

AN CHOIMISIUN LE RINCI GAELACHA

"Teamhair", 58 Ascal Seannaigh, Rath Eanaigh, Baile Atha Cliath 5.

RIALACHAIN AGUS TREOIR DO LUCHT RIARTHA COMORTAS RINCE FAOI RIALACHA  
AN CHOIMISIUN LE RINCI GAELACHA - IUIL, 1967.

Regulations and Recommendations to Organisers of Dancing Competitions  
under the Rules of the Irish Dancing Commission - July, 1967.

ROINN 1 - RIALACHAIN  
(Section 1 - Regulations)

1. APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

- (a) Application must be made not less than four months prior to the proposed date(s) of competition.
- (b) The official application form must be used and accompanied by the appropriate registration fee, currently £1.
- (c) A draft of the proposed syllabus must be submitted with the application and the organisers must accept any amendment to the syllabus the Commission shall recommend. Under no circumstances may the syllabus be distributed until notification of grant of registration is received from the Commission. After registration has been granted further competitions may not be added to the syllabus without approval in writing from the Commission.
- (d) The purpose to which the proceeds of the competitions will be devoted must be clearly stated. Where competitions are in aid of some charitable purpose, such as church funds, and the application for registration is not made directly by the person immediately responsible for such funds a note from that person, for example the Parish Priest or religious superior, supporting the application must be attached to the application form.

2. SYLLABUS OF COMPETITIONS.

- (a) The organisers must indicate that the competitions are registered with the Commission by including prominently in the syllabus the phrase "CLARAITHE LEIS AN CHOIMISIUN LE RINCI GAELACHA".
- (b) The name of the adjudicator must where possible be shown on the syllabus.
- (c) Copies of the syllabus must be sent to all registered teachers in at least the county in which the competitions are held and to any other registered teachers who request them. Where a copy of a syllabus is sent to a pupil or to his or her parent a copy must be sent to the pupil's teacher as well.

3. ADJUDICATION.

Only a person currently registered with the Commission as ADJUDICATOR may be engaged to adjudicate - a person registered as a TEACHER only may not in any circumstances be engaged. A copy of the current list of Registered Adjudicators will be issued to all applicants for registration of competitions.

4. ENTRIES.

- (a) Entries may be accepted only as follows:-
  - (i) FOR STEPDANCING COMPETITIONS - from persons currently registered with the Commission as TEACHERS (T.C.R.G.) or TEMPORARY TEACHERS.
  - (ii) FOR TEAM COMPETITIONS. - from persons currently registered as TEACHERS (T.C.R.G.), TEMPORARY TEACHERS or CEILI DANCING TEACHERS (T.M.R.F.)  
Permission to compete in Ceili Dancing Competitions may, however, be granted

to branches of Conradh na Gaeilge and certain other organisations even though not taught by a Registered Teacher.

A copy of the current list of Registered Teachers will be issued to all applicants for registration of competitions.

- (b) Entries may be accepted only in writing and signed by the teacher or, in the case of Conradh na Gaeilge Branches, by an officer of the Branch. Entries for "parents competitions" must also be signed by a Registered Teacher.
- (c) Provided entries are in order as regards competition limits (see 6 below) and are submitted by the stipulated closing date, organisers of competitions may not, without prior sanction of the Commission, refuse to accept entries from any registered teacher. Where such sanction is sought the grounds for the proposed refusal must be furnished to the Commission.
- (d) Organisers of competitions must, if requested to do so, furnish to the Commission a complete list of the competitors (including their schools of dancing) in any competition(s) indicated by the Commission.

#### 5. PRIZEWINNERS.

All organisers of competitions must, with effect from 1st AUGUST, 1967, automatically furnish to the Commission a complete list of prizewinners - 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings where awarded - and their schools of dancing to the Commission within 21 days from the date of the competitions.

#### 6. "CONFINEMENT" OF COMPETITIONS.

In drawing up a syllabus organisers may not, unless special permission is obtained from the Commission, after 1st AUGUST, 1967, confine competitions other than on the basis of age, area, or grade.

