

# **FUSTA COMPETITION AND CHAMPIONSHIP ORGANIZERS'** **MANUAL v.7**

## **PURPOSE OF THE MANUAL**

The intent of the Federation of United States Teachers and Adjudicators (FUSTA) Competition and Championship Organizers' Manual is to provide Competition Organizers a central resource that includes information on how to plan for and run a competition or championship, including a description of the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing (SOBHD) rules that govern the running of competitions and championships.

Please note this manual is for BOTH Competition Organizers as well as Championship Organizers. Within this document, "competition" refers to either a competition or championship unless otherwise specifically stated.

## **ANNUAL COMPETITION ORGANIZERS' REGISTRATION PROGRAM**

All Highland Dance competitions in the United States are required to annually register with FUSTA. The registration period is for January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. This annual registration program insures that all Competition Organizers have access to the latest, most accurate information needed to run a successful dance competition and insures there is a baseline for competitive events in the United States while still leaving ample room for individuality. The goal is to have well-run dance competitions that favorably advertise themselves, develop a loyal following, and promote Highland Dance in the United States.

## **WHY ARE HIGHLAND DANCE COMPETITIONS REQUIRED TO ANNUALLY REGISTER WITH FUSTA?**

1. The SOBHD Constitution states that "all Competition Organizers world-wide conducting competitions under SOBHD rules, and with Pre Premier classes, **MUST** be registered with the SOBHD, an SOBHD Subsidiary Body, or an authorized registration agent". FUSTA is the SOBHD's authorized registration agent in the United States.
2. The Competition Organizers' Registration program insures conformity of rules among all competition organizers who hold "Pre-Premier" sections at their competitions. It also insures fair play among dancers and among competitions on a world-wide basis.
3. All SOBHD-registered dancers may only dance at SOBHD-registered competitions. (In Scotland there are some exceptions for Premier dancers, but those exceptions do not apply to North America.)
4. At competitions where Pre-Premier dancers are competing, SOBHD-certified judges may adjudicate the event only if the competition is registered.

## **ATTENDANCE AT COMPETITION ORGANIZERS' MEETINGS**

A meeting for Competition Organizers should be held annually and all Organizers must attend these meetings. (SOBHD Constitution, January 2016, page 23). Starting in 2016, a Competition

Organizers' meeting will be held during the USIR weekend. Other Competition Organizers' meetings can be scheduled at other locations at other times of the year with the permission of the FUSTA Vice President.

## **FUSTA CODE OF ETHICS**

FUSTA has a Code of Ethics that governs all behaviors by all "Participants" in the Highland Dance Community. FUSTA has adopted the same Code of Ethics as the SOBHD.

In the Code of Ethics, a "Participant" includes Judges, Teachers, Competition Organizers, Parents, Dancers, and Volunteers at Dance Competitions – in fact, all parties connected with dancers. Therefore, everyone who teaches and judges dancers, everyone who has children who dance, everyone who organizes and volunteers at competitions, and everyone who dances and competes are honor-bound to support and follow the rules and behaviors in the Code of Ethics! **PLEASE** insure you and all of your volunteers read and follow the Code of Ethics.

## **THE MANUAL**

We hope the information contained in this manual provides Competition Organizers with all the information needed to run a successful, error-free competition. For any further questions, guidance or assistance, please contact the FUSTA Vice President. Contact information for the Vice President may be found on the FUSTA website: <http://fusta.us/executives.aspx>

This manual is divided into three sections.

The first section of the manual includes technical information an Organizer needs to know to run a competition in compliance with SOBHD rules. Technical information includes descriptions of the various types of sanctioned competitions and the rules covering every aspect of running an SOBHD-sanctioned competition. All cited rules come directly from the most recent edition of the **Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing Constitution and Rules**.

The second section of the manual includes practical information an Organizer needs to run an efficient, smooth competition.

The third section of the manual includes technical information an Organizer needs to know to run a championship in compliance with SOBHD rules. All cited rules come directly from the most recent edition of the **Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing Constitution and Rules**.

A list of all U.S. registered competitions for the current year is found on the FUSTA website. Go to <http://fusta.us/>, click "Resources", click on "Competitions", click on "US Events List".

