

# Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil 2014

## As amended at Congress 2013

**1. Mission Statement:** Fleadhanna Ceoil shall be held to propagate, consolidate and perpetuate our Irish traditional music, both vocal and instrumental, dance as well as An Teanga Gaeilge, by presenting it in a manner worthy of its dignity, and in accordance with the Aims and Objectives of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. It is not intended that competitions should be merely a means by which a competitor may gain a prize or defeat a rival, but rather a medium in which 'these competitors may pace each other on the road to excellence'.

**2. All competitions** shall be traditional in character and in conformity with the Bunreacht of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

**3 Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil & Clár na gComórtas** provide for all CCÉ Fleadh Competitions listed 1-49. The procedures, guidelines and rules outlined in Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil and Clár na gComórtas apply to all such competitions 1-49.

### **Competitions' Numbers: Reference Guide: Please note Corresponding Age Groups A-K**

Comp No: 1-17 Solo Competitions: Specific Musical Instrument Competitions

Comp No: 18-23 Solo Competitions: Specific Musical Instrument Slow Air Competitions

Comp No: 24-30 Ensemble Competitions: Duets/Trios/Grúpaí Cheoil/  
Céilí Bands/Marching Bands

Comp No: 31-34 Singing Competitions (Solo)

Comp No: 35-36 Whistling & Liltling

Comp No: 37-39 Newly Composed Songs(Irish& English), Newly Composed Tunes

Comp No: 40-43 Céilí Dancing

Comp No: 44-47 Set Dancing

Comp No: 48 Rince ar an Sean Nós

Comp No: 49 Comhrá Gaeilge

### **4. Entry Procedure:**

i) Entries, in Gaeilge if possible, shall be submitted to the Co. Secretary/ Rúnaí Chondae via the CCÉ Branch Rúnaí/ Branch Secretary, not later than a minimum of one month prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions. Late entries shall not be accepted after the closing date.

ii) The fee structure is outlined on the Fleadh Entry Form.

iii) Fleadh Cheoil competitions are open to non-members of CCÉ- entries to be sent with the appropriate fee directly to the County Secretary/ Fleadh Secretary.

iv) Competitors may not enter in the name of their teachers or in the name of any other organization other than a Comhaltas Branch unit. Non-members of CCÉ should enter their name and home (as per residence) address.

v) Competitors, who are members of CCÉ, who qualify from County/Regional Fleadhanna to Provincial Fleadhanna/ from Provincial Fleadhanna to All-Ireland Fleadhanna, do not pay an entry fee to the Fleadh for which they have qualified but do pay venue admission charge at the Fleadh in question. Fleadh entry fees do not cover venue admission charges.

vi) Winners of Over 18 (D) Competitions, winners of Mixed Set Over 35 (47L) and Pipe Bands any Age (30E) at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in the previous year are ineligible to compete in the same competition, in the County / Regional or Provincial Fleadh, having as current All-Ireland Champions in these competitions, right-of-entry to the successive Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. This does not apply to winners of Newly Composed Ballads, Amhráin Nua-Cheaptha and Newly Composed Tunes.

*Please note the revised detail as per 2014 required on the entry form in relation to certain competitions, e.g., miscellaneous instrument, céilí and set dancing.*

**5. Residency:** In the case of all solo competitions, duet and trio competitions eligible competitors are confined to residents of the County or Region in which the Fleadh is being held. In the case of Céilí Dancing, Set Dancing, Céilí Bands, Marching Bands and Grúpaí Ceoil, it is recommended that as far as possible, these also be residents of the county or region. Competitors shall be deemed to be residents of the County or Region only if ordinarily resident in that County/Region for a period of not less than the previous six months prior to the date of the qualifying Fleadh. In the case of competitions for Newly Composed Ballads in Irish, Newly Composed Ballads in English, and Newly Composed Tunes, the composer must be a resident of the county or region.

**6. Age Groups:** The following age groups apply to Fleadhanna Ceoil Competitions.

A: Under 12: Under 12 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> January prior to the Fleadh

B: 12-15: 12 to 15 years of age on 1st January prior to the Fleadh

C: 15 -18: 15 to 18 years of age on 1st January prior to the Fleadh.

D: Over 18: Over 18 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> Jan prior to the Fleadh

E: Any Age

F: Under 18: Under 18 years of age on 1st January prior to the Fleadh

These age groups above A-F apply to all music, Instrumental and Vocal, and all Dancing Competitions- see list of competitions and relevant age categories.

L: Age Group L applies to Competition 47L only - Mixed Set Over 35: All members of the set must be over 35

G: Under 9: Under 9 years of age on 1<sup>st</sup> January prior to the Fleadh

H: 9 – 11: 9 to 11 years of age on 1st January prior to the Fleadh

I: 11 – 13: 11 to 13 years of age on 1st January prior to the Fleadh

J: 13 – 15: 13 to 15 years on 1st January prior to the Fleadh

K: 15 – 18: 15 to 18 years on 1st January prior to the Fleadh

The age categories G, H, I, J, K above apply to Comhrá Gaeilge Competitions

**Clarification re age categories:** References to age determination in respect of Fleadh Rules and Bunreacht an Chomhaltais are interpreted as follows: Example: If a person's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday falls on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> then that person competes in the 12-15 age category and is similarly applied in respect of the other categories. In the event of a dispute, a certificate of age must be produced within 7 days of the competition, if requested by the County / Regional / Provincial / C.E.C. Rúnaí. Failure to do so will entail automatic disqualification

i) In all Solo competitions, a competitor must compete in own age group only.

