American Oireachtas entries will be denied for any school booking hotel room blocks outside the contracts of the Oireachtas.
6. The Oireachtas Committee or the host hotels/ convention space will not be responsible for personal injury, property loss or property damage.
7. Anyone found intentionally destroying or defacing Hotel or Oireachtas property will be prosecuted; any competitor found to be involved with such vandalism will be disqualified from all competitions, including team competitions. Parents are responsible for their children.
8. Any legitimate complaint must be submitted in writing within one hour of the announcement of the results in question, accompanied by a fee of \$25.00. If the complaint is sustained, the fee will be refunded. If a complaint is filed with the Regional Director and agreed to by the IDTAMA Executive Board a penalty fine of \$500.00 will be assessed to any teacher, workshop teacher, and/or assistant teacher who exhibits immature and unacceptable behavior before during or after their pupil's performance at the Oireachtas.
9. The adjudicator's decision will be final in all cases.
10. Dancers do not have to check in for any solo round unless there is a change to the set dance and or speed printed on the back of the competitor's number. If a change needs to be made to the set dance and or speed then dancers must check in for the set round to make that change.
11. The 100-point scoring system will be used in the competitions.
12. Any form of unauthorized 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 camera, cine camera, commercial film, with or without flash enhancement, is expressly forbidden in competition.
13. All dancers must commence dancing after an eight-bar introduction for all dances with the exception of set dances and choreographies, dance dramas, where the introduction will vary according to the dance.
14. Dancer rotation start and subsequent round start numbers for solo and team competitions are to be generated by the tabulation company via a computer. The 2nd and 3rd round start numbers are determined by adding a third of the competition to each subsequent round start number. The computer generated start numbers will be determined by the tabulation provider and no human involvement.
15. The draw for the adjudicator panel at the Oireachtas will take place in a public forum the morning of the competition in a 2/3 Overseas to 1/3 North American ratio when possible.

16. There will be a three month moratorium on adjudicators judging in the Mid-America region for three months prior to our Oireachtas. The rule regarding the three month moratorium on adjudicators in the Mid-America Region for three months prior to our Oireachtas is extended to include Grade Examinations.
17. An adjudicator is not eligible to adjudicate the Mid-America Oireachtas if they have adjudicated at our Oireachtas in the previous two years.
18. The stage area for dancers during solos at the Oireachtas is limited to only Oireachtas Competitors in that competition, Stage Monitors, Oireachtas Volunteers and Committee Officials. Stage monitors should act appropriately in regard to their own dancers. Dancers are allowed to leave the area if there is a problem.
19. Saturday team results will be announced starting with the under 8 age group and then continue with the oldest age groups first to allow dancers to support the dinner dance or the organized activity that is planned when applicable.
20. Stages are for the sole purpose of competition and therefore may only have dancers on them during the competitions. The practice of warming up dancers and teams on a stage is prohibited at all times. The only exception is the Under 8 Ceili Teams which may practice walking on, standing in place, bowing and walking off. This will take place prior to the competitions but with the Stage Monitor present.
21. Each school is required to make a financial contribution equivalent to a Full Page Program Ad for each school that is participating.
22. Each school must volunteer at awards one of the three evenings. Your school may select which day is best with your entry.
23. Results of the Oireachtas may not be published on any personal/school website or social media outlet. Doing so will result in \$300 fine.
24. If a dancer falls to the stage then the adjudicator must ring the bell to stop the performance of the dancers. Should a dancer fall to the stage whether in solos or in teams, the adjudicator **MUST** ring the bell to stop the performance of the dancers. Dancers so affected will be permitted to re-dance and will be marked then at the discretion of each individual adjudicator. Refer to 31A of world syllabus.
25. Dancers shall warm up in practice rooms prior to the first round of competitions each morning. Space in the back of the halls is not appropriate or safe to dance with classes of children.
26. The rise of the Adjudicators tables will be as level as possible with the dance floor/stages. The Oireachtas stages will be 40 feet wide and 32 feet deep with free edges.

## SOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS:

1. Solo competitors must dance in their proper age group.
2. In any solo competition where there are less than three competitors, the Committee reserves the right to combine and redefine age groups. In such cases, teachers will be notified well in advance.
3. Approved set dances and their minimum tempos, as well as tempos for the Reel, Slip Jig, Treble Jig and Hornpipe, will follow those listed in the World Syllabus.
4. Requirements for the Hornpipe and Slip Jig will be 40 bars. Reel and Treble Jig will be 48 bars. Only dancers receiving a recall will perform a set dance. In all set dances the step will be performed on both feet and the set on the right foot.
5. No block, en point, stationary or moving, will be permitted to be performed for all ages up to and including Under 11 age group. The Under 12 age group is permitted to do toe walks as of September 1st.
6. The Mid-America Oireachtas will be consistent with the World Syllabus and will match the World procedure for which dance is performed in the first round.
7. The dances for the first two rounds required at our regional will be the same dances required for the upcoming World Championships. Dancers are allowed to choose any set dance. Exceptions: Under 8 and Under 9 are Traditional Set of choice; under 10 are Set Dance in 6/8 time.
8. Rounds I, II & III for all competitions are to be danced for a different panel of 3 adjudicators for a total of 9. All competitors must be presented to the adjudicators in full costume after each of the first two rounds for a number check.
9. For solo championship rounds, all light shoe rounds will be danced 2 at a time and all hard shoe rounds will be danced 3 at a time for ages up until under 15, ages under 16 and older will dance the hard shoe round 2 at a time.
10. The adjudicators must sign off on their scoring sheets for all 3 rounds.
11. RECALLS: For girls/ladies and boys/gents solo championship competitions of 20 or less, all competitors will be recalled. For solo championship competitions of 21 or more, dancers will have a recall of 50%. If the number of qualifiers is greater than or equal to 50% of the competition, all dancers will be recalled.
12. Competitors must dance in numerical order as listed in the Oireachtas program. A dancer who fails to dance their first round will be permitted to dance their second round as a courtesy but will receive zero marks for both rounds and cannot recall. A dancer who fails to dance their second round will receive zero marks for both rounds and cannot recall. A dancer who fails to dance the recall round will receive zero marks for that round only and cannot medal in the competition.
13. Under 8 and Under 9 Solo Championship dancers will perform a Traditional Set Dance in the recall round, danced one at a time. The Traditional Set Dance Guideline from An Coimisiun applies.
14. Solo championship dancers in Under 10 must perform a Treble Jig Set in the recall round danced one at a time. Solo championship dancers Under 11 and older select their choice of set dance danced one at a time.

15. The winner of the Senior Men and Senior Lady competition will be offered an award of \$500 to be used toward the expense of traveling to the World Championships.
16. In addition to the Senior Man and Lady \$500 award, IDTAMA will award \$500 Grant Awards for the purpose of travel to the World Championships from a draw of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Oireachtas winners. The number of awards to be drawn and awarded will be determined year to year. The drawing will take place on stage at the completion of the awards on Sunday at the Oireachtas.
17. If a dancer who wins a grant chooses not to go to the World Championships, the money will be awarded to the next name drawn.
18. The Committee will ensure that no dancers from the same school dance on stage at the same time at the Oireachtas. This slight alteration in dance order would have to be approved by the Oireachtas Chair through the stage monitor. Dancers should be separated and dance as immediately as possible, for example, the next spot down.
19. The Under 8 and Under 9 Costume Rule (Male & Female):
  - The dress may be one piece or two pieces.
  - No animal prints.
  - No low cut necklines.
  - No decorations including rhinestones or sequins of any kind.
  - No reflective fabric (this does not include satin).
  - No embellishments.
  - Base material and appliqué materials must be solid colors.  
(No plaids, stripes, patterns, flowers or reflective materials, etc).
  - Any embroidery and appliqué used on the dress must be of a traditional nature.
  - Length must comply with An Coimisiun.
  - No Jewelry.
  - Plain Satin Bows in the hair are allowed but bows may not be attached to the dress or used for a cape.
  - Plain colored satins that do not include sequins, glitter, or crystals are permitted
  - Buckles are allowed on shoes that do not include rhinestones.
  - All current school costumes are Grandfathered into the rule regardless of threads or materials. All rhinestones would need to be removed. (Jan 2012)
  - All of the above applies to headpieces, socks and shoes.
  - This rule applies for Boy and Girl Solo Championships and Traditional Set Competitions at the Mid-America Oireachtas.
20. Solo Competitor numbers will be handed out on the day(s) prior to the start of the competition. Lost numbers may be replaced for a \$20 charge.

