The Southern England Regional Oireachtas

13th - 15th November 2026

The Spotlight
High Street, Hoddesdon
EN11 8BE

ADJUDICATORS

Donna Griffin - Midlands
Rosetta McConomy - Ulster
Daniel Flannagan - Munster
Fiona Gallagher - Leinster
Kate O'Connor - Rea - USA

MUSICIANS

Aidan O'Neill

www.sercweb.com
Registered with An Coimisiún Le Rinci Gaelacha

2026 Entry Fees

Tiny Tots	£40.00
U6 – U9 (NON-QUALIFYING CHAMPIONSHIP)	£50.00
U10 – Senior (QUALIFYING CHAMPIONSHIP)	£60.00
Ceili & Traditional Set Dance competitions (£5 per dancer)	£5.00
Family Fee (2 dancers)	£100.00
Family Fee (3 dancers)	£125.00
Door Fee per Adult per day	£15.00
3-day pass per Adult	£35.00

Entries – CLOSING DATE: SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2026

1. Teachers to complete and send all entries together on entry pack.
2. Email entry pack to des@instepfm.com (Entry Pack can be downloaded from www.instepfm.com).
3. An email confirming all entries submitted and the total fee payable will be sent to the teacher.
4. No individual entries will be accepted, schools must complete one entry pack or incur additional penalty fees.
5. Payment must be received 1st November 2026 into the SERC Bank Account.
6. Payment to be made by bank transfer to the SERC account, details will be in the confirmation email.
7. New entries received after the final closing date will not be accepted, entries may be accepted from schools already entered.
8. It is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure that the entry as submitted is correct. When the confirmation email is received, names, Prelim eligibility, age groups and dates of birth must be carefully checked. Spellings etc. as submitted by the teacher will be that which appears in the official programme.
9. Incomplete entries will not be accepted.
10. All dancers' names & age group for both solo and ceili entries must be submitted by the closing date.
11. No refunds will be made for any entry money received unless the Oireachtas is cancelled.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR ENTRY CLEARLY DETAILS AND IDENTIFIES EACH PUPIL WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY INTO THE GIRL'S PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIP BY MARKING THE APPROPRIATE COLUMN IN THE ENTRY PACK

Competition Rules

1. A dancer's age group will be determined as from 1st January 2026.
2. Entries will only be accepted from dancing teachers registered with An Coimisiún Le Rinci Gaelacha for the year 2026/2027. Only dancers who reside in the Southern England Region are eligible to enter and qualify for the 2027 World Championships, through this Regional Oireachtas, Proof of address may be required.
3. The adjudicators' decision is final. Only members of the Southern England Regional Council may approach the adjudicators during competitions.
4. Complaints will only be accepted from registered teachers, in writing to SERC chair and must be accompanied by a fee of £50.00, which may be refunded if the Southern England Regional Council upholds said objection.

5. Teachers are advised that all details required on the entry forms must be completed. Entry forms received in contravention of this rule will be returned.
6. All competitors must be ready to dance 30 minutes prior to the published time. They must also report to the stage stewards promptly and dance in the prescribed order. Failure to report in time to dance in order will lead to disqualification.
7. In all rounds, the minimum speeds of music as laid down by An Coimisiún will apply.
8. Any competitors found to be using artificial carriage aids will be requested to remove same. In the case of refusal, disqualification will follow. In the case of medical apparatus, this will be permitted upon the production of a letter from a medical practitioner or other documentary evidence in support, to prove authenticity and the requirement for the aid to be used or worn.
9. Any form of unauthorised photography which has the capability of capturing a dancer's image whilst in motion, using electronic or manual means, e.g. mobile phone, standard camera, video camcorder, cine recorder, commercial film, with or without flash enhancement, is expressly forbidden during competitions. Photographs taken at awards ceremonies are permitted. However, these must be for your own use, and not for public display purposes unless permission has been obtained.
10. The rules of An Coimisiún Le Rinci Gaelacha as regards standards of dress must be adhered to in public areas of the venue; discretion must be exerted when dancers are changing for competitions. Changing areas will be provided.
11. Dancers taking part in results ceremonies will not be permitted to go onto stage to receive any award unless in full costume and wearing black dance shoes.
12. All dancers deserve the same respect and ovation on completion of their performance. Excessive and unique verbal celebrations will not be tolerated on completion of a performance.
13 Where a dancer has entered the Oireachtas, prior to its commencement, and is unable to compete due to illness or injury, and is a World Medal Holder from 2026 World Championships, a medical certificate may be presented to the Oireachtas Secretary for submission to An Coimisiun, asking for the requirement to participate at the Regional Oireachtas by this dancer, to be waived due to this situation. The certificate must be presented no later than 7 days from the end of the Oireachtas.
14. By entering the SER Oireachtas, competitors and their guardians accept that neither The Spotlight venue,or the Southern England Regional Council can be held liable for any incident or injuries sustained at the event.