ii) In Duets, Trios, Céilí Bands and Grúpaí Ceoil competitions, a competitor may compete only once in any age group of the aforementioned competitions. A competitor may also compete in a higher age group, provided s/he changes instrument, but in Duets & Trios, a minimum of one competitor must be in the higher age category.

iii) In Céilí Dancing a maximum of two dancers in the case of 8 Hand Céilí Dance and a maximum of one dancer in the case of 4 Hand Céilí Dance are allowed to dance in the next higher age group only, regardless of whether they have danced in their own age group or not. i.e. two dancers for 8 Hand and one dancer for 4 Hand under 12 may dance 12/15 but cannot dance 15/18. The same applies for 12/15, 15/18 and Senior.

iv) In Set Dancing a maximum of two dancers in the case of full sets and a maximum of one dancer in the case of half sets are allowed to dance in the next higher age group only, regardless of whether they have danced in their own age group or not. i.e. Two dancers for full set dancing teams under 12 may dance 12-15 but cannot dance 15-18. Same applies for 12-15, 15/18, O 18

**7. Categories / classifications of tunes as per Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil:** Air (slow or lively), Reel, Polka, Hornpipe, March, Jig (double, single, slip), Slide, Set Dance, Mazurka, Planxty, Fling, Barn Dance, Schottische, Clan March

## 8. Official Fleadh Cheoil Competitions

1. Fidil – Fiddle	<b>A B C D</b>	
2. Bosca Ceoil – Button Accordion	<b>A B C D</b>	
3. Feadóg Mhór- Flute	<b>A B C D (Note #1)</b>	
4. Feadóg – Whistle	<b>A B C D (Note #2)</b>	
5. Cairdín Pianó – Piano Accordion	<b>A B C D</b>	
6. Consairtín – Concertina	<b>A B C D</b>	
7. Píb Uilleann – Uilleann Pipes	<b>A B C D</b>	
8. Cruit – Irish Harp	<b>A B C D</b>	
9. Organ Béil – Mouth Organ	<b>A B C D (Note #3)</b>	
10. Bainseó – Banjo	<b>A B C D</b>	
11. Mandolin – Mandolin	<b>A B C D</b>	
12. Pianó - Piano	<b>A B C D</b>	
13. Mileoideon – Melodeon	<b>A B C D (Note #4)</b>	
14. Rogha Ghléas - Miscellaneous	<b>A B C D (Note #5)</b>	
15. Tionlacan – Accompaniment	<b>A B C D (Note #6)</b>	
16. Bodhrán	<b>A B C D</b>	
17. Drumaí Céilí - Céilí Band Drums	<b>A B C D</b>	
18. Foinn Mhalla, Fidil – Fiddle Slow Airs		<b>A B C D</b>
19. Foinn Mhalla, Píb Uilleann – Uilleann Pipes Slow Airs		<b>A B C D</b>
20. Foinn Mhalla, Feadóg Mhór – Flute Slow Airs		<b>A B C D</b>
21. Foinn Mhalla, Feadóg – Whistle Slow Airs		<b>A B C D</b>
22. Foinn Mhalla, Cruit – Harp Slow Airs		<b>A B C D</b>
23. Ceol Beirte – Duets	<b>A B C D</b>	
24. Ceol Trír - Trios	<b>A B C D</b>	
25. Buíon Cheoil Chéilí - Céilí Bands	<b>A B C D</b>	
26. Grúpaí Cheoil	<b>A B C D</b>	
27. Buíon Cheoil Cairdín – Accordion (Marching) Band		<b>F D</b>
28. Buíon Cheoil Feadóg Mhór – Flute (Marching) Band		<b>F D</b>
29. Buíon Cheoil Cheoil Rogha Ghléas – Miscellaneous (Marching Band)		<b>F D</b>
30. Buíon Cheoil Phíb - Pipe (Marching) Band		<b>E</b>
31. Amhráin Ghaeilge Mná – Irish Singing (Ladies)	<b>A B C D</b>	
32. Amhráin Ghaeilge Fir - Irish Singing (Men)	<b>A B C D</b>	
33. English Singing (Ladies) – Amhráin Bhéarla (Mná)	<b>A B C D</b>	
34. English Singing (Men) - Amhráin Bhéarla ( Fir)	<b>A B C D</b>	
35. Feadaíl - Whistling	<b>A B C D</b>	
36. Portaireacht – Liling	<b>A B C D</b>	
37. Amhráin Nua Cheaptha, Gaeilge – Newly Composed Songs in Irish		<b>E</b>
38. Newly Composed Songs in English - Amhráin Nua Cheaptha, Béarla		<b>E</b>
39. Píosaí Cheoil Nua Chumtha – Newly composed Tunes		<b>E</b>
40. 8 Hand Ceilí Dancing, Ladies	<b>A B C D</b>	
41. 8 Hand Céilí Dancing, Mixed	<b>A B C D</b>	
42. 4 Hand Céilí Dancing, Ladies	<b>A B C D</b>	
43. 4 Hand Céilí Dancing, Mixed	<b>A B C D</b>	
44. Full Set, Ladies	<b>A B C D</b>	
45. Full Set, Mixed	<b>A B C D</b>	
46. Half Set, Mixed	<b>F D</b>	
47. Full Set, Mixed, Over 35 Age Category	<b>L</b>	
48. Rince ar an Sean Nós	<b>A B C D</b>	
49. Comhrá Gaeilge	<b>G H I J K</b>	

## 8. Official Fleadh Cheoil Competitions- continued

**Note #1: Comp 3 Feadóóg Mhór/Flute:** Instruments pitched in D or E flat, to include traditional simple system wooden flutes, also Boehm system, Radcliffe system, etc. Flutes pitched higher than E flat must compete in the Rogha Ghléas competition.