# **SECTION 1 - TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF RUNNING A COMPETITION**

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ON COMPETITIONS AND REGISTRATION**

In the United States, all competitions are run and conducted according to the rules of the SOBHD. All Competition Organizers should advertise that fact in all brochures and entry forms.

### **There are three categories of Competitions:**

1. **Premier competitions** - The SOBHD operates a worldwide Annual Registration for Premier dancers just as it does for Competition Organizers. Premier events enable dancers to compete against each other and are restricted only by the stated age grouping or to dancers from a certain geographic area.

**IMPORTANT:** Competitions that are not advertised or announced to be Pre-Premier are automatically Premier competitions. A Pre-Premier dancer competing in a Premier competition automatically becomes a Premier dancer thereafter regardless whether or not they place.

2. **Pre-Premier competitions** - The SOBHD also operates a worldwide Annual Registration for dancers from Primary through Intermediate. SOBHD Dancer Registration was instituted to bring Pre-Premier categories in dancing competitions under SOBHD control to help ensure that every dancer has the opportunity to compete with dancers of comparative ability, whether they are competing in the Primary, Beginner, Novice or Intermediate category.

Dancers are not permitted to hold a FUSTA dancer registration card until the age of four years. The SOBHD registration scheme allows Pre-Premier dancers to monitor their own progress by means of a registration card. Beginner, Novice and Intermediate dancers must earn six stamps before moving on to the next level. The rules governing when a dancer earns a stamp are listed under "Competition Sections", page 8.

Flat swords may only be used for the Primary category.

3. **Pre-Championship Competitions** – Pre-Championships are competitions restricted to Premier dancers who have never won a Championship or a Pre-Championship. Pre-Championships can only be run in conjunction with a Championship and not on their own.

The dances at a Pre-Championship are the same as for a Championship but the current-year set steps are not required and one adjudicator may judge each dance. A Pre-Championship group must have at least six dancers to go ahead. If there are fewer than six dancers, groups may be combined to comply with Board rules.

## SCOPE OF THE WORLD-WIDE PRE-PREMIER STANDARD REGISTRATION SCHEME

Registration for Dancers and Competition Organizers involves three distinct entities:

1. The **SOBHD** oversees and administers the registration scheme's operation.
2. The **COMPETITION ORGANIZERS** of U.S. competitions are required to annually register their competition(s) with FUSTA and run their competitions under SOBHD rules, including the rules pertaining to the dancer registration scheme. This registration form is available to organizers on the FUSTA website, <http://fusta.us/> or from the FUSTA National Competition Organizer Chairman.
3. **U.S. DANCERS** taking part in "Premier," "Pre-Premier" or "Pre-Championship" competitions are required to register directly with the SOBHD or the SOBHD's agent in the U.S. (FUSTA) and abide by the rules of registration.

### METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

1. Each registered Competition Organizer is provided a competition number. They also receive, on loan, a stamp showing the assigned competition number. This competition number is listed on all material pertaining to that competition, including entry forms, and the stamp is used to mark the competitor's registration card if the competitor has been successful in the competition. Rules governing when a dancer earns a stamp are listed in the Awards section, page 8 under "Competitions Sections". Please note that there is also a space on the dancer's card to enter the date of the competition.

**IMPORTANT:** Only one stamp is made for any successful competitor regardless of the number of prizes awarded at one competition. Any competition that is run over two or more days, but organized by the same organizer and using the same registration number, is considered a single "Event" and only one stamp is issued to any successful dancer over the entire Event.

### Definition of a **Competitive Event:**

- A multiple-day competition is considered a single Event, or one competition, so long as no dance is repeated within any dance category over the multiple days of the event. Primary dancers are excluded from this rule. Primary dancers may repeat their dances in a multiple-day event.
- Pre-Premier dancers may earn at most one stamp per Event regardless of the number of days of the Event.
- For the Beginners and Novices, they are only allowed to compete at the Fling, Sword, Seann Triubhas, Reel, Lilt and Flora.
- If a Special or Trophy Fling is danced in the Beginner or Novice categories, it is a separate dance – not counted toward the aggregate trophy. A separate trophy and medals are awarded. Stamps are awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers in the dance.
- If an Event is run over multiple days, and a dancer receives his or her 6<sup>th</sup> stamp or reaches one year in the dance category (whichever is longer) on the first day of the Event, the dancer does not move up dance categories for the subsequent day(s) of the Event.