- (a) "AGE BASIS", i.e. upper and/or lower age limits may be set, for example, "under 11", "over 11", "11 to 13", etc., etc. It is very strongly recommended that when stipulating age limits that they be based on competitors' ages on 1st January.
- (b) "AREA BASIS", i.e. all or some competitions in a syllabus may be confined to competitors in a certain area, for example, "the Parish of \_\_\_\_\_", "County \_\_\_\_\_", etc., etc.
- (c) "GRADE BASIS! Up to now competitions have been graded on a wide variety of bases, e.g., "beginner", "non-prize winner", "non-Cupholder" etc. etc. and the definition of those terms even differed from one area to another. It has now been decided that with effect from 1st AUGUST, 1967, the only gradings which may be utilised are as follows:-
  - (i) "BUN-GHRAD" ("Primary") Open to dancers who have never won first prize under any age-limit for the particular dance specified for the competition.
  - (ii) "MEAN-GHRAD" ("Intermediate") Open to dancers who have never won first prize outside of "Bun Ghrad" under any age-limit for the particular dance specified for the competition, i.e. for the purposes of this grade first prizes won in "Bun-Ghrad" are disregarded.
  - (iii) "ARD-GHRAD" ("Open"). Open to all dancers if qualified as to age and area.

Note: Where a syllabus for competitions after 1st August, 1967, has already been printed or issued including the former terms "beginner" and "non-prizewinner" these shall be taken to mean "Bun-ghrad" and "Mean-Ghrad" respectively.

#### 7. INFORMATION.

Organisers of competitions must furnish any information regarding their competitions that the Commission shall request.

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#### NOTE:

Applications received for registration of competitions will be taken as implying that the applicants undertake, if registration be granted, to comply in full with the foregoing Regulations. Any breach of these Regulations may result in the withdrawal of registration or in the rejection of future applications for registration.

## ORGANISATION OF COMPETITIONS

To an appreciable extent competitions are the "Showpiece" of Irish Dancing and indeed the only contact that many of the general public have with it. It is important, therefore, that our competitions be efficiently and competently organised and run, and henceforth An Coimisiun intends to ensure, in so far as lies in its power, that our dancing is presented in the best possible manner. Many of the competitions held are excellently organised, and run - many others, however, leave much to be desired. It is intended that in future members of the Commission will attend competitions from time to time, and report back to the Commission. Where grounds for dissatisfaction are found organisers may later be requested to furnish explanations. Where organisation and facilities are found gravely lacking further applications for registration of competitions may be refused. Members of the Commission, who hold identity cards, are entitled to admission to all competitions under Commission Rules.

In order to improve organisation of competitions the following recommendations are made to all committees running competitions:-

### RECOMMENDATIONS.

#### A. Syllabus and Entries.

1. Syllabus should be distributed to teachers as early as possible.
2. The number of competitions included should be realistic having regard to the time available for competitions and the number of adjudicators it is intended to engage.
3. Special attention should be paid to the wording of the syllabus - ambiguous terms and phrases lead to disputes and objections.
4. Where possible entries should be received an adequate time before the date of competitions to enable the organisers to gauge the likely time required to complete the programme. Acceptance of entries on the day of competition tends to cause confusion and delay the programme.
5. A check should be made that all entries are in accordance with Regulation 4. Organisers will be held responsible for any entries accepted from unregistered teachers.

#### B. MUSIC ACCOMPANIMENT.

1. Only a minority of musicians have adequate experience of providing accompaniment for dancing competitions and organisers should satisfy themselves in advance that the musicians they engage are competent in this regard.
2. Where set dances are included in a syllabus they should be confined to specific named set-dances the accompanist can play.

#### C. ADJUDICATORS.

1. Organisers should ensure that adjudicators are positioned such as to provide them with a clear view of the dancers and at the same time enable them to perform their work in reasonable comfort and without any interference, intentional or otherwise, from the spectators.
2. The Commission has no objection to organisers permitting the appointment of scrutineers to examine the adjudicator's result provided no additional expenditure is thereby incurred by the organisers.

#### D. STEWARDING.

1. Only persons who are competent and fully understand their work should be appointed to officiate as platform stewards.
2. Amplification should be available for all announcements etc.,
3. Hall-stewarding must be adequate to maintain quiet in the hall and restrict movement of spectators while dancers are performing.
4. The result should be announced as soon after the conclusion of a competition as practicable.

#### E. FACILITIES.

1. Organisers should satisfy themselves in advance that the stage or platform is suitable for dancing.
2. In the case of outdoor events lorries should be used as dancing platforms only where unavoidable.
3. Adequate toilet facilities must be available.
4. In the case of outdoor events alternative indoor accommodation should if at all possible be available in case of inclement weather.

#### F. CEILI DANCING.

One of the immediate aims of the Commission is the promotion of Ceili dancing and organisers of competitions are requested to co-operate by the inclusion in every syllabus of some ceili dancing competitions.