Costume related rules

1. An Coimisiun has ruled that from 1st January of each year, that no block, en pointe, stationary or moving be allowed to be performed for all ages up to and including the under 12 age group Worldwide. The Under 12 Age Group will be allowed to Toe Walk from 1st September.
2. Make-up Rules (4.5 in CLRG Rule Book) 4.5.2 Make-up (including false eyelashes) is not permitted for dancers, in either solo or team competitions, up to and including the Under 10 age group (POINT OF CLARIFICATION) For the purposes of this rule the term "Make-up" includes tinted moisturiser and any artificial tanning products. An Coimisiún hopes that teachers and parents will interpret and apply this rule in the spirit in which it is intended.
3. Costume Length: Appropriate undergarments covering the midriff must be worn. Undergarments must provide full coverage as per the illustration attached. (See Addendum A). Dancers wearing undergarments that do not cover the areas of the body as in the illustrated example will be asked to put on black tights of a denier of not less than 70%. This is monitored by the adjudicator. For competitions adjudicated by a panel of more than one adjudicator all adjudicator on the panel must agree to ask the dancer to put on tights
4. 5.1.1 Solo costumes (including headwear) worn in championship competitions must not include any "Identifying Designs".
"Identifying Designs" are defined as any element on any costume worn in championship solo competitions identifying a status of achievement or an Irish dance competition award (i.e. globes).
"Championship" is defined as any preliminary or open championship competition adjudicated by a panel of minimum three adjudicators.
Effective September 2025

Performance related rules

1. In all heavy dances the lead-round must be danced on both right and left feet.
2. Competitors will dance the following:
   U/5 - Reel – 32 bars
   - U/6 & U/7- 48 bars Reel, Single Jig 40 bars, and Choice of Light or Heavy Jig. 40 bars.
   - U8 & U9 - 48 bars in Reel and 40 bars in Heavy Jig and Traditional Set Dance.
   - U10 – Senior - 48 bars in the Reel and Heavy Jig, 40 bars in the Slip Jig and Hornpipe and Set Dance.
   - Under 10 Boys & Girls – Recall dancers must dance jig set only in line with An Coimisiún ruling.
3. Competitors will dance in rounds 1 & 2 after an 8-bar introduction. Competitors beginning to dance before or after the stipulated 8 bar introduction will automatically receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round.
4. Should a competitor reach the final round, they will be required to submit the name and metronomic speed of their open set dance nominated by them to the stage steward. The onus of ensuring that the stage steward is informed of the correct name and metronomic speed of the nominated open set dance will rest with the competitor.
5. In the open set dance round a competitor may choose his/her starting position.
6. An incorrect metronomic speed submitted for an open set dance can only be changed prior to the commencement of the playing of the relevant set dance for that competitor.
7. Introductions to open set dances will be played only once and no alteration in that speed of music will be permitted.
8. Should a competitor commence dancing to an incorrect metronomic speed submitted to the stage steward then that competitor must continue to dance at that speed as no further opportunity of tempo change will be afforded.
9. Competitors beginning to dance before or after the stipulated set dance introduction will automatically receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round.
10. If a competitor fails to complete the Double Jig or Hornpipe round of a championship, they will receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round. As a courtesy, they will be allowed to dance the equivalent light shoe round and whilst they will receive marks from each adjudicator, they will automatically receive ZERO points and will not be allowed to progress further in the Solo Championship.

