

187 Constitution

COMHDHAIL MUINTEOIRI NA RINCI  
GAELACHA

Rules and Constitution

Brenda De Cassatella

1971

4in

## COMHDHAIL MUINTEOIRI NA RINCI GAELACHA

### RULES AND CONSTITUTION

1. This organisation shall be called "COMHDHAIL MUINTEOIRI NA RINCI GAELACHA".

#### OBJECTS

2. The objects of the Comhdhail Muinteoiri na Rinci Gaelacha (hereinafter referred to as the Comhdhail) :

- (1) To unite and organise all the registered Teachers and Adjudicators of Irish Dancing and to provide a means for the expression of their collective opinions on matters affecting the interests of Irish Dancing and of the Irish Dancing Teaching Profession.
- (2) To improve the conditions of employment of members of the Comhdhail and to promote their interests.
- (3) To regulate the relations between members and their fellow members and between members and their employers.
- (4) To afford advice and assistance to individual members on Professional matters.
- (5) To cultivate a fraternal spirit and professional intercourse with kindred organisations in this and other countries.
- (6) To provide and hold qualifying examinations for Teachers of Irish Dancing and Adjudicators of Competitions in Irish Dancing.
- (7) To promote and hold private or public Competitions in Irish Dancing and to provide awards, prizes and such like in respect of all or any of such Competitions.

#### PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP

3. The following are eligible for admission to membership of the Comhdhail : Teachers of Irish Dancing and Adjudicators of the same who have acquired a Teastas Comhdhail Muinteoiri na Rinci Gaelacha or Ard Diploma Comhdhail Muinteoiri na Rinci Gaelacha.

CONSTITUTION

4. The Comhdhail shall be constituted as follows:

- (a) Annual Convention.
- (b) Executive Committee.
- (c) Branches.
- (d) Members.

ANNUAL CONVENTION

5. The Annual Convention shall be the supreme Governing Body of the Comhdhail.

6. The Annual Convention shall consist of all Members of An Comhdhail.

7. The outgoing Chairman shall preside over the deliberations of the Annual Convention; in his absence the Chair shall be taken by the outgoing Vice-Chairman; and in the absence of both the outgoing Chairman and the outgoing Vice-Chairman by a member present elected by the members present on a simple majority.

8. (a) The Executive Committee shall consist of Delegates appointed by the Branches each year but shall hold Office until a new Executive is appointed or elected under these rules.

(b) The Executive Committee shall at its first meeting after election elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the Comhdhail.

9. The duties of the Executive Committee shall be to carry out the orders of the Annual Convention, to manage, superintend, and direct the affairs of the Comhdhail, to carry out and enforce observance of its Rules, to direct the actions of any paid Officers, to be responsible for the right administration of the funds under its control; to make representations to and carry out or make arrangements for the carrying out of negotiations with any Employer or any Authority controlling or having any interest in Irish Dancing in Ireland or elsewhere.

10. The Executive Committee shall have the power to institute legal Proceedings and may direct the Trustees to institute legal Proceedings against any Member or employee of the Comhdhail (including any of its Committees) who misappropriate any of its funds or property, or in respect of any other legal Proceedings required.

11. The Executive Committee shall have the power to reprimand, fine, suspend or expel a Member in accordance with the provisions of these Rules. A Member refusing to pay a fine properly imposed shall render himself liable to suspension or expulsion from the Comhdhail.

12. The Executive Committee may appoint Sub-Committees, Standing Committees or Special Committees for particular purposes, and may adopt the Minutes or Reports of such Committees. The Executive Committee shall be at liberty to appoint to such Committees Members other than Members of the Executive Committee; it shall have power to remove any Member from, or to dissolve, any Committee at any time.

13. A Branch of the Comhdhail shall be constituted of all Members residing in the area defined by the Executive Committee as a Branch area.

14. A Branch established under any previous Rule or which is in existence at the time of the coming into operation of these Rules shall be deemed to be a Branch established under these Rules and shall continue in existence until dissolved or otherwise dealt with in accordance with these Rules.

