

# McNamara McCarthy School of Irish Dance

## WHAT THE FEIS? FEIS KNOWLEDGE FOR THE NEWER DANCE FAMILIES.

In this presentation and packet we will go over the basics of getting your dancer signed up and what to expect at a Feis.

Things to know:

A Feis or Feiseanna is an Irish Dance Competition

Your dancer is in the Mid-America Region

[Quickfeis.com](http://Quickfeis.com) and [Feisworx.com](http://Feisworx.com) are the sites to register for a Feis.

When in doubt always refer to your dancer's teacher for insight and expertise.

## **How to Register**

Now that you and your teachers have decided to get your dancer into a Feis, what is next?

1. Create a New Account on the website.
2. Find the Feis and check the Feis Syllabus for info like dates, time, location, hotels, dances available and dance attire.
3. Once all looks good and you want to register, click the Register button.
4. Select the appropriate dance. Please see below for all the dance information.
5. Pay. Your dancer's spot is not locked in until you pay.

## **COVID Actions at a Feis**

Always check the Feis syllabus. Due to COVID there have been some changes and every Feis does it a little different. Some have a limit on the amount of spectators that can come watch your dancer. Others are mask mandatory. If it says that all dancers must wear a mask, have them wear a plain one. When they walk onto the stage right before they dance, they can take their mask off and hold it. I would advise they wrap it around wrist and hold it in their hand.

# **What do all those numbers and letters mean?**

This is definitely something that will be very confusing at first.

## **U Number**

The U number is your dancers age group. It will be between U5-U19. This is determined by the year your dancer was born and goes up every year. The easiest way to know and remember is ask yourself “How old was my dancer on the First of January that year?” For example, my daughter was born on 7/14/2000. On January 1<sup>st</sup> she was 11 years old. That means she is Under 12 or U12. She will stay in that group all year, even after her birthday.

## **1-7 First Number**

These numbers are the dance level your dancer is currently at.

- 1- First Feis
- 2- Beginner 1
- 3- Beginner 2
- 4- Novice
- 5- Prizewinner
- 6- Preliminary Championship or PC
- 7- Open Championship or OC

## Dance Levels

Always consult your dancer's teacher for level.

First Feis- this level is for dancers who are competing in their very first Feis. Once a dancer competes in First Feis, they must move up to Beginner 1 at the next Feis. At First Feis all dancers receives something (a ribbon, sash, bear or medal) as soon as they are done dancing BUT still check for results for a medal or ribbon if they earned another one.

Beginner 1- Your dancer will be in this category for a year OR if your teacher lets you know to move up to Beginner 2. At this level you will start to have your dancer's results posted and they will start to earn ribbons and medals.

Beginner 2- Your dancer will be in this category until they "level up" OR your teacher decides your dancer needs to move up. To "level up", your dancer needs to place 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> in a competition with a minimum of 5 dancers competing. Once that happens that particular dance is moved up to Novice. It will happen that your dancer is dancing in 2 different categories.

Novice- Your dancer will be in this category until they take a 1<sup>st</sup> place in a competition with a minimum of 5 dancers. Once they place 1<sup>st</sup>, that dance is moved up to Prizewinner AND they get to wear a Solo Dress. Yay!!!!!! You will have to talk to your teacher about the Solo Dress.

Prizewinner, PC, OC – No need to worry about these right now. By the time your dancer gets here, you will be a Feis Pro!

## Dances

Please always talk to your teacher to find out what dances your dancer is ready for.

### Soft Shoe (Ghillies) Dances

LJ = Light Jig

RL= Reel

SN= Single Jig

SL- Slip Jig

### Hard Shoe Dances

TJ= Treble Jig

HP= Hornpipe

TS= Traditional Set

So for example: 105LJ is a First Feis, U5 dancer doing the Light Jig.

If your dancer is a boy, the middle number will be a 5 or 6. 155LJ

## **Feis Day.....Im excited and freaked out!!!!!!!**

Check the time of the Feis and try to arrive 30 minutes early. Locate the check-in table and have your dancer give their name. You will receive a dancer card. The front will have their dancer number and the back will have their dances and stage number. There will be a table with a hole punch and string at it. Punch 2 holes in the card and put the string through the holes. Leave enough string to be able to tie it around your dancers waist. Proceed to your stage. Depending on the Feis there will be chairs or stands to sit in. Normally you would be able to have an area to “camp” in but due to COVID sometimes there will not. See the Feis syllabus for details. On the side of the stage there will be a board that will tell you what dance is on now and what dance is coming up. When you see that your dancers dance is coming up, have them proceed down to that board and there will be a volunteer to check them in. Now just sit back and enjoy watching your dancer dance! It is NEVER ok to approach an adjudicator (judge) or musician at a Feis. During their First Feis you are able to take photos and videos of their performance. Once they reach higher levels, there is no photography allowed. Remember, this is supposed to be fun, for both you and your dancer!

The teachers from MM will be a Lavin Cassidy to watch the First Feis dancers. They are at most of the Feis in the area and always do their best to watch everyone of their dancers.