If a competitor fails to complete the Reel or Slip Jig round of a championship, they will receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round and will not be allowed to progress any further in the Solo Championship.

A competitor who fails to complete the open set dance round will receive ZERO marks and ZERO points from all adjudicators for that round and cannot appear in a secondary qualifying position.

Definition of complete means that all bars as outlined in the syllabus are danced without any stops.

Choreographed pauses in steps are permitted.

In the event of a mishap on stage, e.g., a heel or shoe coming off, the dancer should retire to the back of the stage and remain there, allowing the other dancer(s) to continue with their performance. If a dancer fails to comply with this direction and leaves the stage, then he/she will be deemed to have failed to complete the round and will be eliminated from the championship.

Should a dancer fall, and the stage situation be that he/she inhibits the performance or safety of other dancers on stage, the bell MUST be rung, and the group will be permitted to dance again. Should the fall happen in the last 8 bars of the dance then the dancer/s will be required to re dance the last 16 bars only. In the case of all re-dances, such shall occur before three and not after five rotations of dancers.

If the judges ring the bell to stop a performance during any part of their open solo set dance, the dancer will perform the entire dance for their re-dance.

If a competitor sustains injury or illness during a competition, and the organisers have reason to believe that such an illness or injury could be exacerbated by continued participation, he/she will be advised to retire from the competition. If this advice is ignored, then prior to continuation, the dancer (or in the case of a child or young person (5 to 17 years) an appropriate adult) will be required to sign a disclaimer form, which will be retained in the event of a potential future enquiry.

Respect for fellow competitors on stage is always a requirement. Lack of respect or courtesy for fellow competitors by aggressive dancing on stage will be subject to penalty at the discretion of each individual adjudicator.

SERC PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIPS RULE

THERE WILL BE A PRELIMINARY CHAMPIONSHIP RUN IN CONJUNCTION WITH EACH GIRLS CHAMPIONSHIP FROM UNDER 10 UPWARDS AT THE OIREACHTAS (THERE ARE NO PRELIMINARY COMPETITIONS FOR BOYS/MEN. THIS WILL APPLY TO THOSE DANCERS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE AND HAVE BEEN ENTERED TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION WHEN CALCULATING THE RESULT. N.B.

THIS WILL BE BASED ON THE 1ST 2 ROUNDS OF THE COMPETITION AND ENTRY IS SUBJECT TO THE SOUTHERN ENGLAND OIREACHTAS PRELIMINARY ELIGIBILITY RULE BELOW.

1. Preliminary Championships - Five Adjudicators will judge the first two rounds.
2. Preliminary Championships for Girls from Under 10 to Senior.
3. The Preliminary Championship competitors after the first two rounds will be allocated grid points and the result will be displayed, and a separate marks pack will be available for purchase.
4. Where a competitor wins two Preliminary Championships, they must dance in the Open Championship for a period of 12 months thereafter.
5. For grading purposes, two wins in any two-year rolling period. Where a dancer does not win a second Preliminary within two years of winning their first Preliminary Championship, then the first win, having expired, the dancer starts afresh.
6. Where there are less than 6 in a Preliminary Championship, the win will not apply for grading purposes. However, where a dancer wins three Preliminary Championships regardless of the number of competitors in each competition, that dancer must dance in Open Championship for a period of 12 months thereafter.
7. Dances performed in Preliminary Championships do not count for grading in solo competitions.
8. Competitors that qualify for and compete in Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne in the previous 12 months cannot compete in a Preliminary Championship except where the dancer auto qualified at their Regional or National Oireachtas due to lack of numbers.
9. Dancers that have obtained a secondary qualifying place at the 2026 Scottish National Championships are not eligible to enter the Preliminary competition at the SER Oireachtas and if they do not attain a qualifying place at the Southern England Oireachtas, they can claim their world qualifying place from the 2026 Scottish National Championships.
10. Dancers placing first-third in an Open Championship with up to twenty competitors or first to fifth in an Open Championship with more than 20 Competitors cannot compete in a Preliminary Championship for a period of 12 months.