15. Every Member of the Comhdhail must be a Member of a Branch of the Comhdhail.

16. Every Teacher and/or Adjudicator of Irish Dancing with the qualifications aforementioned and qualified for Membership of Comhdhail shall, subject to the final decision of the Executive Committee, have the right of admission to the Branch operating in the area in which the Teacher and/or Adjudicator resides. No Branch shall admit or retain as Member a Teacher or Adjudicator as aforesaid who resides outside its defined area except with the special permission of the Executive Committee.

17. The number of delegates which a Branch may appoint to the Executive Committee shall be in accordance with the following scale:

*Branch Membership:*

Ten or under	Number of Delegates—1.
Eleven to Twenty	“ “ 2.

and so on with an additional delegate for each additional ten Members or part thereof. A Delegate must be a Member of the Branch which the Member is appointed to represent.

QUORUM

18. (a) For Annual Convention—thirty Members shall constitute a Quorum;

(b) For Executive Committee—seven Delegates shall constitute a Quorum.

SPECIAL CONVENTION

19. A Special Convention may be called at any time by the Executive Committee, due notice of same to be given. A Special Convention shall, in regard to the Special matters for which it is summoned, be vested with the same power and authority as an Annual Convention.

4

20. The first Executive Committee elected shall hold Office until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention following their election and in the case of a vacancy on the Executive Committee being filled by a By-Election the Member so elected shall hold Office also until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention following his or her election.

21. For the purpose of returning Delegates or Members of the Executive Committee each Branch Committee shall elect or appoint each Delegate representing such Branch and shall furnish the name or names and addresses to the Secretary of the Comhdhail at least fourteen days prior to the Annual Convention.

22. Should a member of the Executive Committee absent himself from three successive Meetings of the Executive without furnishing reasons which are considered by the Executive as sufficient, such person shall cease to be a member of the Executive and the Executive Committee shall be empowered to declare his seat vacant.

23. Should a Member of the Comhdhail be declared by a two-thirds majority of the Executive to be guilty of conduct which is unworthy or injurious to the interests of the Comhdhail or to be incapable through infirmity of mind or body of discharging his duties as a member such Member shall forthwith cease to be a Member of the Comhdhail and should such person be a Member of the Executive Committee the Executive Committee shall, in any of these events, be empowered to declare that person's seat vacant.

#### TRUSTEES

24. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Executive Committee for the time being shall be the Trustees of the Comhdhail. When a Trustee vacates the Office by virtue of which he becomes a Trustee, he shall automatically cease to be a Trustee, and the vacancy so created shall be filled by his Successor in Office. The Trustees or any one or more of them may be removed from Office at any time by a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee.

25. Save where otherwise appears in these Rules a decision shall be taken on a simple majority of one at any meeting of the Comhdhail, the Executive Committee, or any other Committee appointed hereunder.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

26. The Annual Subscription for Members who are registered as either a Teacher or an Adjudicator shall be three pounds, but a Member who is registered as both a Teacher and an Adjudicator shall pay five pounds. These Subscriptions are payable to the Treasurer of each Branch Committee who shall on receipt of same forward it to the Treasurer of the Comhdhail. In addition each member shall pay 52<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>p to the secretary of the Branch for Branch expenses. The Annual Subscriptions shall be payable on or before the 1st day of January in each year.

5

#### RIGHT TO VOTE

27. Any member whose subscription or any other monies due to the Comhdhail remains unpaid on the last day of February in each year, shall not be entitled to vote, or move any Resolution at any Meeting or be eligible for election to any office or Committee of An Comhdhail. This rule shall only apply as from the first day of January 1968.

28. The Annual Convention shall be held on or before the first day of October each year—place of Meeting shall be chosen by the previous Annual Convention or with the consent of the Annual Convention by the Executive Committee.