**Note #2: Comp. (4) Feadóóg – Whistle:** A whistle can be defined as an instrument with a fipple and not more than six finger holes. The pitch of the instrument or the material from which it is made is irrelevant.

**Note #3: Comp (9) Mouth Organ:** Mouth Organs/Harmonicas There is a distinct difference between harmonicas and Mouth Organs. A Harmonica, even if played as a mouth organ, is not acceptable. The harmonica can be played in Rogha Ghléas (miscellaneous instruments) competitions.

**Note #4: Comp 13 Mileoiden/ Melodeon:** The single row accordion is not a melodeon and is not acceptable in the melodeon competition.

**Note #5: Comp 14 Rogha Ghléas/Miscellaneous:** This category caters for all instruments, on which the melody can be and is played, not catered for in the competitions 1-13. Electronic, mains or battery-powered instruments are not accepted. In competitions for Rogha Ghléas, a competitor may compete on one instrument only. In all **Miscellaneous** competitions the instrument, and tuning if relevant, being played shall be listed on the Official Fleadh Entry Form. This competitor/instrument combination must be maintained at all subsequent Fleadhanna in that year. In all Fleadh Programmes the competitor listings for Miscellaneous Competitions shall include the competitors name and instrument.

**Note #6: Comp 15 Tionlacan/Accompaniment:** Tionlacan/ Accompaniment is restricted to piano, harp, guitar, bazouki, bazouki and guitar type instruments including e.g. mandola, mando-cello etc. Competitors in this competition play accompaniment as opposed to melody. The aim of the competition is to adjudicate on the accompaniment only.

In all Accompaniment competitions the instrument being played shall be listed on the Official Fleadh Entry Form. This competitor/instrument combination must be maintained at all subsequent Fleadhanna in that year. In all Fleadh Programmes the competitor listings for Accompaniment Competitions shall include the competitors name and instrument. A maximum of two musicians be permitted to play for accompaniment competitions.

**Note #7 Comp 16 Bodhrán:** A maximum of two musicians be permitted to play for competitors in the Bodhrán competition.

**Note #8 Comp 17 Céilí Band Drums/Céilí Drumadócht:** A maximum of two musicians be permitted to play for competitors in the drumming competition.

**9. Electronic or amplified instruments** are not acceptable in any competition except electronic piano in céilí band competitions where a piano is not available.

**10. One instrument only:** With the exception of competitors playing the mouth-organ the following rule applies: In solo, Duet, Trio, Céilí Band and Marching Band competitions, competitors may not change instrument during the performance.

## **Performance Requirements**

### **11. Competitions 1- 17 :**

Age groups A & B : One tune from each of two tune categories listed above

Age Group C: One tune from each of three tune categories listed above

Age Group D: One tune from each of four tune categories listed above

Note: Senior Fiddle (1D), Flute (3D), Whistle (4D), Uilleann Pipes (7D) must include a slow air as one of their four tunes.

Competitors shall play each tune twice only. In the case of a tune, which is played singly, a competitor may play such a tune three times (AB AB AB). Competitors who play extra tunes - e.g. two jigs or two reels in lieu of one, shall be adjudicated on the first tune of the selection only and shall be penalized by the deduction of two marks for each extra tune attempted.

### **12. Competitions 18-22: Slow Air competitions**

Each Competitor shall submit a list of airs to adjudicator & play as outlined Age Groups A-D

Age Group A: 1 air from list of 2 (adjudicator's choice)

Age Group B: 2 airs from a list of 4 (adjudicator selects the first, competitor the second)

Age Group C: 2 airs from list of 6 (adjudicator selects the first, competitor the second)

Age Group D: 3 airs from list of 8 (adjudicator selects first & second, competitor the third)

Only Slow Airs based strictly on the traditional airs and not on modern arrangements, shall be accepted. No penalty shall be levied on a competitor in the Slow Airs Competition, if he/she plays the air through, only once.

### **13. Competitions 23-24 Duets/Trios**

Age Groups A & B : One tune from each of two tune categories listed above

Age Group C: One tune from each of three tune categories listed above

Age Group D: One tune from each of four tune categories listed above

A Duet shall comprise of two melody instruments. A senior duet (Age Group D) shall comprise of two different melody instruments. Duet members must at all times play the melody of the tune.

A Trio shall comprise of three melody instruments. A senior trio (Age Group D) shall comprise of at least two different melody instruments. Trio members must at all times play the melody.

In Duets and Trios, full names and addresses and Comhaltas Branches where appropriate, of all participants must be listed on the entry forms. The instrument being played by each competitor in the ensemble shall be clearly listed with the competitors name on the Official Fleadh Entry Form and subsequently in Fleadh Programmes. This competitor/instrument combination must be maintained at all subsequent Fleadhanna in that year; having qualified, no substitution of instrument or person allowed.

