



Official Syllabus

1st — 3rd October 2026

Venue:

The Aurora Centre
Burnside High School
151 Greers Road
Burnside, Christchurch 8053

Adjudicators:

Stephen McAteer, ADCRG, UK
Aidan Mc Loughlin, ADCRG, Ireland
Cecily Charlton, ADCRG, UK

Musician:

Eric Crone, US

2026 TIDA of New Zealand National Championships Official Syllabus

Entry Fees

Solo Dancing Championship Only	NZ \$60.00 entry fee + \$30.00 championship fee
Team Dancing Championships Only	NZ \$60.00 entry fee + \$10.00 per dancer per team
Solo & Teams Championships	NZ \$60.00 entry fee + \$30.00 championship fee + \$10.00 per dancer per team, with a \$150.00 maximum entry fee per dancer
World Qualifying Teams Only*	NZ \$30.00 entry fee + \$10.00 per dancer per team (<i>excluded from \$150 maximum entry fee</i>)
Ulster Cup	NZ \$30.00 entry fee (<i>excluded from \$150 maximum entry fee</i>)

* Championship fee (NZ \$30.00 entry fee + \$10.00 per dancer per team) applies if the dancer is only competing in the World Qualifying Teams section. If a dancer has entered in the Team Dancing Championships, a \$10 fee is applied for each additional World Qualifying team dance.

A family discount of 20% will apply to families with three (3) or more dancers on **solo entries only**.
N.B. no refunds will be provided.

Dates & Conditions for Entry

- All entries are to be done on-line at <https://login.irishdance.co.nz/teacher/login>

Entry Type	Closing Date/Payment Date	Late Entry Date/Payment Date	Late Fee (Additional)
Solo Entries (including the Ulster Cup)	5pm NZT Sunday 12 th July 2026	5pm NZT Sunday 26 th July 2026	NZ \$100.00 per dancer
Team Entries	5pm NZT Sunday 26 th July 2026	5pm NZT Sunday 2 nd August 2026	NZ \$100.00 per dancer

- Solo** entries & payment will be accepted until **5pm NZT Sunday 12th July 2026**.
- Late Solo entries & payment will be accepted until **5pm NZT Sunday 26th July 2026** with an additional late fee of NZ \$100.00 per dancer. **No changes will be accepted after this date.**
- Team entries & payment will be accepted until **5pm NZT Sunday 26th July 2026**.
- Late Team entries & payment will be accepted until **5pm NZT Sunday 2nd August 2026** with an additional late fee of NZ \$100.00 per dancer. **No changes will be accepted after this date.**
- Once payment has been made, no changes and/or refunds will be given.
- Ulster Cup entries & payment will be accepted until **5pm NZT Sunday 12th July 2026**. **No late entries will be accepted.**
- NZ Entries received from teachers or dancers not registered with TIDA OF NZ, Inc. for 2026 will not be accepted.
- International entry is conditional to dancers from countries whose national championships are currently open to NZ dancers.

- All Teachers must hold current registration with An Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelacha for 2026/2027.
- In both solo dancing and team dancing, competitors' age will be taken from 1 January 2026.
- Where a competitor's birthday falls on 1st January 2026, he/she/they shall be regarded for the TIDA OF NZ Championships as under that age attained on that day.
- Dancers serving a three-month period refraining from competition under the Transfer Rules of An Coimisiún at the time of the Oireachtas are not eligible to compete.

Day Timetable

Thursday 1 st October	Friday 2 nd October	Saturday 3 rd October
Under 13 Solo Sections	Over 13 Solo Sections Ulster Cup	Team Sections

Ulster Cup

- For Senior Dancers 18 Years & Over on 1st January.
- Dancers to dance a Heavy Jig 48 bar; this is danced 1 competitor at a time.
- The runner-up will receive The Jack Kavanaugh Memorial Cup, and every entrant will receive a participation award.

World Championship Qualification

- Qualification places can only be obtained by New Zealand dancers.
- Where an international dancer places ahead of a NZ dancer in a qualifying place, that place will pass to the next NZ dancer placed.
- Qualifications for World Championships are as set out in CLRG Rules.

