



# TIDA of NZ GRADING SYLLABUS

AS APPROVED AT  
THE 2024 AGM

# Overview & Conditions

1.1 This syllabus is designed to provide consistency at all CLRG registered competitions around NZ, run by TIDA of NZ members, their dancing schools and/or regional bodies.

This should enable opportunities for all levels of dancers to compete and provide teachers with the assurance that they have entered dancers correctly even if outside of their region.

Teams can also be offered but are not included in this document.

1.2 Age groups and numbers in each section are to be determined by the feis organiser.

1.3 All the grades in this syllabus and their dances must be offered at each competition and be specified on the issued syllabi.

Grades can be combined with separate results given.

Grades can be combined and the feis organiser can combine results or separate, provided they specify this on their competition entry syllabus document.

It is recommended that dancers with 3 soft shoe rounds are not danced against older dancers.

1.4 A template entry form will be provided to assist members with the grades and options.

1.5 Teachers can start a dancer in any grade, provided that a dancer has not had their maximum time in that grade.

If a dancer moves up part way through the competition year, that grade becomes their base grade, and the registration system is updated via notification to the Registration email.

Please note that the 2020 local competition year is not included in any eligibility.

1.6 Dancers can be moved up at any point by contacting the TIDA of NZ registration officer.

A dancer can enter a maximum of two grades per competition as long as they are eligible to enter in both. (Don't have to be consecutive grades)

1.7 A year is defined as a calendar year January to December and the maximum times pertain to the lower grade the dancer is competing in.

1.8 TIDA registration requires teachers to advise what grade each dancer will start in, so we have a record going forward.

1.9 The grades for 2025 are:

Novice (3-year limit)

Primary (2-year limit)

Intermediate

Open

Adult A

Adult B

# NOVICE

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**3 year  
maximum**

(40 bars each)  
Reel 124  
Light Jig 116  
Slip Jig 124  
Single Jig 124  
Heavy Jig 96  
Hornpipe 144  
Choice of Traditional Set

Each syllabus should offer a minimum of 2 soft shoe dances and 2 hard shoe dances from those listed if under time constraints (i.e., 1-day Feis)

These dancers can also compete in the Primary section at a feis.

N.B. As of 2025 Open dancers who are in the Under 7 age group can compete in the Novice Hard Shoe sections at local Feisanna.

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**Must wear  
a beginner  
level or  
school  
costume as  
per the  
CLRG rules.**

Required:

Basic work, 23's, sevens, heels, points, skips.

Recommended:

Dances to consist of a circle, side, and steps, except for Traditional sets

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**Place at  
least the  
top half  
(50%) in  
each  
dance.**

Medals, lapel ribbon or thin sash for each round.

No overall trophy.

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# PRIMARY

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## 2 year maximum

Designed for dancers heading towards their first Nationals

Dancers who competed at the 2022 Nationals but did not place in the top 50% can continue their grades from the Primary level and above. Under 9 age groups as per TIDANZ Nationals Syllabus

Under 10 and over:

Reel or Slip Jig, Jig or Hornpipe Choice of Set

These dancers can also compete in the Intermediate section at a feis.

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## Solo Costume permitted

Basic intermediate/open work

It is recommended that dancers with 3 soft shoe rounds are not danced against older dancers with hard shoe rounds.

However, if a section combines age groups, dancers are permitted to dance any of the eligible dances for those age groups.

This must be specified on the syllabus and included on the entry form.

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## Place at least the top half (50%) in each dance.

Medals, lapel ribbon or thin sash for each round.

No overall trophy.

***Special Note – for 2025 the Christchurch region will trial dancing Primary, Intermediate and Open dancers together to gather more data to provide a better understanding of any benefits or impacts.***

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# INTERMEDIATE

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## Must move to Open once placed at Nationals

Dancers who competed at the 2022 Nationals but did not place in the top 50% can continue their grades from the Primary level and above.