Definition of a **Demonstration Event**:

- A Demonstration Event is not a competition, but such an event allows new dancers to gain confidence in being up on a stage in front of an audience without the additional pressures and requirements of competition.
  - FUSTA recommends the following guidelines when running a Demonstration Event:
    - No awards are given to the dancers. Participation certificates may be given.
    - No written critique from the judge is given to the dancer.
2. Each registered competitor is provided a dancer registration number and issued a registration card showing his or her registration number. This registration number should be written on entry forms for all “Premier” and “Pre-Premier” competitions. All entry forms for Pre-Premier and Premier competitions must have a space for the dancer to indicate his or her registration number. This provides the organizer the opportunity to insure that all dancers at their competition are registered with the SOBHD. Entries should not be accepted without the dancer’s registration number.
  3. Certified teachers of Scottish Highland Dancing may not compete in any Pre-Premier competition sections. If an organizer discovers that a teacher is registered as a Pre-Premier competitor, the organizer must contact the teacher immediately so the teacher may rescind that registration and re-register as a Premier standard competitor.

## **RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITION ORGANIZERS**

### **REGISTERED COMPETITIONS**

1. A minimum of four steps should be danced in the Highland or National dances in any section, Pre-Premier or Premier, with the exception of the Sword Dance when the minimum should be two slow steps and one quick step.
2. At competitions, a competitor is restricted to a maximum of eight solo dances on any one day. Dances are to be chosen from the following:
  - a. Highland Fling
  - b. Sword Dance
  - c. Seann Triubhas
  - d. Reels (Strathspey and Highland Reel, Strathspey and Half Tulloch, Full Tulloch and Strathspey Highland Reel and Half Tulloch)
  - e. Sailor’s Hornpipe
  - f. Irish Jig
  - g. The lesser known dances:
    - i. Flora MacDonald’s Fancy
    - ii. Scottish Lilt
    - iii. Wilt Thou Go to the Barracks Johnnie
    - iv. Highland Laddie
    - v. Blue Bonnets
    - vi. Village Maid
    - vii. Earl of Errol
    - viii. Scotch Measure

Make sure that each competition section (Primary, Beginner, Novice, Intermediate, and Premier) are competing at dances that are allowed by the SOBHD. The dances each

competition section is allowed to compete at are specified in the SOBHD Constitution, pages 22-23 or on pages 8-9 of this manual.

- 3 A category of non-solo dances includes Broadswords, Highland Reel teams and the Cake Walk. These dances may be danced in addition to the eight solo dances allowed.
  - a) A traditional Broadsword is a sword dance performed by four people wearing traditional Highland Dress dancing around and over four Highland Broadswords placed tip to tip in the form of a cross. The dancers wear kilts and the dance consists of a number of steps in Strathspey tempo, followed by steps in Reel tempo, the steps to be based on Highland technique. The music is a Strathspey and a Reel played on the bagpipes. In view of its military connections with the Scottish regiments, the dance may be preceded and completed by a short march and salute. A traditional Broadsword is for Premier dancers only, as clarified in the SOBHD Constitution (Jan 2016), page 21, which lists the dances for Premier dancers and page 24 which lists the dances for Pre-Premier dancers.
  - b) A choreographed Broadsword can be danced by all registered dancers per page 45 of the SOBHD Constitution. A choreographed Broadsword can be danced by any number of dancers. It can be danced to any piece of music and can have any type of costume. In other words, it is a choreography with swords.

### **DANCER REGISTRATION CARDS**

The registration card must be carried to all competitions and checked by the Organizer prior to the start of the competition. Additionally, the card must be produced for the Organizer at any other time it is requested.

The cards are five different colors.

- Card 1: Green cards for Primary dancers
- Card 2: Blue cards for Beginner dancers
- Card 3: Yellow cards for Novice dancers
- Card 4: Pink cards for Intermediate dancers
- Card 5: White cards for Premier dancers

When a Beginner competitor has successfully placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Fling, Sword, Seann Triubhas, Reel, or Special or Trophy Fling, the registration card must be presented to the Organizer for stamping before the prize is given to the competitor. Any competitor unable to show a registration card will forfeit the prize(s) until the registration card has been shown to the Organizer. The Organizer passes on the competitor's name and number to the U.S. National Registrar, who may advise all organizers not to accept an entry from the competitor until such matters are cleared up. The competitor **MUST** produce the card to the Organizer within ten days of the competition, at which time any earned awards are given to the dancer.

