

Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil 2026

As amended by CCÉ Annual Congress 2025

Comhaltas

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.'

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

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General Rules and Entry Procedure

- 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 and Clár na gComórtas** provide for CCÉ Fleadh Competitions listed 1-52. The procedures, guidelines and rules outlined in Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil and Clár na gComórtas apply to all such competitions 1-52.
- 4 **Entry Procedure:**
 - I Entries, in Irish if possible, shall be submitted to the CCÉ Branch Rúnaí / Branch Secretary not later than six weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions. The CCÉ Rúnaí / Branch Secretary shall submit these entries to the County Secretary / Rúnaí Chontae not later than five weeks 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.
NOTE: In duet and trio competitions, the appropriate competition entry fee for both CCÉ member and for non-member shall apply.
 - III Fleadh Cheoil competitions are open to non-members of CCÉ, entries to be sent with the appropriate fee directly to the County Secretary six weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh Cheoil Competition.
 - 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 names and home address. Full addresses should not appear on the Clár.
 - V Competitors, who are members of CCÉ, who qualify from County / Regional Fleadhanna to Provincial Fleadhanna and 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 O-18(D) Competitions, winners of Mixed Set O-35 (47K) 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 Fleadhanna, 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.

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 six months in the previous twelve, 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 U-12: a person whose 12th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

B 12-15: a person whose 13th, 14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

C 15-18: a person whose 16th, 17th or 18th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

D O-18: a person whose 19th or greater birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

E Any Age

F U-18: a person whose 18th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

G U-9: a person whose 9th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

H 9-11: a person whose 10th or 11th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

I 11-13: a person whose 12th or 13th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

J 13-15: a person whose 14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

K Age Group K applies to Mixed Set O-35 and Ladies Set O-35. All members of the set must have their 36th or greater birthday on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

NOTE: 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 / CEC Rúnaí. Failure to do so will entail automatic disqualification.

I In all Solo competitions, a competitor must compete in his / her own age group only.

II In Duets, Trios, Grúpaí Ceoil, Céilí Band and Marching Band 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 and 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 U-12 may dance 12-15 but cannot dance 15-18. The same applies for 12-15, 15-18 and over 18.

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 U-12 may dance 12-15 but cannot dance 15-18. The same applies for 12-15, 15-18 and O-18.

Competitions 1-36 & 39: Categories of tunes

7 Categories / Classifications of tunes as per Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil:

- Air (slow or lively including O'Carolan or harp repertoire)
- Reel
- Polka
- Hornpipe
- March
- Double Jig
- Slip Jig
- Hop Jig
- Single Jig
- Slide
- Set Dance
- Mazurka
- Planxty
- Fling
- Barn Dance
- Schottische
- Clan March
- Highland
- German
- Dance tunes played for céilí dances as per *Ár Rincí Céilí* published by CLRG

8 List of Official Fleadh Cheoil Competitions

1	Fidil – Fiddle	A B C D
2	Bosca Ceoil – Button Accordion	A B C D
3	Feadóg Mhór – Flute	A B C D (Note 1)
4	Feadóg – Whistle	A B C D (Note 2)
5	Cairdín Pianó – Piano Accordion	A B C D
6	Consairtín – Concertina	A B C D
7	Píb Uillean – Uillean Pipes	A B C D
8	Cruit – Irish Harp	A B C D
9	Orgán Béil – Mouth Organ	A B C D (Note 3)
10	Bainseó – Banjo	A B C D
11	Maindilín – Mandolin	A B C D
12	Pianó – Piano	A B C D
13	Mileoideon – Melodeon	A B C D (Note 4)
14	Rogha Ghléis – Miscellaneous	A B C D (Note 5)
15	Tionlacan – Accompaniment	A B C D (Note 6)
16	Bodhrán	A B C D (Note 7)
17	Drumaí Céilí – Céilí Band Drums	A B C D (Note 8)
18	Foinn Mhalla, Fidil – Fiddle Slow Airs	A B C D
19	Foinn Mhalla, Píb Uillean – Uillean Pipes Slow Airs	A B C D
20	Foinn Mhalla, Feadóg Mhór – Flute Slow Airs	A B C D
21	Foinn Mhalla, Feadóg – Whistle Slow Airs	A B C D
22	Foinn Mhalla, Cruit – Harp Slow Airs	A B C D
23	Ceol Beirte – Duets	A B C D
24	Ceol Trír – Trios	A B C D
25	Buón Cheoil Chéilí - Céilí Bands	A B C D
26	Grúpaí Ceoil	A B C D
27	Buón Cheoil Cáirdín – Accordion (Marching) Band	F D
28	Buón Cheoil Feadóg Mhór – Flute (Marching) Band	F D
29	Buón Cheoil Rogha Gléas – Miscellaneous (Marching Band)	F D

30	Buíon Cheoil Phíb – Pipe (Marching) Band	E
31	Amhránaíocht ar an Sean Nós (Mná) – Irish Singing (Ladies)	A B C D
32	Amhránaíocht ar an Sean Nós (Fir) – Irish Singing (Men)	A B C D
33	English Singing (Ladies) – Amhráin Bhéarla (Mná)	A B C D
34	English Singing (Men) – Amhráin Bhéarla (Fir)	A B C D
35	Feadaíl – Whistling	A B C D
36	Portaireacht – Liting	A B C D
37	Amhráin Nua Cheaptha, Gaeilge – Newly Composed Songs in Irish	E
38	Newly Composed Songs in English – Amhráin Nua Cheaptha, Béarla	E
39	Píosaí Cheoil Nua-Chumtha – Newly composed Tunes	E
40	Rince Céilí Ochtair, Mná – 8-Hand Ceilí Dancing, Ladies	A B C D
41	Rince Céilí Ochtair, Measctha – 8-Hand Céilí Dancing, Mixed	A B C D
42	Rince Céilí Ceathrair, Mná – 4-Hand Céilí Dancing, Ladies	A B C D
43	Rince Céilí Ceathrair, Measctha – 4-Hand Céilí Dancing, Mixed	A B C D
44	Rince Seit, Mná – Full Set, Ladies	A B C D
45	Rince Seit, Measctha – Full Set, Mixed	A B C D
46	Rince Leathsheit, Measctha – Half Set, Mixed	F D
47	Rince Seit, Measctha, Os cionn 35 – Full Set, Mixed, O-35	K
48	Rince Seit, Mná, Os cionn 35 – Full Set, Ladies, O-35	K
49	Rince ar an Sean Nós	A B C D
50	Comhrá Gaeilge	G H I J C
51	Storytelling	A B C D
52	Scéalaíocht	A B C D

Notes on certain competitions: Please refer to notes on following page 8.

