

## First Feis through Prizewinner Levels

As it gets closer to the time that the dancers' competition will start, they begin to get ready by lacing up the correct dance shoes for that competition (e.g.. soft shoes – Ghilles-- or the hard shoes) and getting into their dance costumes.

When the number for their dance competition is posted, the dancers in that competition check-in with the stage monitor and then line up next to the stage.

The adjudicator at that stage gives the signal for the dancers in a specific competition to file onto the stage. The musicians are told what type of Irish music to play, e.g. jig, reel

The dancers compete two or three at a time, each doing their own step to the same music. The adjudicator observes their dancing, rates each dancer separately, and often jots down feedback comments that the dancer will receive later.

The adjudicator places the ratings for that competition in an envelope and into a basket on the table.

A runner picks up the result sheet envelope and takes it to the Tabulation Area

Staff in the Tabulation Area log all of the adjudicator's scores and comments into a computer. The computer then determines which dancer(s) placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.

A runner picks up two copies of the placement sheet from the Tabulation Area and takes one copy to the Results Area and one copy to the Awards Area

The results for the competition are posted on the wall in the Results Area. At their convenience, competitors go to the Results Area to see the results of their competition. Later in the evening, they can also go online to view all of the competition results as well as get their individual scores and any comments that the adjudicators jotted.

Dancers who placed in the competition go to the Awards Area to receive the medal or trophy that they won.

## Preliminary Championship (PC) & Open Championship (OC) Levels:

Prior to their competition, PC and OC dancers check in at the podium and line up at the side of the stage

The dancers dance two or three (depending on age) at a time each doing their own step to the same music. A panel of 3 judges observes and rates their dancing. Dancers first do a soft shoe competition (reel or slip jig) and then a hard shoe competition (hornpipe or treble jig).

OC dancers are required to dance a set dance (SD). PC dancers can choose whether to compete a SD or not.

The results from the three adjudicators are placed in a single envelope. PC scores include the soft shoe and hard shoe rounds. OC scores include the soft shoe, hard shoe, and set dance scores.

A runner takes the envelope back to the Tabulation Room. Using a formula used world wide at all Irish dance competitions, the scores of the 3 adjudicators are combined and competitor places determined.

The results are announced & trophies awarded at the Championship Awards Podium throughout the day. The top 50% of the dancers in every competition are placed.

At each stage there is an easel listing all of the dance competitions that will be held on that stage. This sheet will help you read "the code" to understand what dance is currently being competed on a particular stage.

921 (0)	932 (14)	931 (1)	942 (0)
105RL (0)	106RL (1)	107RL (4)	108RL (4)
206RL (4)	207RL (7)	208RL (9)	209RL (6)
107LJ (3)	108LJ (2)	109LJ (8)	205LJ (1)
208LJ (10)	209LJ (5)	105SL (0)	106SL (0)

The **First Digit** tells you the dance category:

- 1= All First Feis dances
- 2= Beginner 1 (dancing less than 1 year)
- 3= Beginner 2 (dancing more than 1 year)
- 4= Novice (Dancers who have placed a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in Beginner 2)
- 5= Prizewinner (Dancers who have placed 1<sup>st</sup> in a Novice competition)
- 6= Preliminary Championship (Dancers who have placed 1<sup>st</sup> in a Prizewinner soft shoe & hard shoe competition are qualified to compete)
- 7= Open Championship (Dancers who placed 1<sup>st</sup> in two Preliminary Championships)
- 8= Adult competitions
- 9= Figure competitions (2-Hand, 3-Hand, 4-Hand, 8 Hand Ceili, and Parent/ Child competitions)

The **Letters** indicate the type of dance being competed:

- RL = Reel (Soft shoe)
- LJ = Light Jig (Soft shoe)
- SJ = Single Jig (Soft shoe)
- SL = Slip Jig (Soft shoe--only competed by girls)
- TJ = Treble Jig (Hard shoe)
- HP = Hornpipe (Hard shoe)
- PD = St. Patrick's Day
- TS = Traditional Set
- TR = Treble Reel
- SD = Set Dance

At the Championship Stage, you will see:

PC and OC = Dancers do both a hard shoe and soft shoe competition; PC dancers can choose to register for a set dance (SD) competition; OC dancers automatically do a set dance, too.

Set Dances—dancers choose their set dance and the speed of the music that they will compete at

**209RL**  
(6)

The **Second and Third Digits** tells you the age group of the dancers:

The age of a dancer is determined by her or his age on January 1<sup>st</sup> of this calendar year.

Girl competitions range from with 05-18 (e.g. 05=under 5 years; 18 = 17 and over)

Boys competitions range between 55-68 (e.g., 55=under 5 years; 68 = 17 and over.

In the syllabus, competitions may be listed with a "U" in front of them, such as as "U7"—that means for dancers who are Under-7 years old as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year. Other competitions may be listed with an "O" as "O17"—that means any dancer who is over 17 as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

If the dance competition listing "jumps" age groups, such as goes from 9 year olds to 11 year olds, then two competitions have been combined to have more than dancers in a competition. In this example, the 10 year olds would have been combined with the 11 year olds.

The number in the parenthesis indicates the number of dancers who are registered to compete in this competition. A "zero" indicates that no one registered for that competition. The competition is still listed on the board in case there are registration changes on the day of the feis.

### Test Yourself

**What does 209RL mean?**  
(Beginner 1--Under 9 Girls Reel)

**514TS?**  
(Prizewinner-Under 14 Girls Traditional Set)

**611PC?**  
(Preliminary Champion- Under 11)

**461TJ?**  
(Novice--Under 11 Boys Treble Jig)

### Non-Dance Competitions

There are several non-dance competitions at the feis. Please check the venue map to see where these competitions are located. The music competition is judged by two adjudicators who rate the competitors and give them feedback to help them learn. The music and vocal competitions are open to the public to sit and listen. The soda bread, arts & crafts, and traditional Irish needlework competitions are judged by local experts and available for viewing.

Instrumental and Vocal Competitions = Competitions 1 – 21  
Soda Bread Competitions= Competitions 22 & 23  
Irish Arts and Crafts = Competitions 24 – 26  
Traditional Irish Needlework = Competitions 27 - 29