This same procedure applies for Novice and Intermediate competitors who have successfully placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in any dance.

The registration card is stamped **only once** during the course of a competition (even if it is over multiple days) and the one stamp covers all prizes awarded at that competition.

ONLY the original card may be stamped! A photocopy of a dancer registration card CANNOT be stamped!

### **TEMPORARY CARDS**

SOBHD has introduced a temporary registration card system for Pre-Premier dancers moving into the next category. It is possible that some dancers competing at a competition and completing his or her category could compete the next day or next weekend at a different Event. They may do this by using a Temporary Card. Dancers are not required to use the Temporary Card unless they plan to compete within 14 days after completing his or her most recent Pre-Premier category.

Dancers who wish to advance to the next category within 14 days of completing the prior category should show his or her current registration card to the Competition Organizer who then issues the dancer with a Temporary Registration Card.

The dancer may use the Temporary Card for 14 days from the date of issue. The dancer must return the Temporary Card and their original card to his or her Regional Registration Secretary along with the appropriate registration form, fee and photograph.

Any stamp gained during the 14 days must be registered in one of the boxes on the Temporary Card.

Competitions Organizers should keep a record of the Temporary Cards issued and send the bottom section of the Temporary Card form to the Regional Registration Secretary within 14 days from the day it was issued. Temporary Card forms can be downloaded from the FUSTA website, [www.fusta.us](http://www.fusta.us). Click on the "Resources" tab and then click on "other forms".

If you have any questions, please contact your Regional Registration Secretary, the National Registrar, Diane Krugh, [LadyDi5711@aol.com](mailto:LadyDi5711@aol.com), or the National Competition Organizers Chair, Fred DeMarse at [FredDeMarse@chevron.com](mailto:FredDeMarse@chevron.com), for further clarification.

### **AUTOMATIC ADVANCE**

Dancers competing in a higher category for whatever reason must remain in that category regardless of whether or not they were successful. The dancer may not return to the lower category.

### **CHANGING OF DANCE TEACHERS**

The length of time a dancer must wait before competing in front of his/her former teacher is six months. Should a dancer arrive at a competition and discover that his/her former teacher is judging and it has not been six months since the dancer left for whatever reason, the dancer must withdraw from the competition.

### **THREE-MONTH RULE**

Direct from the SOBHD (November 2016): "Judges who conduct teaching or coaching classes, seminars, or any other forms of tuition (e.g. Skype) (excepting only Championship Step lectures, Scottish National Dance Premiership Step lectures, or medal test seminars for their examining body or for judges and/or members of examining bodies) may not adjudicate any competitor who has attended any of these classes for a period of three months after the last class, workshop or any other form of tuition that the competitor has attended. Dancers should be

aware that the responsibility is on them not to dance in front of the Judge who conducted the class.”

So – any judge who instructs at a workshop, gives face-to-face private or group lessons, Skype or FactTime lessons or any other form of electronic instruction must wait three months before judging any dancers who participated in the instruction session. The exceptions are listed above – Championship or Premiership set step lectures where the dancers are listening to the presentation but not dancing. The onus is on the dancer to either not enter the competition or to withdraw.

## **REGISTRATION CARDS / NO CARD**

All competitors **MUST** present his or her registration card to the Competition Organizer prior to competing. If no card is produced, the dancer is allowed to compete. However, the dancer **MUST** produce the registration card to the Competition Organizer within 10 days from the date of the competition. **The name and address of the dancer(s) who competed without a registration card in hand at the time of the competition MUST BE REPORTED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTRAR, DIANE KRUGH, ([LadyDi5711@aol.com](mailto:LadyDi5711@aol.com)) WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THE COMPETITION.** This is the responsibility of the Competition Organizer.

