

Pre-Beginner -- Open to dancers who never competed in any feis before. Boys and Girls combined will dance on step.

	Reel	Lt Jig
Under 6	A	B

Beginner – A competitor who is taking dancing lessons for less than 12 months. A Beginner must move to Advanced Beginner the next year.
Music speeds: Reel / Lt. Jig - 115

Girls	Reel	Lt. Jig
Under 5	1	2
Under 6	3	4
Under 7	5	6
Under 8	7	8
Under 9	9	10
Under 10	11	12
Under 11	13	14
Under 12	15	16
12 +	17	18

Boys	Reel	Lt. Jig
Under 7	19	20
Under 9	21	22
Under 11	23	24
11 +	25	26

Advanced Beginner – A dancer who has completed one year in Beginner and has not won 1st, 2nd or 3rd in this category.

Music speeds: Reel / Lt. Jig / Slip Jig – 115
Heavy Jig – 92; HP - 138

Girls	Reel	Lt. Jig	Slip Jig	Heavy Jig	Trad. HP
Under 6	101	102	103	104	105
Under 7	106	107	108	109	110
Under 8	111	112	113	114	115
Under 9	116	117	118	119	120
Under 10	121	122	123	124	125
Under 11	126	127	128	129	130
Under 12	131	132	133	134	135
Under 13	136	137	138	139	140
13 +	141	142	143	144	145

Boys	Reel	Lt. Jig	Heavy Jig	Trad. HP
Under 7	146	147	148	149
Under 9	150	151	152	153
Under 11	154	155	156	157
11 +	158	159	160	161

Novice Grade – A competitor who wins 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Adv. Beg. category and never placed 1st in Novice. Dancers may enter all dances.

Music speeds: Reel/Slip Jig – 113; Lt. Jig – 115
Heavy Jig – 73 or 92; HP – 113 or 138

Girls	Reel	Lt. Jig	Slip Jig	Heavy Jig	HP
Under 6	201	202	203	204	205
Under 7	206	207	208	209	210
Under 8	211	212	213	214	215
Under 9	216	217	218	219	220
Under 10	221	222	223	224	225
Under 11	226	227	228	229	230
Under 12	231	232	233	234	235
Under 13	236	237	238	239	240
Under 14	241	242	243	244	245
14 +	246	247	248	249	250

Boys	Reel	Lt. Jig	Heavy Jig	HP
Under 7	251	252	253	254
Under 9	255	256	257	258
Under 11	259	260	261	262
11 +	263	264	265	266

Prizewinner – A competitor who has placed 1st in a particular dance in Novice will advance to Prizewinner in that dance.

Music speeds: Reel/Slip Jig – 113;
Heavy Jig – 73 or 92; HP – 113 or 138

Girls	Reel	Slip Jig	Hvy Jig	HP
Under 6	301	302	303	304
Under 7	305	306	307	308
Under 8	309	310	311	312
Under 9	313	314	315	316
Under 10	317	318	319	320
Under 11	321	322	323	324
Under 12	325	326	327	328
Under 13	329	330	331	332
Under 14	333	334	335	336
14 +	337	338	339	340

Boys	Reel	Heavy Jig	HP
Under 7	341	342	343
Under 9	344	345	346
Under 11	347	348	349
11 +	350	351	352

Preliminary Championship – Open to those who, at any NAFC recognized feis:

a) Have placed 1st place in light and heavy shoe in the Prize Winner categories and b) have never won 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Open Championship.

A dancer who wins two First Place awards in wone calendar year will move on to Open Championship the following year, or as soon as the second win is achieved, in any age category, in the following years. Only in the case of back-to-back Feisanna (successive days), the first win in the first feis will not change the dancer's status for the second feis. Competitions 400, 401, 402, 403, 404 and 405 will dance 3 at a time - hard shoe first.

A = Jig / Reel B = HP / Reel
C = Jig / Slip Jig D = HP / Slip Jig

Preliminary Championships				
Under 8	400A	400B	400C	400D
Under 9	401A	401B	401C	401D
Under 10	402A	402B	402C	402D
Under 11	403A	403B	403C	403D
Under 12	404A	404B	404C	404D
Under 13	405A	405B	405C	405D
Under 14	406A	406B	406C	406D
Under 15	407A	407B	407C	407D
Under 16	408A	408B	408C	408D
16 +	409A	409B	409C	409D

Open Championships – 1st Place winners in Open Championship cannot return to Preliminary or Prizewinner competition. Placing in a Regional or National Oireachtas does not change the status of a competitor. A dancer may move from Open to Prelims IF he/she did not legitimately place into Open. If, after dancing for two years in Open, a dancer has not won, he/she may return to Prelim status. If less than 5 boys per competition, feis committee may combine ages.