Dancers who wish to be considered in the Preliminary Championship result, must complete the appropriate entry section on the Oireachtas entry pack for their age group. Failure to do so at entry, will mean they will not be considered when calculating the preliminary result. Teachers are asked to check all entries submitted, before the **event**, to ensure the correct information on preliminary entry is submitted.

In the event of a dispute not covered by any of the rules of these championship, reference will be made to the Rules of An Coimisiún, appertaining to the issue or matter in dispute.

AGE GROUPS & DANCES

Mixed, Girls & Boys – Non-Qualifying competitions

1	Under 5 tiny tot superstars	Born 2021 or later	Reel – 32 bars (1 Round)
2	5 and under 6 Years - Mixed	born 2020	Reel, Light or Heavy Jig (2 rounds)
3	6 and under 7 Years - Mixed	born 2019	Reel, Single Jig, & choice of Light or Heavy Jig (3 rounds)
4	7 and under 8 years - Girls	Born 2018	Reel, Heavy Jig and Traditional Set
5	7 and under 8 years - Boys	Born 2018	Reel, Heavy Jig and Traditional Set
6	8 and under 9 years - Girls	born 2017	Reel, Heavy Jig and Traditional Set
7	8 and under 9 years - Boys	born 2017	Reel, Heavy Jig and Traditional Set

Girls/Ladies & Boys/ Men Qualifying competitions

8	9 and under 10 years – Girls	born 2016	Hornpipe/Reel and Open Jig Set upon recall
9	9 and under 10 years - Boys	born 2016	Hornpipe/Reel and Open Jig Set upon recall
10	10 and under 11 years – Girls	born 2015	Heavy Jig/Slip Jig and Open Set upon recall
11	10 and under 11 years – Boys	born 2015	Heavy Jig/Reel and Open set upon recall
12	11 and under 12 years – Girls	born 2014	Hornpipe/Reel and Open Set upon recall
13	11 and under 12 years – Boys	born 2014	Hornpipe/Reel and Open set upon recall
14	12 and under 13 years – Girls	born 2013	Heavy Jig/Slip Jig and Open Set upon recall
15	12 and under 13 years – Boys	born 2013	Heavy Jig/Reel and Open set upon recall
16	13 and under 14 years – Girls	born 2012	Hornpipe/Reel and Open Set upon recall
17	13 and under 14 years – Boys	born 2012	Hornpipe/Reel and Open set upon recall
18	14 and under 15 years – Girls	born 2011	Heavy Jig/Slip Jig and Open Set upon recall
19	14 and under 15 years – Boys	born 2011	Heavy Jig/Reel and Open set upon recall
20	15 and under 16 years – Girls	born 2010	Hornpipe/Reel and Open Set upon recall
21	15 and under 16 years – Boys	born 2010	Hornpipe/Reel and Open set upon recall
22	16 and under 17 years – Girls	born 2009	Heavy Jig/Slip Jig and Open Set upon recall
23	16 and under 17 years – Boys	born 2009	Heavy Jig/Reel and Open set upon recall
24	17 and under 18 years – Ladies	born 2008	Hornpipe/Reel and Open Set upon recall
25	17 and under 18 years – Men	born 2008	Hornpipe/Reel and Open set upon recall
26	18 and under 19 years – Ladies	born 2007	Heavy Jig/Slip Jig and Open Set upon recall
27	18 and under 19 years – Men	born 2007	Heavy Jig/Reel and Open set upon recall
28	19 and under 20 years – Ladies	born 2006	Hornpipe/Reel and Open Set upon recall
29	19 and under 20 years – Men	born 2006	Hornpipe/Reel and Open set upon recall
30	Under 22 years – Ladies	born 2005/2004	Heavy Jig/Slip Jig and Open Set upon recall
31	Senior Ladies	born 2003 or earlier	Heavy Jig/Slip Jig and Open Set upon recall
32	Senior Men	born 2003 or earlier	Heavy Jig/Reel and Open set upon recall