#### POWER TO MAKE REGULATIONS

29. All rules or regulations made hereunder shall be those made at an Annual Convention and no other Rule or regulation shall be binding on a Member.

#### MEETINGS

30. A Meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held monthly where possible but there shall be a Meeting at least once every three months.

31. The Branches shall meet at least once every month and all Notices of Motion etc., proposed by a Branch shall be furnished by the Secretary of the particular Branch to the Secretary of Comhdhail in writing not less than twenty one days prior to the date fixed for the Annual Convention.

32. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each Branch to summon the monthly Meetings or any Special Meeting where necessary.

33. Fourteen days notice of Annual Convention shall be posted to each member by the Secretary of An Comhdhail and such notice shall contain details of the business which will be before the Annual Convention. The posting of any such notice to the last known address of a member shall be sufficient notice and failure to receive such notice shall not invalidate the Convention or any action taken at such Convention.

34. At all Meetings of the Comhdhail or its Branches the Chairman shall have the casting vote in addition to his own vote. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted at any Meeting of the Comhdhail or any of its Branches.

#### DISSOLUTION OF COMHDHAIL

35. The Comhdhail may be dissolved with the consent of five-sixths of the Members after the Membership of the Organisation falls below thirty. Any surplus funds shall be divided among the Members who are in good standing at the time of the dissolution.

RULES

- 36. Only annual or special Conventions shall have the power to add to, alter, or omit any of these Rules and no such addition, alteration or omission shall be made except the Motion to that effect is supported by two-thirds of the Members who vote on such Motion.
- 37. Any matter not provided for in these Rules shall be dealt with as the Executive Committee may determine, but any Member, Officer, or Branch aggrieved thereby shall have the right to appeal to the next Annual Convention.
- 38. One Copy of these Rules shall be supplied free to each Member of the Comhdhail. Further copies, if available, may be supplied on payment of 4p per copy.
- 39. Except where the contrary is specifically stated, all words and expressions in these Rules imputing the masculine shall include feminine.

RULES FOR COMPETITIONS

An Comhdhail will register Competitions in Irish Dancing, subject to the following conditions :—

- 1. The following general facilities are essential :
  - (a) The premises or site of the Competitions must be suitable as to cleanliness, siting, seating facilities, toilet facilities, suitability of the stage or dancing platform, and adequate facilities for the efficiency and comfort of the adjudicators.
  - (b) The Feis Committee must employ musicians who are competent to provide efficient accompaniment for all the dances that lie within the scope of the syllabus.
  - (c) An able M.C. and stewards must be available to ensure that the Competitions are conducted with proper order and decorum.
  - (d) No Session should last longer than three hours, unless with the concurrence of the adjudicator. Under no circumstances should a Session continue after the fourth hour. The adjudicator must be afforded a fifteen minute recess after two hours.
  - (e) Scrutineers, appointed by An Comhdhail, will be afforded every facility to see that the Competitions are being conducted in accordance with the Rules of An Comhdhail.
- 2. Entries for Registered Competitions may only be accepted from teachers who are members of An Comhdhail. In the event of a pupil transferring from one member of An Comhdhail to another member of An Comhdhail, the pupil so transferring may not be entered for a Competition before the First day of July of the year following his or her transfer.
- 3. No person may be engaged to adjudicate at Registered Competitions except one who is qualified in accordance with the Rules of An Comhdhail to do so.
- 4. Entry into any Competition may be confined in accordance with the following Classifications only :
  - (a) Age. When there is an age limit for any Competition, a competitor's age shall be taken as that which he or she had reached on or before the 1st day of January of the year in which the Competition is held.
  - (b) Grade. Only three Grades are permitted :
    - Bun-ghrad* Confined to those who have never won a first prize in that particular dance in any age-group;

*Mean-ghrad* Confined to those who have never won a first prize in that particular dance in the age-group which is specified;

*Ard-ghrad* Not confined to either Bun-ghrad or Mean-ghrad. Any competitor who wins a Championship is automatically debarred from both Bun-ghrad and Mean-ghrad competitions, and remains so debarred unless, after the expiration of two years they have been re-graded by the Executive of An Comhdhail.

