

## Young Academy Blackout Feis October 24, 2020

Our feis committee has been working very hard to put together an event that will allow dancers to compete in a safe environment. Although the experience will not look or feel the same, the main objective is to allow dancers the chance to compete and enjoy Irish dancing, and after the past months, we are all looking forward to that! Due to the decisions we have had to make, not all dancers will be able to attend, please know that we are doing this because we must think of everyone's safety and wellbeing first. Our committee wants to be upfront so you are aware and prepared for how the day will run. Please read through everything carefully and if you have any questions do not hesitate to email me at [youngirishdance@hotmail.com](mailto:youngirishdance@hotmail.com). The regulations we will be following are mandatory for all feis attendees, if you feel that you can not abide by these regulations, we very kindly ask that you forgo attending this year, as everything we are doing is to ensure everyone's health and safety to our utmost ability.

### **Venue:**

- It is mandatory in Quebec that masks are worn indoors. For our feis **ALL** attendees and dancers of all ages **must** wear masks. If you have a medical reason why you cannot wear a mask, we very kindly ask that you forgo attending this year.
- The gym will be restricted to only those competing at their specified time slots and their parent.
- Attendees must use hand sanitizer when entering the building, when entering the gym, and when entering the bathrooms and when dancers go side stage.
- Camping is strictly forbidden in any area of the school.
- Access to the gym will only be by the inside door and you must exit by the designated door. There will be no two way traffic in and out of the gym.
- You must only arrive 15 min prior to your competition time. Once your dancer has finished competing you must leave the gymnasium by the designated door. If you arrive early please wait outside the school.
- Grade results will be posted online as soon as they are tabulated, dancers who place will be able to collect their medals from the outside desk. No results will be posted on a wall. Champ results will be outside, where social distancing and masks will be required.
- There will be no food on site, since everyone has a designated time slot you should be able to easily eat before or after dancing. Please do not bring any food into the gym, only a water bottle will be permitted. You are welcome to keep food in your car and eat there. Dancers with medical issues who need to have snacks on hand can bring those with them.
- Bathrooms will be monitored and will only allow a certain number of people in at a time.

### **Competitions**

Due to scheduling because of the limited number of people, social distancing and time for sanitizing, we have had to make serious changes to our syllabus. These changes are only in effect because of covid and the protocols we have to follow.

- No team dances will be permitted
- Dancers in Beginner will only dance the Reel, Light Jig and Slip Jig
- Dancers in Advanced Beginner will dance Reel, Light Jig, Slip Jig , Heavy Jig and Hornpipe. ( we are allowing 5 dances for this category because some dancers do not have all hardshoe dances so we wanted them to have the Light Jig as well )
- Novice and Prizewinner will only dance Reel, Slip Jig , Heavy Jig and Hornpipe
- Prelim and Open championship will only dance the rounds specific to their competition. There will be no Prelim Set and unfortunately no Second Chance Prelim
- All extra dances and dance offs will be cancelled
- If you have paid for a dance that has been cancelled you will be reimbursed
- All competitions and age levels are capped to ensure everyone's safety and social distancing
- All stages ( even championship will be divided in two) dancers will dance two at a time, one on either side of the division, to ensure dancers have no physical contact and are not in direct contact of each other breathing.

## **Parents**

- Only one adult will be allowed in with every dancer. We must keep our numbers low to ensure everyone's safety and social distancing. If you have more than one child please make arrangements so the other child has someone to stay with. This rule will be strictly enforced. If your situation doesn't allow for this, or if you do not want to follow this rule, we very kindly ask that you forgo attending this year. Safety is our top priority
- Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times
- Designated chairs will be placed in front of the stages for parents to watch. Chairs must remain where they are placed, and we ask that you do sit in them. All chairs will be sanitized before the next group of parents and dancers enter the gym.
- Social distancing must be applied at all times.
- Above all, be understanding and have patience. This is new for us, and everyone will be both nervous and excited for the event. Safety will always be our first priority before time schedules, and other feis issues.
- If you have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive, have traveled or are showing any symptoms, please refrain from attending the competition

## **Dancers**

- This feis is a blackout feis, dresses and wigs are not permitted, therefore dancers are asked to arrive in costume ready to dance. They should only have a small bag that contains their shoes, and any necessities to dance. There will be no changing areas.
- All dancers must wear masks as soon as they enter the building, these masks must stay on at all times, even during warm up. Dancers will be permitted to take the mask off to dance, and must put it back on once their dance is completed. Masks must be worn when changing shoes, and in between dances.
- Dancers are asked to follow social distancing when side stage, there will be clearly marked spots on the floor for them to stand on.
- Your number will be available before the competition. Please make sure that you make yourself a number card on a cue card with the number written in thick black marker. This is so we do not have to have people handing out numbers on the day of the feis, decreasing objects being passed around from hand to hand.
- If you have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive, have traveled or are showing any symptoms, please refrain from attending the competition

## **Sanitization**

- Every person attending and volunteering must sanitize their hands when moving about the venue. There will be places throughout the venue for you to clean your hands.
- All touchable surfaces will be cleaned before and after each competition.
- Volunteers will be asked to clean their stations and hands in between every competition.
- The venue will make sure that bathrooms are cleaned throughout the day.
- All our volunteers will be equipped with face shields and face masks.
- Awards presentations: all trophies will be disinfected and boxed prior to the competition. Our volunteers will sanitize their hands prior to handing out trophies to each group.
- Medals will be sanitized and placed in bins prior to the competition. Our volunteers will sanitize their hands prior to retrieving any medals for dancers.

## **Dance Teachers**

I know that this is hard for all of us, but please understand that we cannot have a lot of extra people in the gym, we ask that you keep your team down to one dance teacher. Dance teachers will be given a special pass to allow you in the gym, there will be one for each school. You may pass it on to another dance teacher from your school throughout the day.

**A detailed time schedule will be released after registrations close. All dancers will have a specific time to dance. No competitions will run sooner than the times posted. Dancers will dance two at a time on a stage that is divided so each dancer has their own side of the stage. No dancers will come in contact with each other during dancing. There will only be 3-4 adjudicators and 1 musician**

Irish Dancing competitions are always a time for people to get together, friends to see each other and for dancers to cheer on their teammates. I know that this feis will not be the social event we are used to, but I also know how resilient we are in the Irish Dance community. Throughout the pandemic your dance teachers worked hard to make sure our dance form could continue and that you would have a chance to dance again. Lets see this as a new challenge and even though we are not all there in person to cheer each other on for every competition, we are there in spirit and in our hearts, knowing that we have put safety first and have allowed for our dancers to have the chance to grace the stages again!

I thank you for your cooperation in advance. I am looking forward to seeing you all there.  
Until then take care and stay safe