



FERMANAGH FEIS

Policies & Rules 2024

**Comhaltas Uladh
Conradh na Gaeilge**

Promoting our Cultural Heritage

Feis Fermanagh General Rules and Conditions

1. The Feis Committee reserves the right to refuse entry of any intending competitor.
2. Age limits are defined as the age which the child has reached as of 1st January 2024 and must be adhered to.
3. In all cases of merit the Adjudicator's decision is final. In other matters of dispute the Committee's decision shall be final.
4. Where a time limit is specified in a competition, competitors will be penalised if they exceed the limit.
5. Where trophies are perpetual, they may be retained by the holders until 1st January 2025 when they must be returned in good, clean condition. Winners of trophies must sign a form undertaking to adhere to the conditions therein. Winners of trophies also receive a Feis medal.
6. Persons wishing to make an objection should do so in writing to the Feis Secretary not later than 6.00pm on the weekday following that on which the competition concerned was held. Each objection must be accompanied by a fee of £10.00 which will be returned should the objection be upheld. No verbal objections or complaints will be accepted.
7. Only persons who have paid their entrance fee and whose names appear in the Programme will be allowed to participate in Feis competitions, except where omission is the fault of the printer or the Committee.
8. Entry Fees will not be refunded except where a class is withdrawn by the Section Secretary.
9. Winners of Bursaries are chosen by the Adjudicators only.
10. No photography or recording by any means is permitted.
11. General enquires should be made to the secretary on email feissecretary@gmail.com

Child Protection Policy

Designated Officers: Helen Cleary
Venues/Dates: As detailed in the Syllabus

1. To Whom Does this Policy Apply

This policy relates to children under the age of 18 years. In recognition of the needs of those children from minority ethnic groups or those with Special Educational Needs, the organisation actively seeks to meet needs notified to the organisation at the time of entry to the competitions.

2. The Competition Environment

The organisation seeks to create a supportive and safe environment. Parents/Guardians should be aware that competitions are held on public premises and the organisation has no control over who enters these premises. Parents, guardians, carers and teachers need to ensure that children are accompanied and adequately supervised by a responsible adult.

3. Personnel

With the exception of the adjudicators, accompanists and musicians, all personnel are volunteers and are aware of and support this Child Protection Policy. All personnel provide contact details which held by the Secretary. In the event of a problem, Feis

personnel will be able to direct you to someone who will be able to help you. Every problem will be dealt with, documented and kept on record for three years.

4. Preparation for Attendance at Competitions

Where parent/guardian/carers are not accompanying their child/children to competitions, this Child Protection Policy requires them to be satisfied that their child/children will be accompanied and adequately supervised by responsible adult/s acting on their behalf.

Where a child is entered for competition by anyone other than the parent/guardian/carer, it is the duty of that person/organisation to ensure that the parent/guardian/carer is made aware of and has access to a copy of this Child protection Policy. In addition Parents/Guardians/carers should make themselves aware of our Health and Safety Policy which is published in the Syllabus and Programme.

5. Practice and Changing Areas

Access to Changing Areas is restricted. The responsible adult should be vigilant for the safety and welfare of children in their care at all times.

6. Photographs, Videotapes and Press Photography

The organisation is bound by copyright law and cannot allow flash photography or recordings, all of which are strictly forbidden during performance and adjudication.

Photographs may be taken by the local press, provided they have obtained permission from those with parental responsibility.

7. Performances

Adjudicators or members of the Committee will stop a performance should it be felt that the content is offensive or inappropriate for the age of the performers or members of the audience.

9. The Legislation and Guidance that Supports this Policy

Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2007 (as amended 2012); the Protection of Children Act 1999; the Court Services Act 2000; the Care Standard Act 2000; Statutory Instrument 417 (NI); Statutory Instrument 439 (NI) The Sexual Offences NI Order 2008.

10. Policy Review

The organisers will review their policy annually, improving and enhancing it as necessary. In doing this they will look to the Association of Irish Festival Events for support and guidance, who in turn will look to other agencies, most notably the NSPCC and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland for policy guidelines.

Summary

This organisation seeks to work in partnership with parents, guardians, carers and/or teachers to ensure the safety of the children involved in competitions, whether as participants or observers. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and are not the responsibility of the organisation's personnel.

Adopted by the Committee: November 2006

Reviewed and updated: December 2023