- (c) District.
- (d) Class, i.e. confined to the pupils of one particular teacher.
- (e) Schools. "Schools" in this particular context means Primary, Secondary, or Vocational Schools. In the case of these Competitions, entries must be confined to those who are taught by members of An Comhdhail, but these may enter any pupils who are taught by them in the schools specified.
5. The following conditions MUST be complied with in the conducting of all Competitions:
- (a) There must be perfect silence in the Hall during the performance of each competitor;
- (b) No more than three competitors (in the case of Solo Competitions), or one team (in the case of a Ceili or Figure-Dance Competition) may be permitted to dance at a time;
- (c) In the case of a Championship each Competitor must perform at least one light and one heavy dance, there must be at least three qualified adjudicators, the placings of each adjudicator must be announced separately, and the final result must be calculated in accordance with the "Points System". For the "Points System", each adjudicator has nineteen points to dispose of: the competitor whom he places First secures twelve of these points; five points go to the competitor whom he placed second; and two points are allotted to the competitor whom he placed third. If an adjudicator ties two competitors for First place, each of them is given  $8\frac{1}{2}$  points, and the remaining two points go to the other competitor whom he places. If the adjudicator ties three or more competitors in the First place they divide the nineteen points equally between them. If the adjudicator, having given First place, and therefore twelve points, to one competitor, then ties two or more for the Second place, these will divide the remaining seven points equally between them. The final result is determined by the total **points** acquired by the competitors from all three adjudicators.
- (d) The result of each Competition must be announced in the presence of the adjudicators, and as quickly as possible after the close of the Competition in question.
- (e) The decision of the adjudicator or adjudicators is final as to quality; an objection on any other grounds may be lodged by any teacher on payment of a fee of 50p. The Committee in charge of the Competitions

may adjudicate on such an objection if they consider themselves competent to do so, and will return the objection fee if they uphold the objection. They may, however, refer the objection to the Executive of An Comhdhail on payment of a fee of £1. Any teacher who disagrees with the decision of a Competition Committee may refer the matter to the Executive of An Comhdhail on payment of a fee of £5.25, which will be refunded to them if the Executive thinks this fit.

Notwithstanding anything stated above, no objection may be considered by a Committee unless it is made in writing within 48 hours after the declaration of the result of the Competition.

- (f) In the event of any prizes or awards being offered to teachers, the placings for such awards or prizes must be assessed by the allotment of twelve points to a teacher for each First prize won outright by any of his pupils, five points for each Second prize, and two points for each Third. In the event of Ties, the division of the points will be as indicated in (c) above.
- (g) All prizes must be presented at the termination of a Feis, but prizes are to be withheld in the cases which have been referred to the Executive of An Comhdhail, and are not to be presented until and in accordance with the decision of the Executive. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES is a prize to be presented to a competitor who has been judged by an Executive or Committee, investigating an objection, to have been awarded the prize in error in the beginning.
- (h) A copy of the results of all Competitions should be forwarded to the Registration Officer of An Comhdhail within fourteen days of the ending of the Feis, and the Feis Committee is expected to afford all necessary co-operation to An Comhdhail in the event of further information being required.
6. Application for Registration of Competitions should be addressed to the Registration Officer of An Comhdhail:
- All applications should be forwarded before the 30th November of the year preceeding the Competitions, and should be accompanied by the Registration fee, and by a copy of the proposed syllabus. When the application has been approved, the syllabus should be published, and a copy forwarded to each member of An Comhdhail who has a class in the County in which the Competitions are to be held. The published syllabus must bear the words, "Registered with Comhdhail na Muinteoiri Rinci Gaelacha" (either in this form, or completely in the Irish Language), and must also state the names of the adjudicators who have been engaged.
7. All Registered Competitions will be included in the Annual Calendar of events, which the Executive of An Comhdhail will publish each year.