

REGIONAL GUIDE TO GRADE ADVANCEMENT FOR NAFC APPROVED FEISEANNA

	Beginner	Beginner 2	Novice	Prizewinner	Preliminary Championships	Open Championships
Western US	Open to those who have never won 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Beg. I in the dance entered.	Open to those who have never won 1st or 2nd in Beg. II in the dance entered. An advanced beginner who wins 1st, 2nd or 3rd place will advance to the Novice category in that particular dance.	Open to those who have never won 1st in Novice in the dance entered. A novice who wins a 1st place will advance to the Open (Prizewinner) category in that particular dance.	A competitor who does not qualify as a beginner, advanced beginner or as a novice.	As determined by teacher.	A dancer who wins two first place awards in one calendar year will move on to Open Championship the following year, or as soon as the second win is achieved, in any age category, in the following years. Only in the case of back-to-back Feiseanna (successive days), in which case the first win in the first Feis will not change the dancer's status for the second Feis.
New England	Competitors who have not taken Irish dance lessons with a registered teacher prior to Sept. 1, of the previous year.	A dancer who has completed 1 yr in beginner & who has not won 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, in this category	Competitors who have placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, in an adv. Beginner category & have never placed 1st in Novice.	Competitors who have placed 1st in Novice.	Preliminary championships are open to those who, at any NAFC sanctioned Feis: a.) Have placed 1st in soft shoe and hard shoe as a prizewinner, or b.) Have never placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in Open Championships	A dancer who wins two First Place awards in one calendar year will move on to Open Championship the following year, or as soon as the second win is achieved, in any age category, in the following years. Only in the case of back-to-back Feiseanna (successive days), in which case the first win in the first Feis will not change the dancer's status for the second Feis.
Mid-Atlantic	A beginner is a competitor who has not taken Irish dancing lessons from a registered teacher prior to September 1st of previous year.	An Advanced Beginner is a dancer who has taken lessons from a registered teacher for more than 1 year .	An Advanced Beginner who wins a 1st , 2nd or 3rd place will advance to the Novice category in that particular dance the next year.	A prizewinner is a dancer who has previously won a 1st in Novice in a particular dance.	Preliminary Championship are open to those who have placed 1st in a light & heavy dance in the prizewinner grade and who have never won a 1st in Open Championship.	A dancer who wins three first place awards in one calendar year will move on to open championship the following year or as soon as the third win is achieved in any age category in the following years
Southern	A beginner is a competitor who has not taken a full year of Irish Dance lessons, thereby giving beginners a full year with such status. A Beginner must move into the Advanced Beginner category the next year.	An advanced beginner who wins 1st, 2nd or 3rd place will advance to the Novice category in that	A novice who wins a 1st place in a dance will advance to the Open (Prizewinner) category in that particular	A competitor who does not qualify as a Beginner, Advanced Beginner or Novice.	Have placed 1st in both a Prizewinner light and heavy shoe competition, and has never won 1st, 2nd or 3rd in Open Championship.	Dancers must qualify for Open Championship via the method now in place for Preliminary Championship, i.e. two 1st place wins. Dancers must compete in the Preliminary Championship competition in order to qualify for Open Championship. A dancer who wins two First Place Preliminary Championship awards in one calendar year will move on to Open Championship the following year (as of Jan 1); if the second first-place win does not occur within the the same Feis year as the first win, as soon as the second win is achieved, in any age category, the dancer must move up to Open Championship level immediately.

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	Beginner	Beginner 2	Novice	Prizewinner	Preliminary Championships	Open Championships
Mid-America	A Beginner 1 must move to Beginner 2 no later than January 1st of the dancers second year of instruction, or may move to Beginner 2 earlier with teacher's permission and provided that the Feis has not closed to changes. Note: a Beginner 1 dancer who starts in September, may continue as a Beginner 1 until December of the following year (16 months) before moving into Beginner 2.	A dancer who has been dancing for more than one year and who has not won a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, in Beginner 2. A dancer who has won a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in a Beginner 2 dance must move into Novice in that dance no later than January 1st of the next calendar year or with teacher's permission as soon as the next Feis.	A dancer moves into Novice as a result of placing 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in that dance as indicated above in Beginner next calendar year or with teacher's permission as soon as the next Feis	A dancer moves into Prizewinner as a result of placing 1st place as indicated in Novice.	A dancer who wins 1st place in each of the Open dances (reel, slip-jig, treble jig, and hornpipe) can move into Preliminary Championships with teacher's permission.	A dancer who wins two First Place awards in one calendar year will move on to Open Championship the following year, or as soon as the second win is achieved, in any age category, in the following years. Only in the case of back-to-back Feiseanna (successive days), in which case the first win in the first Feis will not change the dancer's status for the second Feis.
Western Canada	A dancer who has not qualified for Advanced Beginner in that particular dance. See definition of qualifying place in Prizewinner	A dancer who has received a qualifying place in that particular dance in the Beginner level, but has not yet qualified to move on to Novice in that dance. See definition of qualifying place in Prizewinner	A dancer who has received a qualifying place in that particular dance in the Advanced Beginner level, but has not yet qualified to move on to Prizewinner for that particular dance. See definition of qualifying place in Prizewinner	A dancer who has received a qualifying place in that particular dance in the Novice level, but has not yet qualified to advance to Preliminary Championships. Dancers shall advance in each solo dance as follows: Top 5 move up with 30 or more dancers Top 4 move up with 20 – 29 dancers Top 3 move up with 10 – 19 dancers Only first place moves with 5 – 9 dancers No placing will advance with 1 – 4 dancers	Open to dancers who have won two first place trophies in the Novice/Prizewinner Trophy competition, and who have not previously won two first places in Preliminary Championships.	Open to dancers who have previously won two first place Preliminary Championships.
Eastern Canada	A beginner is a competitor who has not taken a full year of Irish dancing lessons , thereby giving beginners a full year with such status.	An Advanced Beginner who wins 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place will advance to the Novice category in that particular dance	A novice who wins a 1st place will advance to the Open (Prizewinner) category in that particular dance.	A competitor who does not qualify as a Beginner, Advanced Beginner or as a Novice.	In addition to NAFC rule 1.5, a Preliminary Championship dancer is one who has achieved 1st place in four dances (Reel, Slip Jig, Treble Jig and Hornpipe) in the Prizewinner Grade.	A dancer who wins two First Place awards in one calendar year will move on to Open Championship the following year, or as soon as the second win is achieved, in any age category, in the following years. Only in the case of back-to-back Feiseanna (successive days), in which case the first win in the first Feis will not change the dancer's status for the second Feis.