General Solo Dancing Rules

- In all competitions, competitors must commence their dance in the first two rounds from the designated starting points. In the set dance round a competitor may choose his/her/their starting point.
- All sections to be danced in front of 3 adjudicators.
- All Championship classes are Open Classes.
- The New Zealand Championship to be danced over three dances.
- All place points count towards Championship results.
- All competitors to dance all 3 dances. (There will be no recall in any section).
- All sections from the Under 9 age group and above will dance 2 at a time for the hard shoe round.
- Dancers in the Under 7 Mixed Section will dance round 3 (Single Jig), 3 at a time. Dancers in the Under 8 and Under 9 Sections will dance round 3 (the traditional set dance), 2 at a time.
- All solo sections Over 8 years will commence with the Heavy Round. Solo sections Under 8 years will commence with the Light Jig Round.
- All sections will commence round one at the lowest number and continue numerically in all age groups. The draw for the start of rounds two and three will be printed in the program.
- It is recommended that entrants in all the over 9-year sections perform an Open set dance, however a traditional set dance is permitted in the syllabus timing for that section.
- After each dance, competitors are to return to the pre-registration/marshalling area.
- When competitors register, they are to confirm the name of their Set Dance and the speed.
- If a competitor arrives late and their section is under way, if they have not missed their position in the section and therefore are not out of numerical order they are permitted to dance. If, however, they have missed their position, they are not permitted to dance (unless permission is granted by the organising committee in the event of special circumstances)
- Length of Dances for New Zealand Championship:
 - Single Jig (Under 7 Mixed) 40 bars
 - Light Jig (Under 7 & Under 8 Mixed) 40 bars
 - Hard Jig (Under 9 Mixed) 32 bars
 - Hard Jig (Over 9 years) 48 bars
 - Hornpipe 40 bars
 - Slip Jig 40 bars
 - Reel 48 bars
- Dancers who begin to dance before or after the stipulated 8 bar introduction in any round will automatically receive a ZERO for that round from all adjudicators.
- Where a dancer fails to complete his/her/their performance in any given round, that dancer is to be given ZERO marks by each adjudicator for that round.

Ladies & Girls Solo Championship Dances for 2026

Championship Age Group	Dances	Dancers Year of Birth
Mixed Under 7 (Girls & Boys)	Light Jig (40 Bars) Reel Single Jig (40 Bars)	2019 or later
Mixed Under 8 (Girls & Boys)	Light Jig (40 Bars) Reel Traditional Set Dance	2018
Mixed Under 9 (Girls & Boys)	Heavy Jig (32 Bars) Reel Traditional Set Dance	2017
Girls Under 10	Hornpipe Reel Heavy Jig Set	2016
Girls Under 11	Heavy Jig Slip Jig Hornpipe Set	2015
Girls Under 12	Hornpipe Reel Heavy Jig Set	2014
Girls Under 13	Heavy Jig Slip Jig Hornpipe Set	2013
Girls Under 14	Hornpipe Reel Heavy Jig Set	2012
Girls Under 15	Heavy Jig Slip Jig Hornpipe Set	2011
Girls Under 16	Hornpipe Reel Heavy Jig Set	2010
Girls Under 17	Heavy Jig Slip Jig Hornpipe Set	2009
Ladies Under 18	Hornpipe Reel Heavy Jig Set	2008
Ladies Under 19	Heavy Jig Slip Jig Hornpipe Set	2007
Ladies Under 20	Hornpipe Reel Heavy Jig Set	2006
Ladies 20 – 22	Heavy Jig Slip Jig Hornpipe Set	2004 – 2005
Ladies 22 & Over	Heavy Jig Slip Jig Hornpipe Set	2003 or earlier