Absolutely NO DANCE CHANGES will be accepted the day of feis-NO EXCEPTIONS.

*Under 9 dance Traditional Set

A = Reel/Set B = Slip Jig/Set

Open Championships			
Girls		Boys	
Under 9	510 A, B	Under 9	511 A
Under 10	500 A, B	Under 10	505 A
Under 12	501 A, B	Under 12	506 A
Under 14	502 A, B	Under 14	507 A
Under 16	503 A, B	Under 16	508 A
16 +	504 A, B	16 +	509 A

Figure Dancing	2 Hand	3 Hand	4 Hand
Under 7		600	
Under 9		601	602
Under 12		603	604
Under 15		605	606
15 +	607		608

Traditional Set (own choice) for Novice and Prizewinner	**Special Competition**
Under 8	700
Under 10	701
Under 12	702
Under 14	703
14 +	704

Irish Soda Bread Competition

Entry due by 12:00 p.m. – Competition #800
No entry fee, but Irish bread becomes property of Feis Committee

ENTRIES CLOSE ON OCTOBER 7, 2009.
Entries postmarked after October 7th and received no later than 10/15, will be accepted with a \$10 late fee. Entries received after 10/14 and/or of 750 cap is achieved; you will be notified of rejection via e-mail.

Entries to be submitted on 3 x 5 card & include:

1. Name
2. Address
3. Phone #
4. E-mail address
5. Date of Birth
6. Age as of 1/1/09
7. Competition #(s)
8. Dance School
9. Teacher Name
10. Open Championship: Name of Set
11. Parent's Signature

If you send a self-addressed, stamped envelope big enough to fit 4" x 6" competitor number card, your number(s) will be mailed to you.

Make checks payable to: Neponset Valley Feis	
Mail entries to:	Margaret McCarthy 20 Jason's Path Walpole, MA 02081
All Solo Dances	\$ 7.00 per dance
Figure Dances	\$ 7.00 per person
Preliminary Championships	\$28.00
Open Championships	\$30.00
Special Competition	\$8.00
Maximum Family Fee + Any appropriate late fee.	\$85.00
There can be no refund of entry fees. All payments U.S. currency	

Neponset Valley

5th Annual Feis

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Qualters Middle School
240 East Street
Mansfield, MA 02048



Chairpersons:

Liam Harney, ADCRG
Margaret McCarthy, TMRF

Maximum – 750 Entrants
Closing Date: October 7, 2009

This Feis registered, sanctioned and governed by rules of An Coimisiún, North American Feis Commission & the New England Region
Harry Costello, President, NAFC

NAFC Senior Irish Dancing Championship
The Jerry Campbell Perpetual Belt held at Greater Toronto Feis, Brampton, ON, Canada 6/13/09.
NAFC Minor Irish Dancing Championship
The George S. Sweetnam Perpetual Trophy held at New Haven Feis, North Haven, CT 6/28/09.
NAFC Junior Irish Dancing Championship
The Robert Gabor Perpetual Trophy held at Samhain Feis, Vancouver, WA 10/24/09.

Final Stage Schedule will be posted at www.harneyacademy.com by 10/22/09.
NAFC RULES

Local Hotels in area:
Holiday Inn Mansfield/Foxboro
31 Hampshire Street
Mansfield, MA 02048
508-339-2200

Residence Inn by Marriott
250 Foxborough Blvd
Foxboro, MA 02035
508-698-2800

Courtyard Marriott
35 Foxborough Blvd.
Foxboro, MA 02035
508-543-5222

Gate Fee: Adult - \$10.00
Children 6 to 18 - \$ 5.00 (non-competitors)
Children 5 and under free

Directions to Feis:
From CT: Route 95 North into MA, to exit 7A (Route 140) toward Mansfield for approx 1.3 miles. Left onto Chauncey St. (Route 106) travel 1.2 miles then right onto Hope St for ½ mile and then left onto East St. Qualters Middle School is on left.

From North of Boston: Route 95 toward Providence, RI to exit 7A (Route 140) toward Mansfield for approx 1.3 miles. Left onto Chauncey St. (Route 106) travel 1.2 miles then right onto Hope St. for ½ mile and then left onto East St. Qualters Middle School is on left.