- The card **MUST** be produced whether or not a prize has been won.
- Prizes **will** be withheld until a card is produced.
- The Competition Organizer **MUST** fill out the No Card Form and may collect \$10 from the dancer(s) to cover the postage for mailing the awards.
- Prizes and registration card will be returned to the dancer within 10 days of receipt of the card, unless other arrangements have been made. Any expense incurred will be the responsibility of the dancer.
- If a dancer is not registered for the current year she/he **CANNOT** compete.
- **REGISTRATION CARDS EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31 and should be renewed prior to that date.**
- Dancers may register in January (prior to February 15 to avoid a late fee) if they are not going to be competing before that date.
- The period from January 1 to February 15 is not a grace period during which time dancers may compete without registering for the new year.

## **LOSS OF A REGISTRATION CARD**

If a registration card is lost, it should be reported immediately by the dancer to the FUSTA National Registrar, Diane Krugh, [LadyDi5711@aol.com](mailto:LadyDi5711@aol.com). If the competitor is a Beginner, Novice or Intermediate dancer, a replacement card is provided after payment of a penalty to be decided by the SOBHD and the dancer may continue to compete in the appropriate class for six months from the date of process of the original application. If a competitor is a Primary and loses his or her Registration Card, a replacement card is provided after payment of a penalty to be decided by the SOBHD, and the dancer may continue to complete the remaining time in the category. If a Premier dancer loses his or her registration card, the lost card is replaced on provision of the appropriate information and at the current registration fee.

Lost card issues should be directed to the National Registrar. Delegates will inform teachers to tell ANY student who loses a card to notify the Regional Registrar who will instruct them to contact Diane Krugh directly about the circumstances.



## COMPETITION SECTIONS

There will be no general “all Pre-Premier” events. Instead, dancers are divided in the following classifications:

### 1. PRIMARY: (GREEN CARD)

NOTE: Only 4 dances may be danced in the Primary category.

- a) 16 Pas de Basques
- b) Pas de Basques and Highcuts
- c) Highland Fling (4 steps)
- d) Sword Dance (2 slow, 1 quick)

In view of the basic level of ability and technique expected in this category, it is not appropriate that trophies are presented to Primary dancers. **Organizers must not award trophies either as individual prizes or for most points overall in the Primary category.**

The Primary category is designed to assist the introduction of the youngest dancers to competitive dancing. A competitor under seven years of age may compete in this section until the seventh birthday is reached, after which that competitor is classified as a Beginner dancer and is no longer eligible to enter a Primary event. A Primary dancer may elect to compete in a more advanced category at any time before reaching the age of seven years, but thereafter must continue in this new category and/or advance in accordance with Pre-Premier Registration rules.

### 2. BEGINNER: (BLUE CARD)

This status is held until the competitor either

- a) Gains a first, second or third prize in the Fling, Sword, Seann Triubhas, Reel, or Special or Trophy Fling in SIX separate Beginner competitions, or
- b) Until TWELVE months following the first Beginner stamp, whichever is later, after which that competitor is classified as a Novice dancer and is no longer eligible to enter a Beginner event.

### 3. NOVICE: (YELLOW CARD)

This status is held until the competitor either

- a) Gains a first, second or third prize in ANY dance in SIX separate Novice competitions, or
- b) Until TWELVE months following the first Novice stamp, whichever is later, after which that competitor is classified as an Intermediate dancer and is no longer eligible to enter a Novice event.

The Beginner and Novice categories are restricted to competing in the following dances:

- 1) Highland Fling
- 2) Sword Dance
- 3) Seann Triubhas
- 4) Reel
- 5) Flora MacDonald's Fancy
- 6) Scottish Lilt
- 7) Special Fling or Trophy Fling

#### **4. INTERMEDIATE: (PINK CARD)**

This status is held until the competitor either

- a) Gains a first, second or third prize in ANY dance in SIX separate Intermediate competitions, or
- b) Until TWELVE months following the first Intermediate stamp, whichever is later, after which that competitor is classified as a Premier dancer and is no longer eligible to enter an Intermediate event.

The Intermediate Category is restricted to competing in the following dances:

- 1) Highland Fling
- 2) Sword Dance
- 3) Seann Triubhas
- 4) Reel
- 5) Flora MacDonald's Fancy
- 6) Scottish Lilt
- 7) Barracks Johnnie
- 8) Highland Laddie
- 9) Sailor's Hornpipe
- 10) Irish Jig

#### **5. PREMIER: (WHITE CARD)**

This status is held until the dancer quits or retires from competitive dancing. Premier dancers may compete in any of the dances listed in the previous section, "Registered Competitions", page 5. This card is reissued every year. The current year must be part of the dancer's registration number (i.e. "UMW10," indicates U.S. Midwest region 2010).