Men's & Boys Solo Championship Dances for 2026

Championship Age Group	Dances	Dancers Year of Birth
Mixed Under 7 (Girls & Boys)	Light Jig (40 Bars) Reel Single Jig (40 Bars)	2019 or later
Mixed Under 8 (Girls & Boys)	Light Jig (40 Bars) Reel Traditional Set Dance	2018
Mixed Under 9 (Girls & Boys)	Heavy Jig (32 Bars) Reel Traditional Set Dance	2017
Boys Under 10	Hornpipe Reel Heavy Jig Set	2016
Boys Under 11	Heavy Jig Reel Hornpipe Set	2015
Boys Under 12	Hornpipe Reel Heavy Jig Set	2014
Boys Under 13	Heavy Jig Reel Hornpipe Set	2013
Boys Under 14	Hornpipe Reel Heavy Jig Set	2012
Boys Under 15	Heavy Jig Reel Hornpipe Set	2011
Boys Under 16	Hornpipe Reel Heavy Jig Set	2010
Men Under 17	Heavy Jig Reel Hornpipe Set	2009
Men Under 18	Hornpipe Reel Heavy Jig Set	2008
Men Under 19	Heavy Jig Reel Hornpipe Set	2007
Men Under 20	Hornpipe Reel Heavy Jig Set	2006
Men 20 & Over	Heavy Jig Reel Hornpipe Set	2005 or earlier

- The male dancer sections starting from the Under 10 age group up to and including, the Men Under 17, are to be combined for dancing and one prize-giving per double age group.
- All age groups starting from Men Under 18 and above will be danced as one age group, labelled Men 17 & Over.
- Qualifiers within combined sections are to be announced based on their qualifying age group.

Permitted Set Dances and Speeds

Traditional Speeds

Blackbird 144
Garden of Daisies 138
Job of Journeywork 138
Jockey to the Fair 90
King of the Fairies 130
St Patrick's Day 94
Three Sea Captains 96

4/4 Time Minimum Speed

Ace and Deuce of Piping 76
Bonaparte's Retreat 76
Garden of Daisies 76
Job of Journeywork 76
Kilkenny Races 76
Madame Bonaparte 76
The Blue-Eyed Rascal 76
The Four Masters 76
The Hunt 76
The Piper Thro' the Meadow 76
The Rambling Rake 76
The Roving Pedlar 76
The White Blanket 76
Youghal Harbour 76

2/4 Time Minimum Speeds

King of the Fairies 76
The Downfall of Paris 76
Planxty Davis 76
The Blackbird 76
The Lodge Road 76
Rodney's Glory 76

6/8 Time Minimum Speed

Humours of Bandon 66
Hurry the Jug 66
Jockey to the Fair 66
Miss Brown's Fancy 66
Planxty Drury 66
Planxty Hugh O'Donnell 66
Rub the Bag 66
St. Patrick's Day 66
The Blackthorn Stick 66
The CharLady 66
The Drunken Gauger 66
The Fiddler Round the Fairy Tree 66
The Funny Tailor 66
The Hurling Boys 66
The Orange Rogue 66
The Sprig of Shillelagh 66
The Storyteller 66
The Three Sea Captains 66
The Vanishing Lake 66
The Wandering Musician 66

6/8 + 9/8 Time Minimum Speeds

Is the Big Man Within? 66/113

General Team Dancing Rules

- Should a dancer of a figure dance be unable to take part at the time of the competition, a replacement may be permitted to dance. The teacher is responsible for notifying the Nationals committee. An emergency is defined as an event which happens either within seven days immediately preceding the first day of competition of the Championships or during the Championships. There will be no extra fee for that dancer to act as the replacement however, if the replacement dancer selected is not entered into the National Championships, they will be required to cover the base 'Teams Only' fee of NZ \$60.00.
- Schools may combine for Figure Dancing where one school has insufficient numbers to enter a section. In composed sections, if one school already has two teams entered in a section then they are not eligible to enter a combined team with any other school in that section. Pupils may wear the costume of one school or a combination of schools. Teams are to be listed under the names of the schools but combined e.g., Brown/Smith.
- Under-age competitors may dance in a higher age group, if necessary to complete a team, provided they are not entered in their own age group, in that dance. The reverse does not apply e.g., the dancer may dance up in a 9-13 years 6-Hand but not dance in the Under 9 6-Hand as well.
- Commission Book – Figures to be danced by **TOP COUPLE ONLY**.
- In sections where there are two teams on the stage together, the stage must be divided in half by masking tape down the centre, and if a team in the section is dancing on their own, they must dance on one half of the stage.
- A TIDA OF NZ member or a representative of each school is permitted to film their respective school's composed dances and 8 hands, from a designated filming space.