### **14. Competition 25 Céilí Band**

A Céilí Band shall consist of not less than 5 and not more than 10 members.

Age Groups A & B : Céilí Bands shall play one tune from each of two tune categories

Age Group C: Céilí Bands shall play two reels in succession, plus one tune from each of two other tune categories.

Age Group D: Senior Céilí Bands, tunes required are two reels in succession, two jigs in succession and a maximum of two tunes played in succession from each of two other tune categories (Pg2).

### **15. Competition 26 Grúpaí Ceoil**

Minimum of 4 and maximum of 20 members. Own choice of music for a min. of 6 and maximum of 8 minutes, but with a limit of 10 minutes on stage. In competitions for Grúpaí Ceoil, whistlers and lilters may be included, as well as players of bodhrán and bones, but piano and drums are not permitted.

Special attention should be paid to selection of tunes, and efforts should be made to play tunes other than jigs, reels and hornpipes, e.g. slow airs, set dances, marches, flings, mazurkas, polkas, slides, schottisches, planxties, barn dances, clan marches, harp music etc., to provide as much variety as possible. Slow airs need not be played by a solo performer.

The group shall perform its own choice of music for a period of 6 to 8 minutes. 2 marks shall be deducted for each minute or part thereof, in excess of 8 minutes or less than 6 minutes as determined by the adjudicator. Attention should also be given to instrumental arrangements and presentation of the music. A list of music pieces in the order to be played, e.g. slip jig, march, etc. and a list of instruments, shall be submitted by each group leader to the competition clerk prior to the performance.

#### **16. Competitions 27-30 Bannaí Ceoil Mairseála / Marching Bands**

Comp 27 Buíon Cheoil Mairseála, Cháirdín/Accordion Marching Bands U 18 & 0 18 (F & D)

Comp 28 Buíon Cheoil Mairseála, Feadóg Mhór/Flute Marching Bands U 18 & 0 18 (F& D)

Comp 29 Buíon Cheoil Mairseála, Rogha Ghléas/ Miscellaneous Marching Bands (F& D)

Comp 30 Buíon Cheoil Mairseála Phíb- Pipe Marching Bands Any Age (E)

*Please note the age categories, which apply to these competitions*

Each band must play a minimum of two Marches, plus a selection from the list of tunes classifications/ tune categories above page 2. Performance time shall be from 10 Minutes (minimum) to 12 Minutes (maximum). Two marks shall be deducted for each minute or part thereof, under 10 or over 12 minutes. Bands shall compete in an outdoor arena of 40 x 20 meters.

#### **17. Competitions 31- 34 Amhránaíocht / Traditional Singing**

Age Group A : Two songs of his / her choice – ceann mall (slow) and ceann mear (lively)

Age Groups B & C: Two songs from a list of four submitted (two slow and two lively)

First song to be selected by the adjudicator and the second contrasting song by competitor.

Age Group D: Two Songs from a list of six submitted (4 slow and 2 lively). The first song will be selected by the adjudicator, and the second contrasting song selected by the competitor. Lists must clearly denote the lively songs.

#### **18. Competitions 35 & 36 : Whistling & Lilting**

Age groups A & B : One tune from each of two tune categories listed above

Age Group C: One tune from each of three tune categories listed above

Age Group D: One tune from each of four tune categories listed above

**19. Recall: No ties are permitted for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place.** An adjudicator may recall a competitor to perform again. In the event of a recall for solo, duet, or trio, one new piece must be performed. Recall for Céilí Bands requirements: Age Groups A & B: one new piece, C & D two new reels in succession. In Amhránaíocht and Singing, all age groups, the recalled singer must sing one new song. Recalled competitors must present themselves within 30 minutes. Failure to report will forfeit advantage.

#### **20. Competitions 37, 38 & 39: Amhráin Nua Cheaptha, Newly Composed Songs in English & Newly Composed Tunes Age Group: Any Age ( E)**

The tune or song must not have been previously entered in any Fleadh Cheoil competition, nor have been previously published or commercially recorded. The composer must be a resident of the county or region in which the song or tune is entered. The newly composed tune must be traditional in character and must adhere to the tune categories specified for Fleadh Cheoil competitions. The newly composed song must have a lively tempo or slow tempo as previously defined. The tune or song must be performed by a solo musician, or singer without accompaniment. The composer may designate a musician or singer to perform his/her music or song, and this performer may reside outside the county or region of the original entry. The tune or song will be judged solely on the merits of the composition and not on the standard of the performance. A written copy of the tune, in staff notation only, must be submitted with the competition entry not less than one calendar month prior to the first day of the County or Regional Fleadh. Only this original version of the tune, as submitted with entry, is acceptable in performance. This original version must be performed at subsequent competition(s) should the tune qualify. The name and full address of the composer shall be written on the sheet containing the tune notation/song lyrics. A copy of the original Fleadh entry will be forwarded to the appropriate Provincial Fleadh and to Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann if the tune qualifies. This also applies to the original song lyrics accompanying the original entry.