Note 1 Comp 3: Feadóg Mhór / Flute: Instruments to include traditional simple system wooden flutes, also Boehm system, Radcliffe system etc. The pitch of the instrument or the material from which it is made is irrelevant for entry.

Note 2 Comp 4: Feadóg / 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 for entry.

Note 3 Comp 9: Orgán Béil / Mouth Organ: A diatonic instrument in a fixed key, as distinct from a harmonica. A harmonica is a chromatic instrument, incorporating the use of a mechanism or lever, and must be played in the Rogha Ghléis competition.

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

Note 5 Comp 14: Rogha Ghléis /Miscellaneous:

This category caters for all instruments, on which the melody can be played, not catered for in Solo Instrumental Competitions listed in Rule 8, 1-13.

- Electronic, mains or battery-powered instruments are not accepted.
- In competitions for Rogha Ghléis/Miscellaneous, a competitor may compete on one instrument only.
- In all competitions the instrument being played, and tuning if relevant, shall be listed on the official Fleadh Entry form.
- The 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 competitor's name and instrument.

Note (A) Eligible Instruments

The following instruments **are eligible** based on long standing precedence, and previous consideration and Coiste Ceoil / Ardchomhairle ruling:

- Warpipes
- Chromatic Harmonica
- Guitar
- Tenor Guitar
- Ukulele
- 'Cello
- Viola
- Hammered Dulcimer
- Saxophone
- Clarinet
- Melodica
- Recorder
- Fife
- Any other instrument wishing to enter must be approved by emailing eolas@comhaltas.ie with a picture and description of the instrument. Email to be sent FAO: Oifigeach Ceoil & Oifigeach Comórtais.

Note (B) Non-Eligible Instruments

The following instruments are **not eligible** based on previous consideration and Coiste Ceoil/Ardchomhairle ruling:

- Low Whistle
- Whistle in F (or any other keys)
- Flute in 'F' (or any other keys)
- 5 String Fiddle
- Jews Harp
- Plectrum Banjo
- Single Row Accordion.

Note 6 Comp 15: Tionlacan / Accompaniment: This category caters for instruments that use melodic accompaniment as opposed to melody. The accompanist in this accompaniment competition should not be penalised for starting first, i.e. setting the tempo. This accompaniment must be played throughout the performance. 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 is permitted to play for accompaniment competitions.

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

Note 8 Comp 17: Céilí Band Drumming / Drumaíocht Céilí: A maximum of two musicians is permitted to play for competitors in the céilí drumming competition.

- 9 **Electronic or amplified instruments** are not acceptable in any competition. Where a standard piano is not available, the organising Fleadh Coiste must provide a weighted key electronic piano. Competitors are not permitted to use their own electronic piano.
- 10 **One instrument only:** With the exception of competitors playing Mouth-Organ and Grúpaí Ceoil Competitions, the following rule applies: In Solo, Duet, Trio, Céilí Band and Marching Band competitions, competitors may not change instrument or set tuning during the performance.

Performance Requirements

11 Competitions 1–17:

Age groups A and B: One tune from each of two tunes categories listed in Section 7 above.

Age Group C: One tune from each of three tune categories listed in Section 7 above.

Age Group D: One tune from each of four tune categories listed in Section 7 above.

NOTE: Senior Fiddle (1D), Flute (3D), Whistle (4D), Uilleann Pipes (7D) and Harp (8D) 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 to a maximum of four times.
- Selections are not permissible in solos, duet, trios and are only permissible in céilí band competitions B, C, & D, Grúpaí Cheoil and Marching Band competitions.

12 Competitions 18–22: Slow Air competitions

- Each Competitor shall submit a list of airs to the adjudicator and play as outlined in 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: 2 airs from list of 8 (adjudicator selects both airs).

Only slow airs in the traditional idiom will 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 and B: One tune from each of two tune categories listed in Section 7 above.

Age Group C: One tune from each of three tune categories listed in Section 7 above.

Age Group D: One tune from each of four tune categories listed in Section 7 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 Group A: Céilí Bands shall play one tune from each of two tune categories.

Age Group B: Céilí Bands shall play two reels in succession and one tune from one other tune category.

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

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

15 Competition 26: Grúpaí Ceoil

- Grúpaí Ceoil shall consist of a minimum of 4 and maximum of 20 members.
- Each group shall perform its own choice of music for a minimum of 6 minutes and a 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 and waltzes etc. to provide as much variety as possible. Slow airs need not be played by a solo performer.
- The programme presented by all Grúpaí Ceoil must be from within the Irish traditional idiom.
- 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 Buón Cheoil Mairseála, Cháirdín / Accordion Marching Bands **U-18 and O-18 (F and D)**

Comp 28 Buón Cheoil Mairseála, Feadóg Mhór / Flute Marching Bands **U-18 and O-18 (F and D)**

Comp 29 Buón Cheoil Mairseála, Rogha Ghléis / Miscellaneous Marching Bands **(F and D)**

Comp 30 Buón 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 5.
- 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 and C: Two songs from a list of four submitted (two slow and two lively).

- The first song is selected by the adjudicator and the second contrasting song by the competitor.

Age Group D: Two Songs from a list of six submitted (4 slow and 2 lively).

- The first song is selected by the adjudicator, and the second contrasting song by the competitor. Lists must clearly denote the lively songs.