- 1) In the case of all solo and team competitions in all grades, the age of a competitor on 1st January of the year in which the competition is held will determine the right of entry. For the purposes of this Rule a competitor whose birthday occurs on 1st January shall be deemed to be under the age attained on that date.
- 2) Competitions are open to all but those holding a TMRF, TCRG, or ADCRG designation. All dancers must be pupils of a person currently registered with An Coimisiun as a Dancing Teacher of any category.
- 3) A competitor may be disqualified for any of the following reasons: a.) Conduct unbecoming a lady or gentleman. b.) Failure to report on time to compete. c.) Falsification of age or other important facts – i.e., teaching, award winning, competing under another competitor's name or number, etc. Penalty for (a) or (c): Competitor will be disqualified from the Feis at which the occurrence happened and from all NAFC – registered Feisanna for a period of one year beginning at the date of the occurrence.
- 4) Competitions will be closed if there are no competitors at the assigned stage ready to compete when the competition is scheduled or announced. May not pertain to situation where competitors are involved in stage conflicts.
- 5) Solo competitors in Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Novice or Open (Prizewinner) competitions: a.) Must compete in their own age group. b.) Must be prepared to perform two steps in each event. c.) Cannot change competition on the day of the Feis.
- 6) Figure Dancing: Teachers/Team Captains are responsible that their teams are complete and in position when the competition is announced. Competitors may compete in the next higher age group; however a competitor may compete in only one figure.
- 7) Steel taps or "bubble" heels on dancing shoes, display of awards, wearing of shorts or other unconventional dress is prohibited. Authentic Gaelic dress is desired. First Feis (if offered), Beginner and Advanced Beginner, aka Beginner I and II, must wear a class costume, or a skirt and blouse. All other categories are excluded from this rule. Modest attire is encouraged when a competitor is not dancing
- 8) Competitor's number must be worn and visible to adjudicators when performing in all competitions, use of reflective plastic number covers is discouraged.
- 9) Awards will be determined in proportion to the number of entries in each competition and to the degree of proficiency shown.
- 10) Complaints must be in writing stating names and other factual information and signed by the complainant. A \$10.00 fee must be enclosed and presented to the Feis Chairman within one hour of the occurrence. The fee will be returned if the complaint is upheld.
- 11) The Harney Academy Feis Committee, Qualters Middle School and any organization affiliated with same, will not be held responsible for personal injury, property loss or damage. Destruction of Feis property or rental property will be punishable by law.
- 12) The Feis reserves the right to reject any entry for cause, to cancel all or part of the Feis and to limit competitor's performing time. The decision of the Feis committee is final in all matters connected with the Feis.
- 13) Competitors must answer all questions as required by the Feis Entry committee, including teacher's name, and enclose the entry fee when mailing or else the entry will be rejected. Entries must be postmarked on or before the closing date or they will be subject to a late fee of \$10.
- 14) Entrants in any Championship event may not enter in any other (grade) events, but may enter in figure dances. Entrants in Championships should specify, on the entry form their choice of set dance. Under 9 dance Traditional Set. Entrants cannot change competition or category on the day of the Feis. a) Dancers must qualify for open championship via the method now in place for preliminary championship, i.e. two 1st place wins. b) Dancers must compete in the preliminary championship competition in order to qualify for open championship c) The regional syllabus where the feis is being held may have different qualifications for entry.
- 15) Standard Age Groups for Open Championship. Boys & girls must be advertised separately if less than 5 boys per competition Feis organizers will combine with 1 age group up. If this cannot be done and there is 1 boy then they will ask the boy if he would prefer to be combined with the girl competition of his age or dance alone. Combining Male and female dancers in any age category is left to the discretion of each region of the ITDANA.
- 16) Preliminary Championships are open to those who, at any NAFC recognized Feis: a.) Have won 1st in both an Open/Prizewinner light and heavy shoe competition, and b.) Have never won 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Open Championship. c) The regional syllabus where the feis is being held may have different qualifications for entry. A dancer who wins two First Place awards will move on to Open Championship at the next Feis they enter, or as soon as the second win is achieved, in any age category, in the following years; except in the case of back-to-back Feisanna (successive days), in which case the first win in the first Feis will not change the dancer's status for the second Feis. A dancer is required to perform a light shoe dance (reel or slip jig for ladies and reel only for men) and a hard shoe dance. A Feis can opt to offer either (a) a set dance or (b) a jig/hornpipe.
- 17) All Championships and Preliminary Championships require at least three adjudicators.
- 18) First Place winners in the Open Championship category Cannot return to a Preliminary or Open (Prizewinner) competition. Placing in a Regional or National Oireachtas does not change the status of a competitor. A dancer who moves into open championship must stay a minimum of 2 years. If after 2 years they have not placed they are allowed to return to preliminary. An open championship dancer who places is not allowed to return to preliminary until 2 years after their last placement. The regional syllabus where the feis is being held may have different qualifications for entry.
- 19) The status of a dancer does not change unless there are 5 or more dancers in a competition.

