



## **IMPORTANT BRIEFING NOTE** **Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne 2019**

As you are aware, changes as to how Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne is run will be implemented from 2019 onwards to ensure that the Championships can still fit into 8 days. With ever increasing numbers in attendance the current system is no longer feasible.

In advance of the syllabus that will be getting published shortly, we would ask everyone to carefully read these changes that were agreed at the CLRG meeting held on Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

As way of background information, the following were the requirements for any new system identified by CLRG at its meeting on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2018:-

- a. That the system of a double recall be adopted as first suggested in 2016.
- b. The dances for Oireachtas na Cruinne would be the same as for all Qualifying Events which preceded it. i.e., Competitors would dance the same dances at their Primary, Secondary and All-Ireland Championships.
- c. That all age groups except the youngest age group (u11) would operate under this new system. (The Oireachtas Committee were asked to review and see if the U12 age group could also be an exception to the new system).
- d. That any adjudicators who judged the heats (rounds 1 & 2) would not be involved in the final rounds (rounds 3, 4 & 5).
- e. That no results per se would be announced following rounds 1 & 2, rather a list of those who qualified for the second day would be published.
- f. The Oireachtas Committee was asked to review further the impact on smaller competitions of the new system.
- g. That medal winners from the previous year will be split evenly between the heats to avoid the creation of a perceived 'easy split'.
- h. A system will be devised to allow complete random allocation to either side of the split to ensure that competitors will not always dance against the same people each year in rounds 1 & 2

In the decision making process, the following areas were foremost in delegates' considerations

- Fairness to all children competing
- Avoid burdening children and teachers with additional work and stress
- Maximising dance time on the main stage
- Recognise all our dancers, not just those competing for podium places.
- Being mindful of any financial impact

It was agreed that **all** Dancers who competed at Quarter final stage will receive a participation award. Dancers who go forward to the second day (semi-final stage) will receive a medal in recognition of their achievement (on current entries, this could be up to 100 competitors). From those dancers, a recall (based on the original combined number of competitors from both heats) will be calculated. All dancers who dance their set dance will receive either a world medal or a medal in recognition of making it through to round 5.

It was acknowledged that this system will add extra expense to parents, teachers and CLRG, having to now prepare for two day solo competitions rather than one day. However, whilst this is unavoidable it is mitigated by the fact that by using this system, children will have several layers of achievable goals.

- Reaching Quarter final Level
- Progressing to Day 2 – Reaching Semi-final Level
- Recalling for set – Reaching Final Level
- Medalling

**The following was agreed at the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

- a. All decisions have been accepted to satisfy a double recall system in solo competitions whilst keeping in mind the five most important considerations as outlined above. Ceili competitions will continue to be judged over two rounds regardless of the number of teams entered.
- b. The solo dance requirement for Oireachtas Rince na hEireann are the same as Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne.
- c. Under 11 and Under 12 age groups will be judged over three rounds. All other solo competitions will be judged over 5 rounds.
- d. A set panel of adjudicators consisting of 13 mandated and 25 self-nominating will be selected. It should be noted that at the beginning of the week, adjudicators would be drawn into either officiating in the qualifying rounds or the final three rounds. It is impossible to move them mid-week from one section to the other. A separate Email regarding Adjudicator selection will be issued in due course.  
The overwhelming replies from the questionnaire sent out after the Glasgow Worlds is that a rotating panel set up is preferred. Therefore, rotating panels of 5 will officiate in the qualifying rounds and rotating panels of 7 will officiate in rounds 3, 4 & 5. This means that competitors will be assessed by a total of 31 judges for all Solo competitions over 12 years of age and by 21 in the Under 11 and Under 12 categories. The high and low will be deducted at each stage. Panels will be segregated on a daily basis.
- e. Results from Rounds 1 and 2 will have no impact on the final result except to be used to calculate the recall for Rounds 3 and 4. No results whatsoever will be published until the conclusion of the competition and overall results announced. Full results will be provided including positions after rounds two, four and five.
- f. It was agreed that all solo age groups regardless of size (except the U11 and U12 age groups) will dance both days. This was seen to be the most equitable system for all dancers regardless of the number in competition. In competitions of less than 30, 75% recall for day 2 and 50% for all other competitions.

The following are the parameters that will be used for the calculations when determining recalls:

Under 30 Competitors	75% recall for Day 2	All Dance Set Dance
31-60 Competitors	50% recall for Day 2	All Dance Set Dance
61 plus Competitors	50% recall for Day 2	2/3rds Dance Set Dance

The ratio for determining medal winners will not change and will be based on the total that dance in Round 1 of a competition.