## TEAM COMPETITIONS:

1. All teams must be members of the same dance school.
2. The names of all team members must be furnished at the time of entry and later changes must be given to the Committee.
3. When necessary to complete a team, 50% may repeat from a lower age group, 50% of the team must be in the proper age group unless special permission has been granted by the Midwest Executive Board, which will be forwarded to the Entry Secretary.
4. Teachers must submit all requests for age exemptions in writing no later than September 25<sup>th</sup> to both the Regional Director and the Oireachtas Chairperson. Upon receipt of all solo entries, if it appears that this rule has been abused, the teacher will be contacted for an explanation and the entries may be declined.
5. Ceili teams will follow the rules of the World Syllabus for Ceili; however the teacher may choose the first or second figure.
6. Ceili teams will be allowed to choose their own tempo.
7. Mixed Ceili requires 2 boys, but no more than 4 boys are allowed.
8. We will follow the rules of the World Syllabus for Choreographies, unless otherwise noted in our regional rules.
9. We will follow the rules of the World Syllabus for Dance Drama, unless otherwise noted in our regional rules, however, we will only have one competition, open to all age groups.
10. For Figure Choreography each team will consist of 8-16 dancers and follow the rules as outlined in the World Syllabus Dance Drama teams will consist of 8-20 dancers. Each team will portray an Irish Theme. Props, lighting, effects, etc. may be used. There is a 15-minute time limit for each team. (This includes a setup of all props, lights, sound, etc. and takedown of the same at the conclusion of the dance.)
11. Timing will begin once the team number has been announced. There will be a five (5) point penalty for every twenty seconds over the time limit.
12. Stories and music for the dance drama and choreography competitions does not need to be submitted to the Oireachtas Committee prior to the weekend of the Oireachtas.
13. A representative from the school who is not a TCRG needs to be appointed to read the story for the Choreography & Drama. This representative may not be in any clothing that has the school name or logo listed but may be in the school's costume. Choreography and Drama stories must be submitted to the Stage Monitor prior to the start of the competition. Five (5) copies must be submitted for the adjudicators. Stories do not need to be submitted to the Oireachtas committee prior to the day of competition.
14. Musicians will be supplied by the Committee. Choreography and Drama music must be on an ipod. A sound check will take place side stage prior to the competition. Music does not need to be submitted to the Oireachtas Committee. Schools must work their own music.
15. Where recorded music is used to accompany a Figure Choreography or Dance Drama, the recording must be of good quality and must be played by a representative of the team.

16. Figure Choreography will have 5 adjudicators including the panel of 3 that was already pulled for the stage that day. In the morning, additional names will be pulled to create an order. Start with the first on the list, if not available, go to the next name down and continue down the list until the 4th and 5th adjudicator spot is filled.
17. The panel for the Dance Drama will consist of 5 adjudicators and shall be pulled as outlined above for Choreography.
18. All participating under 8 mixed and girl ceili teams will be awarded a place.
19. All participating choreography and drama teams will be awarded a place up to 10 teams. If there are 11 or more teams, 50% will be awarded.
20. Prior to the Award Ceremony, the Oireachtas Committee will post the top 50% of teams and choreography and drama teams (where necessary, post 100%).
21. Choreographies and Ceilis will be scheduled on team day/Saturday.
22. A copy of our rules for all team competitions at our Oireachtas will be given to the adjudicator prior to the competition.
23. Team numbers will be passed out at the Teacher's Informational Meeting on Thanksgiving evening. Lost numbers may be replaced for a \$20 charge.

#### **COLLEGE CEILI TEAM COMPETITION**

1. Teams are limited to colleges within our region.
2. Confined to teams comprised of dancers who have not taken part in any registered solo competition since November 1st, two years prior to the event.
3. A registered teacher, or the secretary of the club countersigned by a registered teacher, must certify that the members of the team comply with the rules.

#### **TRADITIONAL SET DANCE COMPETITIONS**

1. A Mini Feis consisting of a Traditional Set competition will be offered. There may be double-age groups beginning with Under 8. The competition will be open to any Non-Oireachtas Solo Championship Dancer. Local adjudicators may be hired for this event.
2. Competitions are danced 3 at a time when applicable.
3. Traditional Set competitions of 10 or more awards will be announced in the order placed for the top 25%. The next 25% will be announced as highly commended as a group with places not announced. These award ceremonies will take place on the stage where the competition took place.
4. For any change to the Traditional Set Competition requested after the change date set forth by tabulation that were due to entry error on the teacher's part, the teacher will be fined \$100 per instance.
5. The Traditional Set Dance Guideline from An Coimisiun applies.
6. All Traditional Set Competitions will be after Team Competitions on Saturday afternoon.