## **21. Competitions 40-43 Rince Céilí / Céilí Dancing Competitions**

### **Ladies 8 Hand, Mixed 8 Hand , Ladies 4 Hand, Mixed 4 Hand Age Groups A,B,C & D**

- i) Competitions are open to non-members as well as to members of Comhaltas.
- ii) Names of team members together with entry fees must accompany entry to county/regional Fleadhanna
- iii) Age groups --(a) = U12; (b) =12-15; (c) = 15-18; (d) = Over 18; Ages are determined as and from 1<sup>st</sup> January in year of competition in all categories. Age determination in respect of Fleadh Rules and In the Bunreacht are interpreted as follows: e.g. If a person's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday falls on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> then that person competes in the 12-15 age category, similar application for other age groups Birth Certificates must be produced if requested.
- iv) Mixed 8 Hand Céilí Dance Teams in 12/15, 15/18 & Senior must consist of four male and four female dancers and two male and two female dancers in mixed 4 Hand Céilí Dance Teams
- v) U 1 2 Mixed 8 Hand Céilí Dance Teams should, as far as possible , consist of 4 male and 4 female, but should contain a minimum of three male in the case of 8 Hand Céilí and a minimum of one male in the case of U 12 Mixed 4 Hand Céilí Dance
- vi) A maximum of two dancers in the case of 8 Hand Céilí Dance and a maximum of one dancer in the case of 4 Hand Céilí Dance are allowed to dance in the next higher age group only, regardless of whether they have danced in their own age group or not. i.e. two dancers for 8 Hand and one dancer for 4 Hand under 12 may dance 12/15 but cannot dance 15/18. The same applies for 12/15, 15/18 and Senior.
- vii) No competitor may dance more than once in any one competition i.e. any dancer may not compete with two different teams in the same competition or in the same competition in more than one county.
- viii) Substitution: A maximum of two dancers in the case of 8 Hand Céilí dance and a maximum of one dancer in the case of 4 Hand Céilí can be substituted from the original entry submitted to county/regional Fleadhanna.
- ix) Competitors may only perform 4 Hand or 8 Hand Céilí Dances from “Ár Rincí Fóirne 1.2.3., the Céilí dancing books issued by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha.
- x) Recall: The following applies: Fé 12, 12-15, 15-18 & Senior – a body and one new figure (not previously danced in the competition by the team).
- xi) Two 4-hand dances will not meet the requirements of 8 Hand Competition.
- xii) The adjudicators will signify that they have seen enough of the dance by ringing a bell. Competitors are advised to have the selected dance rehearsed in full.
- xiii) Simple and appropriate dress code: no school of dancing costumes allowed; no dancing wigs allowed; no tips or built-up shoes allowed.
- xiv) Marching on and off stage to music accompaniment is not permitted.
- xv) The adjudicators' decision is final.
- xvi) Managers, mentors, teachers etc. are not allowed to coach teams during performance.
- xvii) Winners of over 18 (D) Céilí dancing :Ladies and Mixed competitions, at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in the previous year are ineligible to compete in the same competition, at County/Regional or Provincial Fleadh.
- xviii) The organising committee is responsible for providing the musical accompaniment. All teams must dance to the music provided. Musical accompaniment is confined to acoustic instruments only – no electronic devices such as rhythm/drum machines or such like devices are allowed. Keyboard in piano mode only may be used.
- xix) Only amplification/P.A. system(s) supplied by the organising coiste is allowed'.
- xx) Failure to comply with the above may lead to disqualification.