18 Competitions 35 and 36: Whistling and Liting

Age groups A and B: One tune from each of two tune categories listed above. **(Rule7)**

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 1st, 2nd or 3rd place.

- An adjudicator may **recall** a competitor to perform again. In the event of a recall for solo, duet, or trio, one new piece of one's own choice must be performed.
- Recall for Céilí Bands requirements: Age Groups A and B: one new piece, C and D two new reels in succession.
- In Amhránaíocht and Singing, all age groups, one new song of the competitor's choice shall be sung from the submitted list of songs.
- Slow Airs: one new air of the competitor's choice shall be played from the submitted list of airs.
- Recalled competitors must present themselves within 30 minutes.
- Failure to report will forfeit advantage.
- Where adjudicators are seated apart, they shall mark their adjudication sheets separately and the final result is compiled using the points system (11, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1,). In the event of a tie on points the following shall apply: The call steward / clerk will refer to the placing already given by the relevant adjudicators, and take the overall majority of the relevant highest placing already allocated to the tied bands, so as to calculate a final and clear result and to minimize the number of bands having to perform again. (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 will apply).
- In the event of a further tie, bands will be required to play as per recall above.

20 Competitions 37, 38 and 39: Amhráin Nua Cheaptha, Newly Composed Songs in English and 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(s) must be resident of the county or region in which the song or tune is entered.
- The tune/song name must be maintained at all subsequent Fleadhanna in that year. In all Fleadh programmes the competitor listings for Competitions 37, 38 & 39 shall include the competitor's name and the name of the tune/song.
- The newly composed tune must be traditional in character and must adhere to the tune categories specified for Fleadh Cheoil competitions.
- A written copy of the song, or a tune in staff notation only, signed by the composer must be submitted with the competition entry not later than six weeks prior to the first day of the County or Regional Fleadh competitions. The CCÉ Rúnaí / Branch Secretary shall submit these entries to the County Secretary / Rúnaí Chontae not later than five weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions. Only this original version of the tune, as submitted with entry, is acceptable in performance, i.e. no edits or changes are accepted should the tune or song subsequently qualify for Provincial or All-Ireland Fleadhanna. This original version must be performed at subsequent competition(s) should the tune qualify.
- The newly composed tune shall be played two times through. The first time through, only the original version of the tune, as submitted with entry, is acceptable in performance; however, the second time through, variations are permitted. 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(s) may designate a musician or singer to perform the tune 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.
- The name and full address of the composer(s) shall be written on the sheet containing the tune notation / song lyrics. A copy of the original song lyrics / tune will be forwarded together with the Fleadh results to the appropriate Provincial Fleadh and to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann if the song / tune qualifies.

Competitions 40-43: Céilí Dancing

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 and D

Competitors may only perform 4-Hand or 8-Hand Céilí Dances from Ár Rincí Céilí (Revision September 2014), and subsequent updates, the Céilí dancing handbook issued by An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha, this set list approved by An Coiste Rince, CCÉ

I ENTRIES:

CCÉ members: In Irish, if possible, Names of 8 team members for 8-Hand Céilí and 4 team members for 4-Hand Céilí, together with appropriate entry fee, shall be submitted to the CCÉ Branch Rúnaí / Branch Secretary not later than six weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions. The CCÉ Rúnaí / Branch Secretary shall submit these entries to the County Secretary / Rúnaí Chontae not later than five weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions.

Non-members of CCÉ: In Irish if possible, Names of 8 team members together with the appropriate entry fees, shall be submitted directly to the County Secretary six weeks prior to the Fleadh Cheoil.

Late entries shall not be accepted after the closing date.

II AGE CATEGORIES:

(A) Under 12: a person whose 12th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(B) 12-15: a person whose 13th, 14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(C) 15-18: a person whose 16th, 17th or 18th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(D) Over 18: a person whose 19th or greater birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

NOTE: 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 / CEC Rúnaí. Failure to do so will entail automatic disqualification.

III Mixed 8-Hand Céilí Dance Teams in 12-15, 15-18 and Senior must consist of four male and four female dancers and two male and two female dancers in mixed 4-Hand Céilí Dance Teams.

IV U 12 Mixed 8-Hand Céilí Dance Teams should, as far as possible, consist of 4 male and 4 female, but must contain 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.

V 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.

- 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 / Region and Province.
- VII** **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 at the first round and at each subsequent round of the competition. This also applies to All Ireland Senior Winners who qualify automatically for Fleadh na hÉireann in the following year. In the event of a recall, no further substitution is allowed.
- VIII** **RECALL:** The following applies U12, 12-15, 15-18 and Senior. It is essential to dance a body and one figure of the same dance. It is essential that the same dancers will dance in the event of a recall and no substitutions are allowed for a recall. Recalled competitors must present themselves within 30 minutes. Failure to report will forfeit advantage.
- IX** Two 4-hand dances will not meet the requirements of 8-Hand Competition.
- X** 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.
- XI** Simple and appropriate dress code: no school of dancing costumes allowed; no dancing wigs allowed; no tips or built-up shoes allowed. "Pomps" and Boys "Reel" shoes are permitted.
Note: Toe or heel tips or a combination of both are not allowed whether these are 'built in' at time of manufacture or added after purchase of shoes. Only shoes with a plain smooth sole are permitted.
- XII** Marching on and off stage to music accompaniment is not permitted.
- XIII** The adjudicators' decision is final.
- XIV** The managers / mentors / teachers of céilí dancing teams register in writing the name of dance, dancers, as well as age and substitution details on the day of the competition.
- XV** Managers, mentors, teachers etc are not allowed to coach teams during performance.
- XVI** Managers, mentors, teachers are allowed to communicate with the musicians prior to performance on stage.
- 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. Musicians must be competent to play for all Céilí dances and be familiar with the tunes required.
- XIX** Dancing to pre-recorded music tracks is not allowed for céilí dancing competitions. The same musical accompaniment must be used for all competitors in any one competition in céilí competitions.
- XX** Only amplification / PA system(s) supplied by the organising coiste is allowed.
- XXI** Failure to comply with the above rules shall lead to disqualification.

Competitions 44–48: Set Dancing

22 Competitions 44-48: Comórtas Seit Traidisiúnta / Set Dancing Competitions

Ladies Full Set (A, B, C, D), Mixed Full Set (A, B, C, D), Mixed Half Set (F & D), Mixed Full Set (K) Ladies Full Set (K).

Competitors may only perform traditional sets and half sets from the official set list for Comhaltas set dancing competitions approved by Coiste Rince. For Mixed and Ladies sets over 35 (K) all members of the set must be over 35 on January 1st of the year of entry.

I ENTRIES:

CCÉ members: In Irish, if possible, Entry Form showing names of 8 team members for full sets and 4 team members for Half Sets, together with the appropriate entry fees, must be submitted to the CCÉ Branch Rúnaí / Branch Secretary not later than six weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions. The CCÉ Rúnaí / Branch Secretary shall submit these entries to the County Secretary/Rúnaí Chontae not later than five weeks prior to the first day of the Fleadh competitions. Late entries shall not be accepted after the closing date.

Non-members of CCÉ: Entry Form showing 8 team members for full sets and 4 team members for Half Sets, together with the appropriate entry fees, shall be submitted directly to the County Secretary not later than six weeks prior to the Fleadh Cheoil Competition.

II AGE CATEGORIES:

(A) Under 12: a person whose 12th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(B) 12-15: a person whose 13th, 14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(C) 15-18: a person whose 16th, 17th or 18th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(D) Over 18: a person whose 19th or greater birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(F) Under 18: a person whose 18th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

(K) Age Group K: applies to Competition 47K and 48K – Mixed Set over 35 and Ladies set O35

NOTE: 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 / CEC Rúnaí. Failure to do so will entail automatic disqualification.

III Mixed Full Set Dancing Teams in 12-15, 15-18 and 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 12 Mixed Full Set Dancing Teams should, as far as possible, consist of four male and four female, but must 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, the same applies for 12-15, 15-18 and Senior. In Mixed Set O-35s – 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 / Region and Province.
- VII **SUBSTITUTION:** A maximum of two dancers in the case of full set and a maximum of one dancer in the case of Half Set can be substituted at the first round and at each subsequent round of the competition. This also applies to All Ireland Senior and O-35 Winners who qualify automatically for Fleadh na hÉireann in the following year. In the event of a recall, no further substitution is allowed.
- VIII **PARTS:** Competitors in the Over 18 (D) and Over 35 (K) set dancing competitions are required to dance three parts or a traditional set or half set. Two of the parts will be of their own choice and one part selected by the adjudicators. The adjudicators selection will be made prior to the start of the competition. Teams will be informed of the adjudicators choice as they take to the stage. Selected figures must be danced in the order of that set: e.g. Fig 1, Fig 3, Fig 5.
Competitors in the Junior Set dancing A, B, C and Half Set F will be required to dance two parts of a traditional set.
- IX **ADJUDICATION:** Where adjudicators are seated apart, they shall mark their adjudication sheets separately and the final result compiled using, using the present points system (11, 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1). In the event of a tie of points the following shall apply: The call steward / clerk will refer to the placing already given by the relevant adjudicators, and take the overall majority of the relevant highest placing already allocated to the tied teams, so as to calculate a final and clear result and to minimize the number of teams having to perform again. (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 will apply). In the event of a further tie, teams will be required to dance as per recall at (x) below.
- X **RECALL:** U12, 12-15 and 15-18: One new part (not previously danced in the competition by the team). Senior and 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. It is essential that the same dancers will dance in the event of a recall and no substitutions are allowed for a recall. Recalled competitors must present themselves within 30 minutes. Failure to report will forfeit advantage.
- XI While competitors in the full set competition may also dance in the half set competition and vice-versa, only recognised traditional half sets (from official list approved by Coiste Rince) 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.
- XII The managers / mentors / teachers of Set dancing teams register in writing the name of dance, dancers, as well as age, substitution details and parts of sets being danced on the day of the competition.

XIII All dancing must cease at the end of the recognised part. Simple and appropriate dress code, no school of dancing costumes are allowed. No dancing wigs are allowed, no tips or built up shoes are allowed.

Note: Toe or heel tips or a combination of both are not allowed whether these are 'built in' at time of manufacture or added after purchase of shoes. Only shoes with a plain smooth sole are permitted.

XIV Marching on and off the stage to music accompaniment is not permitted.

XV The adjudicators' decision is final.

XVI Managers, mentors, teachers are not allowed to coach teams during the performance.

XVII Managers, mentors, teachers are allowed to communicate with the musicians prior to performance on stage.

XVIII Winners of over 18 (D) set dancing: Ladies and Mixed competitions, half-sets and O-35s at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in the previous year are **ineligible** to compete in the same competition at County / Regional or Provincial Fleadh.

XIX 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.

XX Dancing to pre-recorded music tracks is not allowed for set dancing.

XXI Ten days prior to the competition adjudicators shall be provided with the names of the sets that **may** be danced.

XXII Failure to comply with the above rules shall lead to disqualification.

Competition 49: Rince ar an Sean Nós

23 Competition 49: Rince ar an Sean Nós

- 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.

AGE CATEGORIES:

- (A) **Under 12:** a person whose 12th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- (B) **12-15:** a person whose 13th, 14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- (C) **15-18:** a person whose 16th, 17th or 18th birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.
- (D) **Over 18:** a person whose 19th or greater birthday occurs on any date in the year of Fleadhanna Ceoil competitions.

NOTE: 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 / CEC Rúnaí. Failure to do so will entail automatic disqualification.

- III One dance tempo of competitor's own choice to be performed. (This must not exceed three minutes). Any combination of rhythms e.g. jig-reel or hornpipe-reel is not permitted.
- IV No tips or built up shoes allowed.
Note: Toe or heel tips or a combination of both are not allowed whether these are 'built in' at time of manufacture or added after purchase of shoes. Only shoes with a plain smooth sole are permitted.
- V No props of any kind allowed.
- VI 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.
- VII Dancing to pre-recorded music tracks is not allowed for sean-nós dancing competitions.
- VIII The same musical accompaniment must be used for all competitors in any one competition in sean-nós dance.
- IX Only amplification / PA system(s) supplied by the organising coiste is allowed.
- X The adjudicators' decision is final.
- XI Failure to comply with the above rules shall lead to disqualification.
- XII Winners of Over 18 (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.

24 As with official Fleadh Cheoil competitions, except Comhrá Gaeilge, the following applies to all rince céilí, rince seit and rince ar an sean-nós competitions, in line with Rule 50.

Winners of First and Second prizes shall qualify from County / Regional Fleadhanna to Provincial Fleadhanna 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 recommended, the appropriate, original, adjudication sheet, suitably endorsed and signed by the Adjudicator, must accompany the official returns. Recommendations not accompanied by such a sheet cannot be accepted by Provincial Council. Such recommendations are entirely a matter for the Adjudicator and **should only be made in the case of an exceptionally good performance.**

Competition 50: Comhrá Gaeilge

25 Competition 50: Comhrá Gaeilge

Aoisghrápaí: Faoi 9, 9-11, 11-13, 13-15 and 15-18

Entry and eligibility etc. as per pages 1-2.

- 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 1st, 2nd and 3rd 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 and 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 U-9 will be expected to have knowledge of Comhaltas.

Competitors 9-11 and 11-13 will be expected to have knowledge of Comhaltas and the Gaelic Athletic Association.

Competitors 13-15 and 15-18 will be expected to have knowledge of Comhaltas, The Gaelic Athletic Association, Conradh na Gaeilge, Glór na nGael, Raidió na Gaeltachta, TG4 and Udarás na Gaeltachta.

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.

U-9: 6-7 Minutes

9-11: 6-7 Minutes

11-13: 9-10 Minutes

13-15: 9-10 Minutes

15-18; 11-12 Minutes

Competition 51-52: Storytelling / Scéalaíocht

26 Competition 51-52: Storytelling / Scéalaíocht

Storytelling: Storytelling is an oral, not a visual art. The telling depends on the use of the human voice with all its variations, nuances, modulations, turns of phrase, timing and punch lines. There is no place in storytelling for theatrical movements or costume. Preferably the storyteller should assume a sitting or standing position and movement should be minimal, confined to hand gestures and facial expression.

A story should not be confused with a recitation, a monologue or verse speaking. The idea of the old storyteller sitting by the fire, entertaining his or her neighbours, should be a good guideline as to what storytelling is.

Purpose of the competition: To encourage, among the emerging young population of Comhaltas members, the preservation of the tradition of storytelling & scéalaíocht in our culture and to help in producing a number of storytellers of a standard up to public performance level to complement the excellent standards that have been achieved in the musical, vocal and dancing traditions.

The story: Must be Irish in character, told in a local accent and local style. Competitors who speak with an accent that is not Irish are welcome provided their story is 'Irish in character'. The theme can be humorous, serious, (or a mixture of both), historic or contemporary.

Duration: For the purposes of scheduling, tellers are required to keep their stories to between 4 and 8 minutes (note change for 2020 guidelines) in duration in competitions. Adjudicators may deduct points if competitors run over.

Suggested marking system:

(a) Confidence / sincerity of storyteller	20%
(b) Accuracy and fluency of speech	40%
(c) Overall impact of story	40%

27 Comórtas 52: Scéalaíocht: Treoirlínte do Chomórtas Scéalaíochta

Scéalaíocht: Is ealaín béal atá sa scéalaiocht seachas ealaín físeach. Braitheann insint scéil ar ghuth an scéaláí. Úsáidtear rithim, ardú agus íslíú gutha, imeartas focal agus frásáí ar leith chun an scéal a insint. Ní bhaintear leas as gluaiseachtaí nó feistas atá drámatúil. Ba chóir don scéalaí fanacht in a seasamh nó in a suí gan mórán gluaiseacht thart seachas gluaiseachtaí láimhe nó gotháí gnúise.

Ní aithriseoireacht nó véarsaíocht atá sa scéalaíocht. Moltar d'iomaitheoirí glacadh leis an scéalaí traidisiúnta ag suí cois tine ag insint scéil dá chomharsana mar shampla a léiríonn céard is scéalaíocht thraigisiúnta ann.

Cuspóir: Suim, a mhúscailt i sean ealaín na scéalaíochta i measc comhaltaí óga an Chomhalaí agus caighdeán maith a chothú maidir le cur i láthair agus roghnú scéil. Chun an caighdeán céanna a chothú sa réimse scéalaíochta is atá bainte amach sna réimsí ceoil agus amhránaíochta.

An Scéal: Caithfidh sainteithe Éireannacha a bheith léirithe sa scéal. Ba chóir go mbeadh an scéal curtha i láthair i stíl agus i gcanúint logánta. Tá fáilte roimh iomaitheoirí nach bhfuil canúint Éireannach acu fhad is a bhfuil saintréithe Éireannacha léirithe ag an scéal atá á insint acu. Is féidir téama drámatúil, greannmhar (nó meascán de dhráma agus greann) stairiúil nó nua-aimseartha a bheith sa scéal.

Fad an scéil don chomórtas: Le aghaidh ar sceidealú comórtais tuigtear do nglacfar le fad ama idir 4 agus 8 nóiméad chun an scéal a insint. (Tabhair faoi ndearadh an athrú fad ama le haghaidh treoirlíne 2020). Gearrfaí píonós ar iomaitheoirí a sháraíonn an teorann ama.

Moltóireacht:

(a) Cur i láthair agus dáiríreacht an scéalaí	20%
(b) Soiléire urlabhra agus cruinneas teanga	40%
(c) Éifeacht iomlán an scéil	40%

Fad an scéil don chomórtas: Le aghaidh ar sceidealú comórtais tuigtear do nglacfar le fad ama idir 4 agus 8 nóiméad chun an scéal a insint.

Fleadhanna Ceoil: Structures and General Procedures

28 **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 by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

29 **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

30 **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.

31 **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 not later than **May 1st** prior to the Fleadh. Contact e-mail: eolas@comhaltas.ie.
Address: CCÉ, 32 Cearnóg Belgrave, Baile na Manach, Co. Átha Cliath, A94 XV02.

32 **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.

33 **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.
The video/audio recording of adjudicator's comments is not permitted.

Note: Re Comhrá Gaeilge competitions: Due to the nature of the Comhrá Gaeilge competition video or audio recording of Comhrá Gaeilge competitions is expressly forbidden.

34 **Prize-winners and Qualification to Provincial / All-Ireland Fleadh:** Winners of First and Second prizes shall qualify from County / Regional Fleadhanna to Provincial Fleadhanna and from Provincial Fleadhanna to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, in the same year.

35 **Copies of Adjudication Sheets** shall be sent to the competitor within ten days after the Fleadh on the prepayment of the relevant official rate by the CCÉ unit per sheet (plus postage) All original adjudication sheets shall be retained by the Fleadh/Unit 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 Council.

Competition Procedure

- 36 **Competitors must** perform in person at the competition venue and compete in the order in which they are called by the Call Steward. A competitor who fails to present himself /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 the Call Steward 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 any Rule** as listed in Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil 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 **four** 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 **€20**, 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 **€20** shall be returned; otherwise it shall be forfeited to the Board / Council / CEC.
- 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 Ardchomhairle, 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 the 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). One adjudicator shall give a brief oral adjudication at the conclusion of the competition. An individual mark is awarded for each tune played or song sung, except for Grúpaí Ceoil and Marching Band competitions.'

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 – Céilí Bands and 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.
- 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 / Regional Fleadhanna to Provincial Fleadhanna 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 recommended, the appropriate, original, adjudication sheet, suitably endorsed and signed by the Adjudicator, must accompany the official returns. Recommendations not accompanied by such a sheet cannot be accepted by Provincial Council. Such recommendations 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 utilising 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 to the Provincial Fleadh. 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.

Clerks and Stewards

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, Concerts 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.

Prizes

52 The Official Comhaltas Trophy or medal shall be awarded to prize winners. This trophy or medal shall be purchased from Head-Office.

53 Prizes to be awarded at County, Regional and Provincial Fleadhanna shall be as follows:

First Prize: Perpetual Trophy (where available) together with trophy or gilt medal;

Second Prize: Silver medal; Third Prize: Bronze medal.

54 Prizes to be awarded at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann shall be as follows:

First Prize: Perpetual Trophy (where available) together with trophy or gilt medal;

Second Prize: Gold medal; Third Prize: Silver medal.

At Provincial Fleadhanna and Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann trophies or medals shall be awarded to each member of Céilí Band and Grúpaí Ceoil winning first, second or third prize.

At all Fleadhanna, Marching Band prizes shall be: First Prize: Perpetual Trophy (where available) and Certificates.

55 Perpetual Trophies shall, as far as possible, be presented to the winners at the competition venue. County/Provincial trophies should be returned in advance to the relevant unit in good condition by the notified date. All-Ireland Perpetual Trophies must be returned to the Provincial Fleadh only or to the Ard Chláraitheoir by contacting eolas@comhaltas.ie

56 The County Board / Regional Board, Provincial Council or CEC, as appropriate, shall arrange for the winners of perpetual trophies, or their guardians if they are under 18 years of age, to sign an undertaking to return these trophies to the officer designated in the Bunreacht, on the written demand of this officer in the case of an objection being upheld, and in any event, not later than a minimum of two months prior to the next Fleadh.

Fleadh Committee and Administrative Procedures

- 57 All Dances shall be céilithe, mixed céilithe or sets and adhere to the Aims and Objectives of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Parades shall, as far as possible, be of a cultural and historic nature.
- 58 The names of Concert Artistes, including Groups (professional / semi-professional or amateur) and Céilí Bands (engaged to provide music for céilithe) must be submitted to the County Board, Regional Board, Provincial Council or CEC, as appropriate, for prior approval before engagements are made.
- 59 The Fleadh Executive Committee (FEC) shall be as follows: Patron, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Joint Treasurers (one a nominee from Fleadh Executive Committee and one nominee from County / Region or Province, Public Relations Officer, plus the Chairmen of the following subcommittees including Finance, Accommodation, Catering, Stewarding, Halls and Venues, Signposting and Street Decorations, Street Entertainment, Concerts, Céilithe and others.
- 60 The Fleadh Executive Committee (FEC) shall under the jurisdiction of the Regional or County Board, Provincial Council or CEC, as the case may be, be responsible for the running of the Fleadh.
- 61 The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer of each County or Regional Board, together with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer of the Provincial Council, shall be ex-officio members of all Fleadh Committees within their respective areas of jurisdiction, be they Regional, County, Provincial or All-Ireland Fleadhanna.
- 62 The Jurisdiction of a FEC shall be temporary and shall terminate not later than four months, in the case of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann and three months in the case of Provincial, County or Regional Fleadhanna subsequent to the last day of the Fleadh and consequently on a formal dissolution and surrender to the County or Regional Board, Provincial Council or CEC as appropriate, of its responsibilities and equipment.
- 63 Before a Fleadh Cheoil is finally allocated, and provided that all matters appertaining to the Fleadh venue are satisfactory, a sum of money shall be collected from the traders of the area, subject to the discretion of the responsible unit.
- 64 The Fleadh Executive Committee shall ensure that provision is made for celebrating our traditions as enshrined in the Aims and Objectives of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.
- 65 The Fleadh Committee shall provide appropriate means of identification for all officiating personnel. The Comhaltas logo shall be incorporated in all print material.
- 66 The Fleadh Committee shall arrange an appropriate opening event to celebrate and acknowledge the strengths of Irish traditional music, song, dance and Gaeilge of the area, in which the Fleadh is being held.
- 67 Perpetual trophies acquired, and scrolls, banners, flags, bunting etc., provided out of Fleadh Funds are the property of the Regional or County Board, Provincial Council or CEC as the case may be. The use of such trophies and equipment shall be confined to the appropriate FEC for succeeding Fleadhanna, in accordance with Fleadh Rules and Bunreacht.