All dancers who place in the top 50% at Nationals must move to Open the following year.

These dancers can also compete in the Open section at a feis.

Adult B dancers can also compete in this section.

N.B. As of 2025 Open dancers who are in the Under 7 age group can compete in the Novice Hard Shoe sections at local Feisanna.

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## Solo Costume permitted

Under 9 age groups as per TIDANZ Nationals Syllabus

Under 10 and over:

Reel or Slip Jig, Jig or Hornpipe Choice of Set

It is recommended that dancers with 3 soft shoe rounds are not danced against older dancers with hard shoe rounds.

However, if a section combines age groups, dancers are permitted to dance any of the eligible dances for those age groups.

This must be specified on the syllabus and included on the entry form.

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## Place at least the top half (50%) in each dance.

Medals, lapel ribbon or thin sash for each round.

Feis organisers can also give overall results, and these must be using raw scores from each round (if one judge).

Overall placings at feis organiser discretion, i.e., 1st only or top 3 or more.

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# OPEN

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## No maximum time

Dancers who competed at the 2022 Nationals but did not place in the top 50% can continue their grades from the Primary level and above.

All dancers who place in the top 50% must move to Open the following year.

N.B. As of 2025 Open dancers who are in the Under 7 age group can compete in the Novice Hard Shoe sections at local Feisanna.

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## Solo Costume permitted

Under 9 age groups as per TIDA of NZ Nationals Syllabus

Under 10 and over:  
Reel or Slip Jig, Jig or Hornpipe Choice of Set

It is recommended that dancers with 3 soft shoe rounds are not danced against older dancers with hard shoe rounds.

However, if a section combines age groups, dancers are permitted to dance any of the eligible dances for those age groups.

This must be specified on the syllabus and included on the entry form.

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## Place at least the top half (50%) in each dance.

Medals, lapel ribbon or thin sash for each round.

Feis organisers can also give overall results, and these must be using raw scores from each round (if one judge).

Overall placings at feis organiser discretion, i.e., 1st only or top 3 or more

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# ADULT A

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No time limit in this grade (to be reviewed yearly)

Either dancers over the age of 18 years who did not take Irish dance classes as a juvenile or dancers over 35 who did not take Irish dance classes after the age of 10.

These dancers can also compete in Adult B.

Dancers must compete at a maximum of 2 at a time.

Basic work, 23's, sevens, heels, points, skips.

Recommend that dances to consist of a circle and side and steps up to required length of dance

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Must wear a beginner level or school costume and black stockings (for females) as per the CLRG rules.

Minimum of 2 soft shoe and 2 hard shoe dances to be offered at a competition:

(All 40 bars, except the trad set)

Single Reel 124

Light Jig 116

Slip Jig 124

Single Jig 124

Heavy Jig 96

Hornpipe 144

Choice of Traditional Set

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Place at least the top half (50%) in each dance.

Medals, lapel ribbon or thin sash for each round.

No overall trophy unless Adult A and Adult B have been combined due to low entry numbers.

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# ADULT B

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**No time limit in this grade (to be reviewed yearly)**

Either dancers over the age of 18 years who did not take Irish dance classes as a juvenile or dancers over the age of 18 years who have taken more than 5 years off with no Irish dance competition.

Adult A dancers can also compete in this section. Adult B can also compete in an Intermediate section.

Dancers cannot do an Adult section and an Open section.

Adult dancers must compete at a maximum of 2 at a time.

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**Must wear a beginner level or school costume and black stockings (for females) as per the CLRG rules.**

Minimum dances to be offered at a competition:

Soft Shoe (113)  
Hard Shoe (open speeds, 32 bars)  
Choice of set

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**Place at least the top half (50%) in each dance.**

Medals, lapel ribbon or thin sash for each round.

Feis organisers can also give overall results, and these must be using raw scores from each round (if one judge).

Overall placings at feis organiser discretion, i.e., 1st only or top 3 or more

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