## **22. Competitions 44-47 Comórtas Seit Traidisiúnta/ Set Dancing Competitions**

### **Ladies Traditional Full Set, Mixed Traditional Full set (Age Groups A, B, C &D)**

### **Mixed Traditional Half Set U 18 (Age Group F) Traditional Half Set over 18 (Age Group D)**

### **Mixed Set Over 35s (Age Group L only)**

- i) Names of team members together with entry fees must accompany entry to county/regional Fleadhanna
- ii) Age groups --(a) = U12; (b) =12-15; (c) = 15-18; (d) = Over 18; Ages are determined as and from 1<sup>st</sup> January in year of competition in all categories. Age determination in respect of Fleadh Rules and In the Bunreacht are interpreted as follows: e.g. If a person's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday falls on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> then that person competes in the 12-15 age category, similar application for other age groups .Birth Certificates must be produced if requested.
- iii) Mixed Full Set Dancing Teams in 12/15, 15/18 & Senior must consist of four male and four female dancers and two male and two female dancers in Mixed Half set Dancing Teams.
- iv) U 1 2 Mixed Full Set Dancing Teams should, as far as possible, consist of four male and four female, but should contain a minimum of three male in the case of full sets.
- v) A maximum of two dancers in the case of full sets and a maximum of one dancer in the case of half sets are allowed to dance in the next higher age group only, regardless of whether they have danced in their own age group or not. i.e. Two dancers for full set dancing teams under 12 may dance 12-15 but cannot dance 15-18, same applies for 12-15, 15/18 and Senior. Mixed Set Over 35's - all dancers must be over 35 years.
- vi) No competitor may dance more than once in any one competition i.e. any dancer may not compete with two different teams in the same competition or in the same competition in more than one county.
- vii) Substitution: A maximum of 2 dancers in the case of full set , and a maximum of 1 dancer in the case of half set can be substituted from the original entry submitted to county/regional Fleadhanna.
- viii) Parts: Competitors in the senior set dancing and over 35 years competitions are required to dance three parts of a traditional set or half set. Two of the parts will be of their own choice, and one part nominated by the adjudicator. In the senior set dancing competitions the adjudicators will announce their choice of part before the start of the competition. Competitors in junior sets and half sets will be required to dance two parts of a traditional set.
- ix) Recall: Fé 12, 12-15 & 15-18: One new part (not previously danced in the competition by the team). Senior & Over 35: One new part (not previously danced in the competition by the team). When a team has selected a set with only three parts they must dance one new part from a different set.
- x) While competitors in the full set competition may also dance in the half set competition and vice-versa, only recognised traditional half sets will be accepted e.g. Wexford Half Set. East Galway Half Set etc. Adapting or converting a recognised full set to a half set is not permitted.
- xi) All dancing must cease at the end of the recognised part.  
Simple and appropriate dress code, no school of dancing costumes allowed. No dancing wigs allowed, no tips or built up shoes allowed.
- xii) Marching on and off the stage to music accompaniment is not permitted.
- xiii) The adjudicators' decision is final
- xiv) Managers, mentors, teachers are not allowed to coach teams during the performance
- xv) Winners of over 18 (D) Set Dancing Ladies & Mixed, Mixed Set Over 35 competitions at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in the previous year are ineligible to compete in the same competition, in the County/Regional or Provincial Fleadh.
- xvi) Teams must provide their own live music. Musical accompaniment is confined to acoustic instruments only No electronic devices such as rhythm/drum machines or such like devices are allowed. Keyboard in piano mode only may be used. Only amplification/PA system(s) supplied by the organising coiste is allowed.
- xvii) Failure to comply with the above may lead to disqualification

### **23. Competition 48 Rince ar an Sean Nós**

*As of Fleadhanna Ceoil 2014 this competition is provided for by Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil and comprises an official Fleadh Cheoil Competition.*

- i) This competition is intended for Traditional Style Sean nós dancing
- ii) Competitions are open to non-members as well as to members of Comhaltas.
- iii) Age groups (a) U12 (b) 12-15 (c) 15-18 (d) Over 18;  
Ages are determined as and from 1<sup>st</sup> January in year of competition in all categories. Birth Certificates must be produced if requested. Age determination in respect of Fleadh Rules and in the Bunreacht are interpreted as follows: For example: If a person's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday falls on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> then that person competes in the 12-15 age category and is similarly applied in respect of the other categories)
- iv) One dance of competitor's own choice to be performed, e.g. reel, jig, hornpipe (this must not exceed three minutes).
- v) No tips or built up shoes allowed.
- vi) No props of any kind allowed.
- vii) The organising Committee is responsible for providing the musical accompaniment. All dancers must dance to the music provided. No electronic devices such as rhythm/drum machines or such like devices are allowed. Keyboard in piano mode only may be used.
- viii) Only amplification/P.A. system(s) supplied by the organising coiste is allowed
- ix) The adjudicators' decision is final.
- x) Winners of Over 18 (Grade d) Sean Nós Dancing Competition at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in the previous year are ineligible to compete in the same competition, in the County / Regional or Provincial Fleadh.
- xi) Failure to comply with the above may lead to disqualification.

**24. As with official Fleadh Cheoil competitions, except Comhrá Gaeilge, the following applies to rince céilí, rince seit and rince ar an sean-nós:** Winners of First and Second prizes shall qualify from County Fleadhanna to Provincial Fleadhanna and from Provincial Fleadhanna to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, in the same year, together with a maximum of one other competitor in each competition, if the adjudicator is satisfied that the competitors have reached a sufficiently high standard in the appropriate grade.

**25. Comórtas 49 Comhrá Gaeilge / Irish Language Conversation**  
**Comórtas Comhrá Gaeilge Aois Grúpaí Fé 9, 9-11, 11-13, 13-15 & 15-18**

*Féach ar lch 1-2 maidir leis na rialacha gearrálta*

ii) Téann 5 ón bhFleadh Chondae agus ón bhFleadh Chúige ar aghaidh chuig Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann i ngach aois grúpa. Bronntar trí dhuais i ngach aois grúpa ag Fleadh na hÉireann-chéad, dara agus an tríú áit. (1ú, 2ú & 3ú). Tugtar céadatán/marc do gach iomaitheoir ar ghach bileog mholtóireachta.

iii) Comórtas: Is iad seo a leanas na ránnóga

Cruinneas & líofacht 55

Eolas 25

Dán nó Scéal 20 (Ní ceadaítear amhrán a chasadh in ionad dán a aithris/scéal a insint)

Nóta maidir leis an ránnóg ‘eolas’:

Faoi 9: Eolas faoi Chomhaltas amháin

11-13: Eolas faoi Chomhaltas agus Cumann Luathchleas Gael

13-15 & 15- 18: Eolas faoi: Comhaltas, CLG, Conradh na Gaeilge, Glór na nGael, R na G, TG4, agus Udarás na Gaeltachta

Is leor eolas bunúsach.

