

Heart of Ireland School of Dance, LLC

www.HeartofIrelandSchool.com

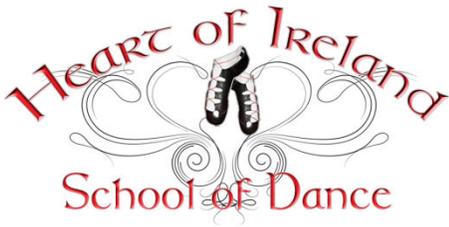
804.464.8190

Feis-ing FAQs

Here are answers to a lot of questions about attending your first few feiseanna.

About registering:

- 1. How do I know when feiseanna are happening and where?** All of the WIDA feiseanna are listed on www.worldirishdance.com – just look under the Events at the top and mouse over North America and then USA. You can look there anytime and see all of the currently scheduled feiseanna.
- 2. How do I register for a feis?** WIDA uses an online system to accept registrations. Go to www.FeisKeeper.com to register for any WIDA feiseanna or Oireachtasai.
- 3. How do I know what level I am?** There are four levels – Beginner, Primary, Intermediate and Open. Usually, dancers start at the Beginner level. Occasionally there are exceptions to this rule. If you have questions, ask your instructor!
- 4. How do I move up a level?** Level advancement is based on achieving a 1st place at a competition where there are 5 or more dancers in your age group. You move up by each dance, so you can compete your reels as a Beginner and your single jigs as a Primary. For Beginner and Primary-level competitions where there are a LARGE number of dancers in a single age group, there are additional placements that may advance.
- 5. How do I know what dances to register for?** How many dances, and which ones to choose, is up to each dancer and their family. Some dancers like to compete all of the dances they can at each feiseanna. Some dancers choose to compete a dance in 2 levels to see how they do in one level versus the other. At the lower levels, there may be some dances offered at a feis that your dancer may not know yet. Some of the names can sound alike to the inexperienced dance parent, so if you're unsure, please ask your instructor which dances to register for at your first few feiseanna. We have a form in the studio that your teacher can complete in order to help you!
- 6. How do I get my scores afterwards?** Scores and comments are available through FeisKeeper usually a week or so after the event. When you log in, click on "My Dancers" at the top, click the name of the dancer whose score you want to see and then click on the "Results" tab. Select the feis for which you are seeking scores and comments from the pull-down menu.



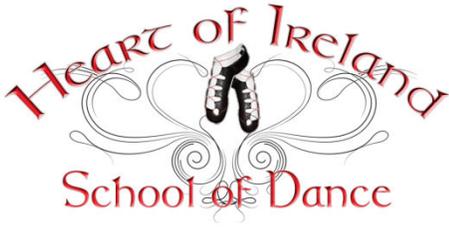
About attending:

7. **What happens when we go to a feis?** First, you'll need to make a hotel reservation. A lot of the feiseanna make arrangements with local hotels that are close to the competition venue. We highly recommend making reservations as soon as you decide to attend a particular feis. The hotels often sell out far in advance! On feis day, you'll need to check in at the check-in area (usually a table at the venue). Usually a check-in schedule will be emailed out the week before. You need to make sure your dancer is checked in by the time specified or your dancer may miss her/his competition!

You'll pick up your dancer's competitor number and pins or string, as well as any other materials they have for you. You will need to pin or tie your dancer's number to her/him so that it is easily visible to the judges – usually around the waist in the front. Dancers will be called up in groups by number starting with Beginner dancers and moving up through the levels. Awards are usually given out after all dancers of a level have competed, although sometimes it is after 2 levels have competed. Dancers must be in full costume and shoes for the awards ceremony. After the awards for your dancer's level have been given out, you are free to go; however, it is always fun to watch the other dancers compete if you have the time to stay!

8. **What do I pack for a feis?** Ah, the packing list. That is a separate document in this packet!
9. **How do I do my hair?** You can do your hair any way you would like as long as it's neat and off of your face. You should make sure to spray, gel and/or bobby pin down any 'wispies' so that there is no frizz. You may curl your hair (curlers overnight, hot rollers or curling iron) or get a bun wig. Bun wigs make it easy to do your hair, but you must make sure the color matches your hair! We have a color ring at the studio for you. We recommend bun wigs for all competitors and we require them for all competitors under the age of 15 and at the Primary Level and higher.
10. **What do I wear?** Female Beginner dancers under the age of 15 wear a white polo shirt and dark green skort. Female Primary and Intermediate dancers under the age of 15 AND Beginner dancers ages 15 and older may choose to wear the HOI Jumper Ensemble or the HOI School Dress Ensemble, although that is not a requirement for competition. All ages wear poodle socks. Poodle socks must be clean and must stay up! You can either use sock glue or wear tan tights underneath the socks (remember the tights must be like new – no holes, picks, runs, etc.). Female dancers at the Open level and those dancers who are 15 years of age or older may choose to purchase a solo dress. However, the dress must be age-appropriate and FIT! Please speak to us before you commit to purchasing a dress! Women may wear an HOI school dress, a solo dress or a white blouse and dark green skirt. Women typically wear black tights, but if you feel like rockin' the poodle socks, go for it!

