

IRISH DANCE LEVEL PROGRESSION INFO

Feisanna (pronounced: fesh-anna)

A Feis is an event where the dancer competes against other dancers of the same age and class in order to progress, and strive toward reaching their potential. There must also be at least 5 dancers competing in each of the competitions.

Progression for Dancer

There are six categories for dancers: Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Novice, Open/Prizewinner, Preliminary Championships, and Open Championships. In order to advance from one level to the next the following requirements must be achieved.

Beginner: All dancers enter at this level and remain for one full year. *Most Beginners dance the reel and jig.*

Advanced Beginner: Upon completion of one full year the dancer automatically progresses to this class. This is typically the stage where the dancer becomes more involved and interested in competition. An advanced beginner who wins 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place in any given dance will advance to the Novice category in that particular dance. Competition dances include *reel, jig, slip jig, single jig, treble jig and hornpipe.*

Novice: A novice who wins a 1st place will advance to the Open/Prizewinner category in that particular dance. *In addition to the above named dances, a traditional set dance is usually available.*

Open/Prizewinner: A competitor who does not qualify as a Beginner, Advanced Beginner or as a Novice. A dancer must take 1st in both a light shoe (Reel / Slip Jig) and 1st in a hard shoe (Treble Jig / Hornpipe) to move to the next level.

Preliminary Championships: You must receive two 1st place wins in Preliminary Championships to advance to the highest level, Open Championships.

Open Championships: Once the dancer reaches this level he/she is at the top.

Information for Parents

There are over 200 Feisanna in North America every year that offer competitions in Irish dance, music and other Irish art forms. Local committees, usually made up of the dancers' parents, organize them. It is also very common to have a case of "my first Feis nerves." When you go to a Feis for the first time there are many, many seasoned veterans of the Feis circuit who are more than willing to help.

Once you have your first Feis under you belt, you too will be a veteran. The website that will steer you to the next and/or the closest Feis is the [North American Feis Commission \(www.northamericanfeiscommission.org\)](http://www.northamericanfeiscommission.org)

Although a lot of hard work goes into Irish Dancing, the one thing to remember is to have fun!