I gcás eolas faoi Chomhaltas cuirtear an bhéim ar imeachtaí áitiúla an Chomhaltais.

iv) Teora ama do ghach iomaitheoir:

Faoi 9: 6-7 nóiméad

9-11: 6-7 nóiméad

11-13: 9-10 nóiméad

13-15: 9-10 nóiméad

15-18: 11-12 nóiméad

2 nóiméad don dán nó scéal cuimsithe sa teora ama.

i) The focus of the competition is conversational Irish.

ii) Five prize winners qualify from County (Regional) to Provincial Fleadhanna and five prize winners qualify from Provincial to the All-Ireland Fleadh in each age group. At All-Ireland Level 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes are awarded. A percentage mark must be shown on each competitor’s adjudication sheet.

iii) Competition: The competitors are assessed under the following categories:

Accuracy & Fluency; 55

Information; 25

Poem or Story; 20 ( Singing a song is not acceptable as a substitute for the poem/story)

Note: The ‘Information’ Section is adjudicated as follows:

Competitors Under 9 will be expected to have knowledge of Comhaltas.

Competitors Under 11 and Under 13 will be expected to have knowledge of Comhaltas and the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Competitors Under 15 and Under 18 will be expected to have knowledge of Comhaltas, The Gaelic Athletic Association, Conradh na Gaeilge, Glór na nGael, R na G, TG4 and Udarás na Gaeltachta.

Basic information is sufficient.

In the case of Comhaltas emphasis will be on local Comhaltas activity

iv) Duration: The duration of time allocated to each competitor is as follows: inclusive of the poem or story extract, which is no more than 2 mins.

Under 9: 6-7 Minutes

9-11: 6-7 Minutes

11-13: 9-10 Minutes

13-15: 9-10 Minutes

15-18; 11-12 Minutes

## **Fleadhanna Ceoil: Structures & General Procedures**

**26. Fleadh Cheoil:** The official title for musical festivals sponsored by units of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann shall be 'Fleadhanna Ceoil', singular 'Fleadh Cheoil'. Fleadhanna Ceoil provide for the official Fleadh Cheoil Competitions, run under the auspices of CCÉ.

**27. These Fleadhanna Ceoil constitute:**

- a. The County Fleadh (Regional Fleadh in Britain)
- b. Provincial Fleadh/ Fleadh Cheoil Chúige
- c. The All-Ireland Fleadh/ Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

**28. Provincial Fleadhanna:** For the purpose of these competitions there shall be Seven Qualifying Fleadhanna 'Provincial Fleadhanna' to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann: Ulster, Munster, Leinster, Connacht, Britain and two in North America, Mid- Atlantic and Mid-West.) Qualifying Fleadhanna may also be held in such other overseas areas as are approved by the Central Executive Council (CEC/Ard Chomhairle).

**29. Competitors from countries outside the seven qualifying 'Provincial Fleadhanna'** Competitors of a sufficiently high standard, normally resident in countries where no qualifying Fleadhanna are held should send written notification of their wish to compete at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann and not later than one calendar month prior to the Fleadh.

**30. Amendments- Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil:** Proposals for the amendment of the Rules for Fleadhanna Ceoil shall be submitted to Congress 2016 and thereafter every three years.

**31. Competition Venues:** All competitions at Fleadhanna Ceoil shall be held indoors, apart from Marching Bands, which shall be held in outdoor arenas of 40 x 20 metres.

**32. Video and Audio Recordings** of competitions are expressly forbidden, without prior written permission of Competitor or Parent/Guardian on behalf of the competitor, if under 18. The organizing committee, or individual(s) nominated by such committee, shall consider all applications for such facilities.

**33. Clár na gComórtas:** The CEC shall from time to time, design a Clár na gComórtas, suitable for Regional, County, Provincial and All-Ireland Fleadhanna. This Clár, obtainable from CCÉ, 32 Cearnóg Belgrave, Baile na Manach relates to official Fleadh Cheoil competitions and its content is extracted from Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil

**34. Prize-winners and Qualification to Provincial/All-Ireland Fleadh:** Winners of First and Second prizes shall qualify from County Fleadhanna to Provincial Fleadhanna and from Provincial Fleadhanna to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, in the same year, together with a maximum of one other competitor in each competition, if the adjudicator is satisfied that the competitors have reached a sufficiently high standard in the appropriate grade. (See also Rule 49).

**35. Copies of Adjudication Sheets** shall be sent to the competitor on request, ten days after the Fleadh on the prepayment of €1 per sheet (plus postage). All original adjudication sheets shall be retained by the Fleadh/ Unit secretary for a three month period following Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann In the case of recommended 3rds copies of the sheets will be retained where the originals have been forwarded to Provincial/All-Ireland level.

## **Competition Procedure re Competitors**

**36. Competitors must** perform in person, unless in Newly Composed Song, Amhráin Nua Cheaptha and Newly Composed Tunes, at the competition venue and as far as possible, compete in the order in which they are called by the Call Steward. A competitor who fails to present him/herself when called for a specific competition, and who has not notified the Call Steward on duty, of a just cause for his/her absence, shall be disqualified from the competition.

**37. The Call Steward shall terminate a competition** after the completion of the performance by the last available competitor, unless he/she has been previously notified that the missing competitor is detained while competing in another competition, in which case the competition shall be kept open for a maximum of fifteen minutes.

Once the Call Steward has closed the competition, it cannot be reopened

**38. Breaches of Rules 2, 4- 25 inclusive, Rules 35 & 36** shall entail disqualification.

**39. No communication** with the adjudicator is permissible on the day of competition at the Fleadh venue except through the Call Stewards.