Ceili Competitions

33	Sub Minor Ceili Girls/Mixed	Under 10 - 4 Hand	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
34	Sub Minor Ceili Girls	Under 10 - 8 Hand	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
35	Sub Minor Ceili Mixed	Under 10 - 8 Hand	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
36/37	Minor Ceili Girls/Mixed	Under 12 - 4 Hand	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
38	Minor Ceili Girls	Under 12 - 8 Hand	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
39	Minor Ceili Mixed	Under 12 - 8 Hand	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
40/41	Junior Ceili Girls/Mixed	12 & Under 15 - 4	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
42	Junior Ceili Girls	12 & Under 15 - 8	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
43	Junior Ceili Mixed	12 & Under 15 - 8	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
44	Senior Ceili Ladies	15 & Under 18 - 8	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
45/46	Senior Ceili Ladies/Mixed	Over 15 - 4 Hand	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
47	Senior Ceili Mixed	Over 15 - 8 Hand	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
48	Senior Ceili Ladies	Over 18 - 8 Hand	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)
49	Adult Ceili	Adult Ceili	Any dance from Ar Rinci Ceili (Part A or B)

Traditional Set Dance – Belt Competition in the following age groups:
Under 12 – Under 15 – Over 15

Belt competitions – A choice of St Patrick's Day, Garden of Daisies, The Blackbird, Job of Journeywork, King of the Fairies, Jockey to the Fair or Three Sea Captains.

General Conduct

Your attention is drawn to the legal position regarding smoking in public places or buildings in England. The Spotlight Theatre is designated as such a public place, and smoking is therefore forbidden in all parts of the building. it is further recommended that hair spray and similar cosmetic or hygienic spray substances should not be used in the public area(s) within the venue.

In the event of unacceptable behaviour in the venue on the part of any member of the Irish dancing community, for the duration of the Championships, The Spotlight Theatre management reserve the right to deal with those who are responsible in accordance with their policies appertaining to such situations. The Southern England Regional Council will support such action regarding unacceptable behaviour.

GDPR Statement

Data Protection – Personal Information Collection - Privacy Statement
As a regional committee and a member of An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha (CLRG), we aim to protect all user's information in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2018. Please click the link for more information: UK GDPR guidance and resources | ICO

As a member of CLRG I comply with the CLRG GDPR Regulations, a link can be found below:
https://www.clrg.ie/index.php/en/about-us/privacy-policy.html

PROVISIONAL DAYS & RUNNING ORDER

FRIDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2026

UNDER 8 & UNDER 9 GIRLS

UNDER 10, UNDER 11 & UNDER 12 GIRLS

TRADITIONAL BELT COMPETITION UNDER 12

U8, U9, U10, U11 & U12 BOYS

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUB MINOR - U10 & MINOR - U12

SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2026

UNDER 5, UNDER 6 & UNDER 7 MIXED

UNDER 13, UNDER 14 & UNDER 15 GIRLS

TRADITIONAL BELT COMPETITION UNDER 15

UNDER 13, UNDER 14 & UNDER 15 BOYS

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

JUNIOR - U15 & ADULT CEILI

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2026

UNDER 16 & UNDER 17 GIRLS & UNDER 18 LADIES

U19, U20, U22 & SENIOR LADIES

TRADITIONAL BELT COMPETITION OVER 15

U16 & U17 BOYS & U18, U19, U20 & SENIOR MEN

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

U18 LADIES - O18 LADIES & O15 MIXED

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE RUNNING ORDER MAY CHANGE ONCE ENTRIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED