

### **What is a feis?**

Feis (pronounced fesh ) in Gaelic means 'festival'. It is a an Irish dance competition that will at times include competitions for other forms of Irish arts, including music, art, and soda bread baking. There are feisanna (plural form of feis) nearly every weekend, depending on how far you would like to travel.

### **How do I know where and when they are?**

You can find when and where feisianna are through the North American Feis Commission website, the "Feis-o-Matic" iPhone app, or through the various websites that allow you to register for specific feisianna. There are buttons on the Members-Feis Info page that will connect you to all of the registration sites.

### **My dancer is a beginner. Should he or she compete?**

This is a question to ask your dancer's teacher. Many kids are ready to try competing while others may need one more year. A great way to try it out is to attend the CNC Class Feis held by our teachers or the *Buffalo Feis* (usually the first weekend in June) or *Feis at the Falls* (in August).

### **How do I register?**

Determine which Feis Registration company (Feisweb, eFeis, Feisworx, Quickfeis) is handling the feis you wish to attend. Create an account and register your child. Your child's age bracket is determined by the age they are on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. For example, if your child would be turning 6 in February, they would be U6 the whole calendar year. A few days before they feis, you can go on to the feis' website and print out a stage schedule. Locate your dancer's competitions on the schedule and highlight them. This will save you time on the day of the feis.

### **What does my dancer need to wear?**

Dancers will need to wear their school costumes (jumpers or black skirt/white blouse is fine), dance shoes, and for girls – bubble socks. Girls should also have their hair off their face with the school headband. They may have a wig or curled hair, but it is not necessary. You will see many different types of dresses. This is because once dancers reach a certain level of competition, they are able to wear "solo" costumes.

### **What else should I bring besides "dance supplies"?**

Each feis will have its own rules about food and drink allowances, so you will need to check each feis' syllabus to see you if can bring in your own. Some feisanna have seating available but it is most helpful to bring your own chairs and/or blankets. Depending on the structure of the feis, it can be a bit of a long day so having a book

or game for the kids is a great idea. The Member-Feis Info page has a checklist of what you should bring to every feis.

### **What do I do once I arrive?**

1. **Pick up your number:** Go to the registration table and get your dancer's number (sometimes you are able to print this ahead of time, but they do have them for you on card stock at the feis). The back of your dancer's Card will tell you the competition number and the name of the dance for each number.
2. **Pin on your number:** This card can either be pinned to your child at waist level or you can purchase a card holder from vendors at the feis. They must have this card in order to dance and receive awards, so keep it safeguarded.
3. **Find a space to set up Camp:** Check where some of the other CNC families are and join them! This is a great chance to get to know other dancers and their families. Feising involves a lot of waiting so this is your space to relax and stretch between competitions
4. **Check the stage schedule:** If you haven't already highlighted your dancers competitions on your stage schedule, do this now. You will want to watch the stages and have your dancer up to the stage monitor to check in one competition before theirs.

### **How do I know if my dancer won?**

There will be one location where results are posted. Usually anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour after you dancer danced, results will be posted there. Locate the competition number, and search for your dancer's number. If you see it posted, time to celebrate! Close by will be the awards table. Show your dancer's number card and they will hand you the awards.

### **Please keep in mind:**

- \*Video is strictly prohibited, although, this rule isn't adhered to for young beginners...
- \*Contact with a judge is not allowed at any time.
- \*Please be a great representative of CNC by keeping all comments positive!
- \*Most feisianna have vendors that sell necessities like ghillies, hard shoes, and socks as well as fun items like t-shirts, dress bags, stickers and so much more.
- \*Have fun!

**Please do not hesitate to ask older dancers and parents for help! We have all been in your position and would be happy to answer any questions you may have!**