- 68 All Net Profits shall on the issue of the Balance Sheet be paid by the FEC to the Treasurer of the County or Regional Board, Provincial Council or CEC as appropriate, who will then be responsible for the proper distribution of such net profits.
- 69 When all outstanding accounts have been paid by the FEC, a Balance Sheet shall be prepared (by a Chartered Accountant in the case of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann) which shall be forwarded to the Regional Board, County Board, Provincial Council or CEC as appropriate, not later than three or four months as applicable, after the termination of the Fleadh. In default of compliance by the FEC with this requirement, the Regional Board, County Board, Provincial Council or CEC as appropriate, shall itself engage a Chartered Accountant, debiting the FEC with his due fees, and on ascertainment of the Balance Sheet, the share of the local Branch, Regional Board, Provincial Council of the net profits shall be reduced by 5%. This amount shall be paid to the Regional Board, County Board, Provincial Council or CEC as appropriate.
- 70 The necessary Current Rate of Travelling Expenses as agreed by the CEC shall be paid by the Fleadh treasurer to all adjudicators on the termination of their duties at the Fleadh. Suitable accommodation and meals shall be provided free by the Fleadh committee.

County and Regional Fleadhanna Ceoil

71 One County Fleadh may be held annually having County Board status. One Regional Fleadh may be held annually in each Region having Regional status. A County Board may at its discretion organise Regional Fleadhanna prior to the County Fleadh.

72 The Branch shall seek selection as Fleadh centre at the autumn meeting of the County or Regional Board. The application in writing shall be lodged with the County or Regional Secretary not later than two weeks prior to that meeting.

73 The County or Regional Board shall convene a special meeting consisting of members of the County or Regional Board and the local branch. This meeting shall elect from its own members, the Fleadh Executive Committee.

74 The County or Regional Board shall, in conjunction with the Provincial Council, have complete jurisdiction over the County or Regional Fleadh; and in all matters appertaining to the Fleadh, the rulings of the Provincial Council shall be final.

75 The Fleadh may be held at any time in the Fleadh year, except on the weekend of Annual Congress. The Clare County Fleadh and Fleadh Nua Ennis should not coincide.

76 Clár na gComórtas and Official Entry Forms shall be sent to Branch Secretaries, County and Regional Secretaries a minimum of six months prior to the Fleadh.

77 **PROGRAMME / CLÁR:** County and Regional Fleadh Committees shall produce a Souvenir Programme, which shall contain the following information:

- I Names of Competitors and Comhaltas Branches / Addresses, in Irish if possible.
- II The Centres for and the approximate starting times of each competition.
- III The names of the Fleadh Executive Committee.
- IV The names and addresses of the previous year's first prize winners.
- V The Perpetual Trophy available for each competition, with donor's name.
- VI Diagram, or sketch map of the town, showing the location of halls, etc.
- VII The time schedule for the various events, Competitions, Parade, Pageants, Concerts, etc.
- VIII The names of the Officers of the County / Regional Board.
- IX Articles / reports on local history, heritage, music, song, dance etc.

78 The Net Profits of the Fleadh shall be divided as follows:

- 50% to the Branch running the Fleadh
- 50% to the County or Regional Board

NB. Losses shall be borne in the same proportions.

Provincial Fleadhanna Ceoil

79 The Provincial Fleadh shall be held in each County within the Province in turn, provided such County has an active County Board. In the case of Britain and North America, the Provincial Councils of Britain and North America shall decide the venue for Provincial Fleadhanna. The Provincial Council may, at its discretion stipulate that a fixed sum be collected and lodged to the account of the Fleadh Executive Committee before the Fleadh is finally allocated. In so far as it is possible, no two Provincial Fleadhanna shall be held on the same date.

80 A County shall seek selection as Fleadh Centre from the Provincial Council. The application in writing, from the Co. Secretary, shall be lodged with the Provincial Secretary no later than 1st December of the year prior to the preceding year of Provincial Fleadh: Application shall set forth:

- I The proposed venue for the Fleadh.
- II The numerical strength of the Branch at that venue.
- III The population of the venue.
- IV Facilities for competitions, i.e. size and seating capacity of each venue
- V Facilities for concerts and céilithe at the venue.
- VI Catering and accommodation facilities at the venue.
- VII Transport facilities.
- VIII Fund-raising structures

81 The County Board sponsoring the Fleadh shall convene a meeting of the County Board and local branch to elect from their own members the FEC. The FEC shall be responsible to the County Board, which shall in turn be responsible to the Provincial Council.

82 The Provincial Council shall, in conjunction with the CEC have complete jurisdiction over the Provincial Fleadh and in all matters appertaining to the Fleadh. The rulings of the CEC shall be final. The admission charges at Provincial Fleadhanna event shall be fixed by the Provincial Council. A reduced admission charge will apply to U-18s.

83 All monies received by the FEC shall, on receipt, be lodged to the credit of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in a current account in a bank approved by the Provincial Council, in the name of the Provincial Fleadh Cheoil, with signatures of two treasurers (one a member of the Fleadh Executive Committee and the other a nominee of the Provincial Council). All drawings on the said account shall be by cheque, bearing their joint signatures.

84 Competitions at Provincial Fleadhanna shall be confined to those who have secured First or Second prizes at the County or Regional Fleadh within the Province in the current year, together with a maximum of one other competitor from each county in each competition as defined in Rule 48. In the case of Comhrá Gaeilge competitions, a maximum of five may qualify from the County or Regional Fleadh.