**40. Prompting and Coaching of competitors** during the course of any competition is prohibited.

**41. Objection:** In the event of an objection, the aggrieved party shall within seven days of the termination of the Fleadh, lodge with the Relevant Unit Secretary (Regional/County Secretary in the case of regional/county Fleadh, Provincial Secretary in the case of provincial Fleadh and Ard Rúnaí in the case of Fleadh na hÉireann) a written statement, setting forth the exact grounds of complaint together with a fee of €10, or equivalent in other currencies. These objections shall be considered by the appropriate body, i.e. Regional Board, County Board, Provincial Council or CEC and if the objection is upheld, the €10 shall be returned; otherwise it shall be forfeited to the Board/ Council.

**42. Disputes** involving interpretation of Fleadh Rules shall be resolved by reference to 'Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil'

## Adjudication Procedure

**43. Only Adjudicators from the official panel** and selected by the County / Region, Province or Ard Chomhairle may officiate at any Fleadh. In exceptional circumstances, however, special permission may be sought of CEC or Provincial Council, applicable to All-Ireland, Provincial, County or Regional Fleadh, to engage a person not included in this panel.

**44. Adjudicators** for solo competitions must not compete in same Fleadh Solo competition of that year, and should as far as possible, be drawn from outside that County, Region or Province.

**45. Normally** one adjudicator shall officiate at all solo competitions, and two at duet, trio, Grúpaí Ceoil and Céilí Bands, three at Marching Band competitions. (Adjudicators may confer). In these competitions, one adjudicator shall give a brief oral adjudication in general and constructive terms, after the conclusion of the competition.

He/She shall write constructive comments on each adjudication sheet and shall award an individual mark for each tune played or song sung, apart from competitions for Grúpaí Ceoil and Marching Bands. Adjudicators should recognise and comment favourably on all traditional styles of playing.

Adjudicators shall have due regard for the feelings or sensitivities of competitors when writing comments and allocating marks, which will be recorded on the adjudication sheets.

**46.** Adjudicators may withhold the awarding of a first prize, should competitors fail to reach a meritorious standard.

**47.** Where a competitor fails to compete, a note clearly indicating this shall be written on that competitor's adjudication sheet and the sheet then signed by the adjudicator/s and the adjudicators clerk or call steward.

### **48. Adjudication – Ceilí Bands & Marching Bands:**

i) In all Céilí Band Competitions at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann a minimum of four (Five if possible) adjudicators will officiate. Seated apart, they shall mark their adjudication sheet separately and the final results compiled using the recognised points system: 11, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

ii) In Senior Céilí Band Competitions at Provincial Fleadhanna a minimum of Four (Five if possible) adjudicators will officiate. Seated apart, they shall mark their adjudication sheets separately and the final result compiled using the recognised points system: 11. 7. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1.

iii) In all other Céilí Band competitions at Provincial Fleadhanna where adjudicators are seated apart a minimum of four (Five if possible) adjudicators will officiate. They shall mark their adjudication sheets separately and the final result compiled using the recognised points system: 11. 7. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1. The Points System (11. 7. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1) works best when there are at least seven bands in the competition.

iv) In Marching Band competitions, adjudicators may confer and come to an agreed decision.

**49.** At Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann an adjudicator may not be used in the same competition on two consecutive years, where possible.

**50. Recommendations:** Winners of First and Second prizes shall qualify from County Fleadhanna to Provincial Fleadhanna and from Provincial Fleadhanna to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, in the same year, together with a maximum of one other competitor in each competition, if the adjudicator is satisfied that the competitors have reached a sufficiently high standard in the appropriate grade.

Endorsement. Where a competitor other than first or second prize winner is nominated, the appropriate, original, adjudication sheet, suitably endorsed and signed by the Adjudicator, must accompany the official returns. Nominations not accompanied by such a sheet cannot be accepted by Provincial Council or Ardchomhairle. Such nominations are entirely a matter for the Adjudicator and **should only be made in the case of an exceptionally good performance.**

In the case of competitions judged by adjudicators sitting apart, and a points system, the following procedure shall apply:

On the allocation of first, second and third prize based on the points system by the competition steward each adjudicator will be informed, on an individual basis of the placings. Each adjudicator shall then individually be asked as to whether they regard the third place as being of significant merit to be recommended. The majority decision shall always apply, in the case of three and five adjudicators a 2:1 and at least a 3:2 majority respectively. In the case of 4 adjudicators a majority will also apply – a minimum of 3 out the 4 adjudicators need to endorse the recommendation.

In the case of Comhrá Gaeilge competitions, a maximum of five in each category may qualify for the Provincial Fleadh and Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann.

## **51. Clerks and Stewards**

The Fleadh Executive Committee shall arrange adequate stewarding for the efficient running of the Fleadh, its competitions, concerts, céilithe and displays.

It shall provide satisfactory amplification for Official Opening, Pageant, Concert and Céilithe.

(a) Centres where competitions are held shall provide Door Stewards and other staff as required.

(b) The County / Region, Province or CEC shall be responsible for selecting :-

A Competition Call Steward:

This steward shall arrange for the starting and finishing of each competition.

An Adjudicator's Clerk:

He/she shall be responsible for preparing the adjudicating sheets and shall return to the County / Regional, Provincial or CEC Secretary, as appropriate, all completed adjudication sheets, result sheets and any other relevant documents.