Male Beginner dancers wear black pants, a white polo shirt and black socks. Male Primary and Intermediate dancers may choose to wear a colored long-sleeved shirt instead of their white polo shirt. Male dancers at the Open level may wear a gents' vest/cummerbund/solo ensemble.



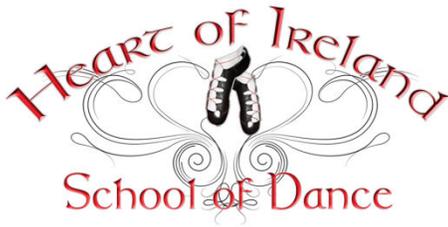
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Other questions:

11. **Do I have to compete at a feis?** No! You do not ever HAVE to compete if you do not want to. That is up to each dancer and family. However, competing can be fun and a good motivator to work hard in class. We have found that dancers who compete often push themselves to perfect their technique, which then makes them better dancers!
12. **What are these Nationals and Awrocktus I keep hearing about?** "*AwROCKtus*" is actually a Gaelic word spelled Oireachtas. Oireachtasai are annual regional competitions at which a dancer at the Open level may qualify for Europeans and Worlds. The US Open (sometimes referred to as Nationals) is an additional competition, for which there are currently no qualifying criteria. Any dancer may attend; it is another opportunity to advance in your dances and for the Open-level dancers, it is a good time to see how you place relative to other dancers in the Open Championship if you are considering going to Europeans and Worlds the following spring.
13. **To whom do I go with other questions?** Your instructor is always a good person to start with. Leave a note in her box in the back room of the studio or send her an email. Please try not to ask questions about feiseanna during class as this takes time away from learning. You are always welcome to call the studio office during the day and ask any questions you want!



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Feis Packing List

Here is a list of items that we have found useful to bring to a feis. You might have some more of your own! This list is just a starting place for you.

- Ghillies for girls or Reel shoes for boys
- Jig Shoes (if competing hard shoe steps)
- Poodle socks for girls, black socks for boys; socks should be in like-new condition – no stains, etc.
- Sock glue for poodle socks, or tan tights to go under poodle socks
- Costume – skirt/skort & polo, school jumper and white blouse, school dress or solo dress for girls; black pants and shirt for boys
- Leotard, spankies and/or booty shorts to wear under costume (will depend on what type of costume you are wearing)
- Hair piece – bun wig for older/advanced female dancers, boys have it easy for their hair!
- Hair accessories & earrings – only stud earrings are permitted. Tiaras/crowns may be worn only at the Primary level and higher. Your HOI Jumper or School Dress Ensemble will come with a headband.
- Cover up for costume – a large button down shirt or a robe works well
- HOI t-shirt and pants to wear after you compete to show your school spirit!
- Non-messy snacks and water – remember **NO EATING IN YOUR COSTUME!** It must be removed or covered completely!
- Money and checkbook for snacks and vendors. Feiseanna are a **GREAT** place to find used solo dresses in particular!
- Any items you wish to sell – old ghillies, jig shoes, hair pieces, dresses, tiaras, etc. Everything must be bundled together neatly (shoes in a ziploc bag or rubber banded together, dress on a hanger, tiara in a bag, etc.) and clearly marked with your full name, a cell phone number, an asking price and methods of accepted payment (whether cash only or cash or check).
- Hair spray and gel – get extra hold hair spray!
- Hair-colored bobby pins, ponytail holders and bun nets– these are easily found at Sally Beauty Supply. If your dancer has extra-thick hair, you should invest in some BunHead large bobby pins for securing buns and bun wigs to the head. They are available at Pointe and from a variety of online dance retailers. See the links on our site for a list. You can also find hair-colored grippy ponytail holders at Target, Walmart, Food Lion, CVS, Walgreen's etc. Just start picking some up every time you see them and then you'll have a good stash.
- Makeup – for ages 11 and up **ONLY** – a nice lipstick, blush, eye shadow and mascara for girls; nothing for boys. You don't need anything fancy. Simple is good!
- Makeup remover for the end of the day. Make sure you have eye makeup remover as well as something to take the makeup off of your face. Dove and Target make makeup remover wipes that are good for that and easy to travel with.