

Entering Fleadh Athá Cliath 2025

Competition Dates: Individuals/Duets/Trios/Dancing – 10th May

Groups/Bands – 11th May

Venue : Edmund Rice College, Castleknock, Dublin15 **D15 R7WX**

*You must be a **PAID** up member to enter through your branch.*

Non members and members resident in Dublin but affiliated to a Branch outside Dublin enter via www.dublinfleadh.com

Resident in another county? - Then you must enter the fleadh in your own county for any solo, duet or trio competitions even if you are a member of a Dublin Branch.

Cost of Entry U18- €2 (members) per competitor per competition entered.

O18- €4 (members) per competitor per competition entered.

Closing Date for Dublin Entries 28th March 2025

A Guide to the Fleadh Competitions/Entries – Q & A

(always consult with the official rules document but here's the usual questions we get. Links to the official rules which incorporate storytelling, Composition & Comhrá information are at the bottom of this information sheet)

What are the Fleadh Competitions?

These are Traditional Music/Irish/Dancing competitions held at county level with winners progressing to the Provincial Competitions. There are competitions all over the world with the provincial winners progressing to the All-Ireland Fleadh.

How many winners progress?

3 medals are awarded at county level but only 1st & 2nd progress to provincial competitions providing their standard is good enough, however a 3rd person can be recommended to progress if the adjudicator deems them to have reached a sufficiently high standard.

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In the county & provisional Comhrá competition 5 gold medals are awarded and all 5 progress.

What age groups are there?

In official fleadh competitions except group dancing, comhrá, composition & singing with harp self-accompaniment the age groups are u12, 12-15, 15-18, O18.

under 12 (A) A person whose 12th or earlier birthday occurs on any date in the year of the Fleadh Cheoil competition.

12-15 (B) A person whose 13th,14th or 15th birthday occurs on any date in the year of the Fleadh Cheoil competition.

15-18 (C) A person whose 16th, 17th or 18th birthday occurs on any date in the year of the Fleadh Cheoil competition.

Over 18 (D) A person whose 18th or later birthday occurs on any date in the year of the Fleadh Cheoil competition.

What Competitions can I enter?

There are solo, duet, trio and grupa/band competitions.

What Solo Competitions are there?

*Solo Competitions are held in Accompaniment, Bodhran, Banjo, Button Accordion, Concertina, Comhra, Ceili Drums, *Feadóg, *Flute, *Fiddle, *Harp, Liling, Melodeon, Mouth Organ, Piano, Singing(Irish/English), singing (Irish/English) with self-accompaniment on the harp, Composition(song/tune). Storytelling (Irish/English) Comhrá, Sean Nós Dancing. *Uilleann Pipes, Whistling. Those with a * also have a slow air competition.*

What type of music can I play?

All music/singing/storytelling etc must be traditional Irish in nature, and you don't use notes. Typically, the most common tunes played are jigs, reels, polkas but there are lots of other traditional tune types you can play.(see rules)

How many tunes do I play?

***Instruments/liling/whistling** - u12 & u15 – 2 different tunes types, u18 - 3 different tune types, O18 (see rules)*

***Singing** - one slow & one lively. u12 - 2 out of 2 presented, u15 & u18 - 2 out of 4 presented (2 slow & 2 lively). O18 (see rules)*

***Slow airs** - competitor plays. u12 - 1 out of 2 presented. U15 – 2 out of 4 presented. U18 – 2 out of 6 presented. O18 – 2 out of 8 presented.*

What is miscellaneous competition?

This is a melody competition for instruments not catered for in solo competitions. EG. viola, trumpet.

How do Duets/Trios work?

Duets – 2 musicians play together or Trios – 3 musicians play together. 1 musician must be from the age group you enter, e.g. Two u12s can play with an u15 in the 12-15 competition.

All the musicians must play the same melody, ornamentation, and variations at the same time. It sounds as if only one instrument is playing.

An individual can't change their instrument or tuning throughout the competition (except for mouth organ). The instrument you start on at county level continues to the All-Ireland.

Your Duet/Trio partners can be from your own branch or another branch within your county or can be a non-member from your county.

Does everyone have to play different instruments in a duet/trio?

No. Different instruments or the same can be played up as far as the 15-18 competition. In the Over 18 competition at least 1 of the instruments must be different.

Can I play in a different age group competition other than my own?

In Duets/Trios you can play in an older age group providing one competitor is of that age group. If you also enter in your own age group you must play a different instrument in each competition.

In groups/bands you can play in an older age group but again if playing in two different age groups you must play a different instrument in each.

How do I play in the Grupa/Band Competitions?

The branch enters the grupas/bands in competitions. The grupa/band teachers choose their musicians.

There is a maximum of 10 allowed in a ceili Band. Everyone plays the melody in unison with piano & drums accompanying.

There is a maximum of 20 in a grupa. The music is played in an arrangement without drums or piano.

You can play in a grupa/band in another county.

Explain the Accompaniment competition?

*This is for instruments which accompany another. e.g guitar, piano, harp. They don't play the melody but the accompaniment for another person(s) of your choice who will play with you. The accompanist is the **only** person being marked but still ensure your chosen player is proficient on their instrument.*

I'm not very proficient on my instrument, can I still enter?

There is generally a good standard at the county fleadhanna, but if you don't mind that others are better than you & you want to gain experience then there is nothing to stop you entering.

*If you are **10 or under this year (born 2015 or after)** then there is a **DUBLIN** only competition in many of the instruments/singing/dancing. The winners **DO NOT** progress on to Leinster. This competition is great for gaining experience playing in front of others, see www.dublinfleadh.com for rules of the u8 & u10 **DUBLIN ONLY** competitions and you only play 1 tune.*

Can I enter both the u10s & u12s competitions?

Not on the same instrument. You can enter the u10s solos on one instrument & u12 solos on another. (but if you want to try & progress to Leinster then you must enter u12s in that instrument)

I'm not ready to play my instrument at the fleadh, is there anything else I can do?

Yes you can enter the Comhrá, Storytelling, Singing & Seannós dancing.

Does my Irish have to be good to enter the Comhrá competition?

Irish is at an appropriate level for each competitor/age group. It is great preparation for the oral Irish in exams, competitions start at u7. As well as some conversation, there are some questions (again appropriate to age -e.g. who is the president of the GAA?.) & you recite a poem/story.

Do I make up my own story for the storytelling competition?

You can use an original story or a story already written. There are storytelling competitions in English & as Gaeilge. Stories must be between 4-8 minutes long. No costumes or props allowed.

Filling in the entry form (no late entries are accepted)

Before filling in the form have the following to hand

- 1) Your name, preferably in Irish
- 2) Date of Birth (**For 2025 Fleadh Only**)
 - u8 (born 2017 or after),
 - u10 (born 2015 or after),
 - u12 (born 2013 or after),
 - 12-15 (born 2012, 2011, 2010)
 - 15-18 (born 2009, 2008, 2007)
- 3) A list of competitions you want to enter.
- 4) Duets/Trios – the names of your partner and the instruments everyone will play.
- 5) If your partner is a member of another Branch then their branch name & their registration number.
- 6) The instrument you will play if you are entering the miscellaneous or accompaniment competitions

A copy of newly composed tunes/songs must be submitted by the closing date.

Link below will bring you to Official Rules & Shortened version of rules with amendments, comhrá & dancing information.

[2024 Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil / Clár an gComórtas - Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann](#)