85 **Programme / Clár:** Provincial Fleadh Committees shall produce a **Souvenir** Programme, which shall contain the following information:

- I Names of Competitors and Comhaltas Branches / Addresses, in Irish if possible.
- II The Centres for and the approximate starting times of each competition.
- III The names of the Fleadh Executive Committee.
- IV The names and addresses of the previous year's first prize winners.
- V The Perpetual Trophy available for each competition, with donor's name.
- VI Diagram, or sketch map of the town, showing the location of halls, etc.
- VII The time schedule for the various events, Competitions, Parade, Pageants, Concerts, etc.
- VIII The names of the Officers and Delegates of the Provincial Council.
- IX Articles / reports on local history, heritage, music, song, dance etc.

86 The Net Profits of the Provincial Fleadh shall be divided and paid as follows:

- 25% to the Branch running the Fleadh;
- 25% to the County or Regional Board;
- 25% to the Provincial Council;
- 25% to the Central Council.

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann

87 Should it be found necessary to change the date of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, the Ardchomhairle shall have the authority to do so, without reference to Congress. No other Comhaltas function shall be held on those dates.

88 The Centre may be located in any County having a strong County Board, and an active branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann at the centre.

89 Applications will be invited by the Ardchomhairle from the prospective venues for Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann. The application form will cover such items as:

- I Size of the committee proposed.
- II The number of helpers(volunteers) who would be available to the FEC.
- III Details of venues, capacity and cost.
- IV Knowledge of the Fleadh Manual.
- V The amount of levy to be paid to the Ardchomhairle.
- VI A commitment by the prospective FEC to confine itself to Fleadh business and to work fully under the direction of the Comhaltas Ardchomhairle and its representatives.
- VII Would hotels, venues and other services required by Comhaltas at the Fleadh, including Scoil Éigse, be available at competitive prices?
- VIII Would the FEC and County Council enter into a Memorandum of Understanding as supplied by Comhaltas?

After the receipt of each valid application the Standing Committee shall visit the proposed venues and report to the CEC meeting at which the Fleadh is being allocated on the suitability of the proposed venues.

90 Applications to host Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann will be submitted to the Ardchomhairle, with all the appropriate documentation, by the date specified by the Ardchomhairle.

After appraisal of the Applications, the Ardchomhairle will direct the Standing Committee to visit and appraise the prospective venues which are deemed to be appropriate. The Standing Committee will submit a Report to the Ardchomhairle for their consideration and the Ardchomhairle will then determine the successful venue. This will be by secret ballot. Where there are three or more applications, the elimination system shall be adopted. In the event of two venues receiving the same number of votes, both names shall be put into a hat and the winner drawn out.

91 The CEC shall have complete jurisdiction over the Fleadh and in all matters appertaining to the Fleadh. Its rulings shall be final.

92 The County Board Sponsoring the Fleadh Cheoil shall convene a meeting consisting of members of the County Board and the local Branch. This meeting shall elect the Fleadh Executive Committee. This FEC shall be answerable to the Central Executive Council (Ardchomhairle). Members of sub-committees shall be subject to the prior approval of the FEC.

93 All monies received by the FEC shall on receipt be lodged to the credit of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in a current account in a Bank approved by the CEC in the names of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann with signatures of two treasurers (one a nominee of the FEC and the other a nominee of the CEC). All drawings on the said account shall be by cheque bearing their joint signatures.

94 The conduct of the Fleadh shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised or amended by the CEC in the light of progress reported at the CEC meeting held three months subsequent to the date on which the Fleadh was allocated to the centre, provided that such revisions and amendments are in keeping with Rules for Fleadhanna Ceoil.

95 Admission Charges to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann competition centres, céilithe and concerts shall be fixed by the CEC in conjunction with the local organisers, when allocating the Fleadh to a venue, and reduced admission charge shall apply to U-18s.

96 **QUALIFIERS:** All competitions at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann are confined to the following:

- I Those who have secured first and second prizes, together with the five prize winners in the 'Comhrá Gaeilge' competitions at the Provincial Fleadhanna – the seven qualifying Fleadhanna as per Rule 3 – in the current year.
- II Competitors of a sufficiently high standard, normally resident in countries where no qualifying Fleadhanna are held and whose entries reach Cultúrlann na hÉireann not later than one calendar month prior to the Fleadh. Where more than two entries are received for any one competition from any one country, the Comhaltas Competitions Officer shall arrange an elimination competition prior to the competition proper.
- III Those who won First Prize in the O-18 (Age Group D) at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in the previous year, the winners of the O-35 Mixed and Ladies Set Competition. (47K,48K) and the Pipe Bands competition (30E) This does not include winners of Newly Composed Ballads, Amhrán Nua Cheaptha and Newly Composed Tunes.

97 **PROGRAMME:** The Fleadh Executive Committee shall produce a Souvenir Programme, which shall contain the following information:

- I Names of Competitors and Comhaltas Branches / Addresses, in Irish if possible.
- II The Centres for and the approximate starting times of each competition.
- III The names of the Fleadh Executive Committee.
- IV The names and addresses of the previous year's first prize winners.
- V The Perpetual Trophy available for each competition, with donor's name.
- VI Diagram, or sketch map of the town, showing the location of halls, etc.
- VII The time schedule for the various events, Competitions, Parade, Pageants, Concerts etc.
- VIII The names of the Officers of the Ardchomhairle.
- IX Articles / reports on local history, heritage, music, song, dance etc.

98 Finance:

In view of the partnership arrangement between CCÉ and the Local Authorities in relation to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, and as the process of the local authority does not allow for a financial surplus, the Buanchoiste will decide on an advance levy which can be amended by the Buanchoiste from time to time.

This levy will be paid in two instalments to be decided by the Buanchoiste and included in the Memorandum of Understanding and application form.

General

99 **Amendments – Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil:** Proposals for the amendment of the Rules for Fleadhanna Ceoil shall be submitted to Congress 2028 and thereafter every three years.

100 **Clár na gComórtas:** The CEC shall from time to time design a Clár na gComórtas for Regional, County, Provincial and All-Ireland Fleadhanna. This Clár, which does not include anything that is not in Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil is obtainable from CCÉ, 32 Cearnóg Belgrave, Baile na Manach, Co. Átha Cliath.