Commission Book Eight Hand

- In the case of The Three Tunes, teams will perform the dance from the beginning up to and including the Hook and Chain irrespective of the figure drawn.
- In the case of the Sweets of May, teams will perform the dance from the beginning up to and including the Seesaw irrespective of the figure drawn.
- In the case of the Gates of Derry, teams will perform the dance from the beginning up to and including the Swing Around of the first repeat irrespective of the figure drawn.
- In the case of Lannigan's Ball, teams will perform the full dance irrespective of the figure drawn.

Composed Figure Dancing (Two, Three & Four Composed Dances)

- All Composed Figure Dancing be limited to **two teams** per school per age group.
- Reel or Jig Timing, between 112 and 116 bpm speeds.
- To be composed of Figures and Steps as desired.
- Length is a maximum of 80 Bars (10 phrases of 8 bars), which includes the introductory eight bars.
- No splits on the floor.

Open Composed Figure

- Please refer to the World Championships syllabus for rules on the Open Composed Figure section.
- Minimum of 8 and maximum of 16 dancers.
- No splits on the floor.

Céilí Dances for 2026			
Age Groups	4 Hand	6 Hand	8 Hand
Under 9	Choice of: 4 Hand Reel, Humours, Walls of Limerick. Choice of figure	Choice of 6 Hand, 1st Figure	Choice of 8 Hand, Choice of Figure
9 – 13	4 Hand Reel, 1 st Figure	Choice of 6 Hand, 1st Figure	Choice of 8 Hand, 2 nd Figure
Over 13	Humours of Bandon, 1 st Figure	Choice of 6 Hand, 1st Figure	Choice of 8 Hand, 2 nd Figure

Speeds:

Walls of Limerick: 118 (if chosen, must be danced twice (64 bars)

Four Hand Reel: 113

Humours of Bandon: 115

6 Hands: 113

8 Hands: – teams can choose between 112 & 118

World Qualification Team Sections

World Qualification sections are offered for teams intending to travel to the Worlds 2027 with a Mixed 4 Hand (10 and Under 12, 12 and Under 15, and/or Over 15); a Mixed 8 Hand (Under 10, 10 and Under 12, 12 and Under 15, and/or Over 15); and/or a Girls/Ladies 8 Hand (Under 10, 10 and Under 12, 12 and Under 15, 15 and Under 18, and/or Over 18). Only sections with entries will be included in the programme.

Composed Dances for 2026

Under 9	2 Hand	3 Hand	4 Hand	Under 13 Open Composed
9 – 13	2 Hand	3 Hand	4 Hand	
Over 13	2 Hand	3 Hand	4 Hand	Open Composed

General Information

- As per CLRG rules for a World Qualification event competitor numbers will be issued to dancers and teams on the day of their competition.
- Both the TIDA of NZ and 2026 Event Logo are permitted only for use by the organisation executive and the event committee. Logos cannot be used or printed on individual school merchandise.
- Competitors must obey instructions of competition officials and backstage stewards, or risk disqualification.
- Should a dancer lose a heel or a complete shoe he/she/they may stand back – allowing the other dancer(s) to continue dancing uninhibited. In such a case the dancer concerned will be permitted to re-dance as soon as it is deemed practicable by the stage steward.
- TIDA OF NZ Inc., will, as far as is practicable, provide a stage surface suitable for dancing.
- However, TIDA OF NZ Inc., and An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha cannot accept any liability for injuries sustained while on stage. Should a dancer fall on stage, the adjudicator must ring the bell to stop the performance of the dancer(s). If able, the dancer affected will be permitted to re-dance.
- If at any given time an adjudicator feels the welfare of a dancer(s) is at risk, they must ring the bell to stop the performance.
- Competitors desiring to enter a protest must lodge the same through their teacher in writing to the Master of Ceremonies, together with \$100.00. If after investigation the protest is deemed frivolous, the deposit may be forfeited. No protest may be entertained unless lodged within two hours of the announcement of the adjudicator's result. In the event of a protest, all available dancing teachers are to be present while the protest is discussed.
- For more information contact the 2026 NZ Nationals Committee via tidanzsecretary@gmail.com and check out our website; <http://www.irishdance.co.nz> and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TIDAofNZInc>

All attendees will be required to adhere to any requirements of the venue.

***THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO LOOK AT OUR SYLLABUS.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO HOSTING EVERYONE IN CHRISTCHURCH!***