CLRG used information from Glasgow actual entries to compare how the new ratio for recalls compare to the old system. Using the number of entries received for Glasgow, the following scenarios can be compared:

Competition	Glasgow Actuals	Day 2 Recall	New Method Set Dance Recall	Old Method Set Dance Recalls	Medals Awarded
1 - Senior Men over 21	20	15	15	20	6
2 - Men 20 - 21	17	13	13	17	6
3 - Men 19 - 20	17	13	13	17	6
4 - Men 18 - 19	23	18	18	12	7
5 - Men 17 - 18	41	21	21	21	10
6 - Boys 16 - 17	41	21	21	21	10
7 - Boys 15 - 16	55	28	28	28	11
8 - Boys 14 - 15	58	29	29	29	11
9 - Boys 13 - 14	41	21	21	21	10
10 - Boys 12 - 13	43	22	22	22	10
11 - Boys 11 - 12	48		24	24	10
12 - Boys 10 - 11	44		22	22	10
21 - Senior Ladies over 23	113	57	38	48	17
22 - Ladies 21 - 23	86	43	29	39	14
23 - Ladies 20 - 21	92	46	31	41	15
24 - Ladies 19 - 20	89	45	30	40	14
25 - Ladies 18 - 19	121	61	41	50	18
26 - Ladies 17 - 18	145	73	49	50	20
27 - Girls 16 - 17	167	84	56	50	22
28 - Girls 15 - 16	175	88	59	50	23
29 - Girls 14 - 15	187	94	63	50	24
30 - Girls 13 - 14	200	100	67	50	25
31 - Girls 12 - 13	170	85	57	50	22
32 - Girls 11 - 12	160		50	50	21
33 - Girls 10 - 11	152		50	50	21

It should be noted that the new system has no cap at 50 for the final round, allowing for more set dances to be performed in the competitions where numbers are largest. This is believed to be more equitable in that a consistent ratio is applied to all competitions.

- g. Medalists from the year before will be required to participate in Rounds 1 and 2. To ensure an even split, Medal winners from 2018 will be split as follows:
  - Those placed in 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> etc., position will be placed in the odd side of split
  - Those placed in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> etc., position will be placed in the even side of split

- h. All other competitors will be required to submit their date of birth and these will be placed initially in date of birth order (then name order for dancers with same birth dates). This order will then be numbered 1 upwards. All odd numbered competitors will go into the odd side of the split and all even numbered competitors into the even side of the split.

Thereafter, all the odd numbered competitors from the medalist sort and the regular sort will be amalgamated and dancers within that split assigned a random number. At the same time the same random selection will occur on the even side. The odd side of the split will be numbered 101,103,105 etc., and the even side numbered 102,104,106 etc. This determines the dance order on each side and means that there can be no manipulation as to what side of a split competitors will dance as the initial order depends totally on date of birth and who has qualified each year.

Dancers will keep the same number for the duration of the Championships as once the recall is made after rounds 1 and 2, the recall dancers will merge for rounds 3 and 4. In most cases, dancers should actually dance with different people to whom they danced in rounds 1 and 2.

Where due to exceptional circumstances and two dancers from the same school/associated school would be scheduled to perform together in rounds 3 and 4 then side stage stewards will make changes as required.

To ensure that the same dancers are not required to be first on in either side, the start number for both sides will be:

Round 1	20% thro' original list
Round 2	60% thro' original list
Round 3	Lowest number in recall
Round 4	40% thro' original list
Round 5	80% thro' original list

These start numbers will be published in the programme.

### **Order of Judging & Maximising Dance time on Stage**

At quarter final stage while the odd side of the split dance their hard shoe 3 at a time in front of Panel A, the Even split will dance their hard shoe three at a time in front of Panel B. The results of these rounds will be computed dropping the high and low.

The splits will then change over and the Even split will dance their soft shoe two at a time in front of Panel A while the Odd split will dance their soft shoe two at a time in front of Panel B. The results of these rounds will be computed dropping the high and low.

Those progressing to rounds 3 & 4 will be calculated on the marks received overall from the first two rounds. (Please refer to ratios outlined above).

Where an age group dances in the morning for Rounds 1 and 2 they will be scheduled to dance the next day also in the morning. Similarly for those competitions starting in the afternoon. This gives the same preparation time to all dancers.

In rounds 3 and 4, all dancers will perform their hard shoe 3 at a time and light shoe 2 at a time.

**Awards**

All dancers participating will receive a certificate of participation and souvenir patch.

Dancers progressing to Rounds 3 and 4 will be regarded as semi-finalists and will receive newly designed silver coloured medals. These will be presented when they line up for the number check in the light shoe round.

At the final results, medalists will receive the exact same medals as received at all previous World Championships. Those dancers that made the recall but not placed in a medal winning place will receive a newly designed gold medal and presented as normal.

It should be noted that this system will result in some dancers receiving two medals if they make it all the way through to the final round.

**Accommodation**

A separate Email will be distributed shortly with details as how rooms can be booked. There will be two opening dates, one for teachers and one for everyone else. A two day (first and last day) non-refundable deposit will be taken at time of booking. A facility fee will be applied and strictly enforced on anyone not staying in the block hotels.

A day only timetable is attached to facilitate travel and accommodation plans.

**Communication**

The CLRG website will be used extensively for updates regarding both Oireachtas Rince na hEireann and Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne. Please keep yourself up to date by visiting [www.clrg.ie](http://www.clrg.ie) on a regular basis.

**In conclusion**

Enormous thought and work has went in to developing workable, financially viable and equitable solutions to the requirements for the new World format.

We hope that the above outline assists you in understanding how the new world system will operate so that you can prepare your dancers for this exciting new chapter in Irish Dancing at World level.

Yours respectfully

**James McCutcheon**

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