- 20) Any form of photography which has the capability to capture a dancer's image whilst in motion, using electronic or manual means, e.g. mobile phones, standard camera, video camcorder, cine recorder, commercial film with or without flash enhancement, is expressly forbidden in competition. The only authorized use of still or motion photography is for press use or Feis Committee documentation.
- 21) **Grade Categories:** Competitors have the option to remain in the same category for the remainder of the Feis year.
Beginner Grade: A beginner is a competitor who has not taken a full year of Irish dance lessons, thereby giving beginners a full year with such status. A Beginner must move into the Advanced Beginner category the next year.
Advanced Beginner Grade: An advanced beginner who wins 1st, 2nd or 3rd place will advance to the Novice category in that particular dance. Competition dances are reel, light jig, slip jig, traditional treble jig and traditional hornpipe, as a minimum requirement.
Novice Grade: A novice who wins a 1st place will advance to the Open (Prizewinner) category in that particular dance.
Open Grade (Prizewinner): A competitor who does not qualify as a Beginner, Advanced Beginner or as a Novice.
Adult Beginner: An adult beginner is a competitor who never took Irish dancing lessons as a juvenile and is over 18 years of age. Each region may determine the system for moving dancers from one grade to another, as they see appropriate for their region. The syllabus is to contain all grade categories. A Feis Committee may combine two consecutive age categories into the higher of the two categories within that grade when less than five (5) competitors are entered.
- 22) Musicians and adjudicators cannot be approached during a competition by anyone except the Feis Committee. No one can approach them while a competitor is performing. Good sportsmanship, as well as ladylike and gentlemanly conduct by all, is desired throughout the Feis.
- 23) Musicians employed by the Feis Committee will be solely under the direction and management of the Feis Committee on Feis day.
- 24) In matters pertaining to adjudication, the decision of the adjudicators are final.
- 25) Adjudicators are to monitor the quality of music at the stage(s) to which they are assigned.
- 26) First Feis (if offered), Beginner, Advanced Beginner and Adult dancers are required to dance at traditional speeds. Novice and Open/Prizewinner dancers may choose between traditional and Oireachtas speeds.
- 27) The length of 2 hand and 3 hand dances in competition are to be 48 bars of music plus an 8 bar introduction
- 28) In consideration of safety and in fairness to dancers performing at a Feis, photography of any kind which has the capability of capturing a dancer's image while in motion is strictly forbidden. A Feis may elect to allow in motion photography for publicity purposes, but the pictures are considered the sole property of the Feis and solely for Feis use only; these are not to be used for personal gain through commercial use or sale, and under no circumstances can they be published on any website or other areas, without the express written permission of the persons involved. Additionally, a professional photographer may be formally contracted by a Feis to capture non-motion photographs, such as portrait photography, awards ceremonies, etc. and/or in motion photography provided it is taken at a vendor station or suitable location: (a) away from the dancing stages and, (b) requested by a consenting parent, guardian, or dancer (over the age of 18).
- 29) No block, en Pointe, toe walking movements, stationary or moving is allowed to be performed for all ages up to and including the under 12 age group.
- 30) Make up is prohibited on a dancer in the first three grades (First Feis (if offered), Beginner and Advance Beginner or their equivalent) up to and including the under 12 age group.
- 31) Any competitor found to be using artificial carriage aids and subsequently refuses to remove same, will be subject to disqualification from that particular competition. Medically prescribed aids (proof of which may be required) will be exempt from this rule.
- 32) Each feis is required to list their adjudicators on their syllabus and/or website. One third of which are to be from outside the region where the Feis is being held.
- 33) Competitors in girl's competitions at the First Feis (if offered), Beginner and Advanced Beginner Grade will wear only the competitor's dancing School costume or a skirt and blouse

Please check our website for updates:
Schedule, Adjudicators, Musicians