## **OVERALL TROPHIES**

### **For a single age group**

The overall winner is determined by the total aggregate points obtained over the individual events regardless of the number of competitors in each dance.

### **Over a number of age groups**

When awarding an overall trophy or award over a number of age groups, there must be at least six competitors who have competed in each age group in order for the aggregate points earned from those dances to qualify in calculating the overall winner. If there are fewer than six competitors in an age group for an individual dance, then the points gained in that dance for that particular age group are not included in the total aggregate points calculated toward the overall award for those dancers. If it has been decided in advance to hold a "dance-off" for an overall award, then all eligible competitors may compete regardless of the number of competitors within the individual group. (For example, all Premier age group trophy winners are eligible for a "dance off" to determine the overall Dancer of the Day. Even if there were only 5 competitors in an age group, that age group trophy winner may still compete in the "dance off"). All rules pertaining to an "overall" trophy or award must be advertised on the entry form or program.

Organizers may award a trophy / trophies over a range of age groups - Best Beginner, Best Novice, Best Intermediate – but a trophy may not be awarded over a range of categories - not Best Pre-Premier. Beginner, Novice and Intermediate dancers may not compete against one another in a dance-off.

## **Special Trophies**

### **6. Special or Trophy Fling**

- This dance does not count toward an aggregate trophy.
- This dance does count as one of the 8 maximum dances a dancer may compete in one day.
- A separate trophy is given to the winner of this dance event.
- Medals can be given for runner-up places (up to 6<sup>th</sup> place) in this dance event.
- A stamp is earned for placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place in this dance (Beginner, Novice and Intermediate sections).
- Either one or three judges judge this dance event. If three judges judge the event, the results should be posted.
- No other Highland dance (e.g. Sword, Seann Triubhas) may be used in a Special Event.

### **7. “Dancer of the Day” Dance-Off**

- This dance does not count as one of the 8 maximum dances a dancer may compete in one day.
- Either one or three judges must judge a Dance-Off event. If three judges judge the event, the results should be posted.

### **8. Most Promising Dancer Awards**

- Most Promising Dancer Awards may NOT be awarded over multiple Pre-Premier categories. Most Promising Dancer Awards must be awarded within separate categories (1 award for Beginners, 1 award for Novices, 1 award for Intermediates) if they are given.

### **9. Best Dressed Events**

- Only Premier dancers are allowed to participate in Best Dressed Events.

## **SOBHD PANEL OF JUDGES**

The SOBHD maintains a list of judges who have passed an examination set by the SOBHD and who are, in the opinion of the SOBHD, qualified to adjudicate at Highland Dancing competitions. This list is referred to as the Worldwide Panel of Judges.

## **JUDGES FOR COMPETITIONS**

All competitions run under SOBHD rules must be judged by an adjudicator selected from the SOBHD Worldwide Panel of Judges. Judges who are listed on the Worldwide Panel of Judges are eligible to adjudicate at Championships and all other competitions worldwide unless some other specific limitation appears by their name. An updated list of the SOBHD Worldwide Judges' Panel is provided annually by email to all registered Competition Organizers when you re-register with FUSTA and also periodically throughout the year along with Organizer updates.

## **JUDGES DECISION**

Per SOBHD rules, the decision of the judge is final. No discussion or correspondence regarding any decision made by that judge may be entered into between a judge and competitor, or the parent or guardian of a competitor.

Sheets containing the judge's marks are to be used for scrutineering purposes only. These sheets must not be given out to competitors, parents, teachers or the general public for any reason.

Discussion by scrutineers about information on these sheets prior to the end of the competition or subsequent to the competition is strictly forbidden.

## **PENALTIES**

A registered Pre-Premier dancer dancing in a non-registered Pre-Premier competition and/or providing incorrect information on an application form will incur a six-month penalty. During this period, they will not be accepted as eligible to enter any registered competition. This rule is in the interest of the dancers to insure fair competition and has the complete backing of Competition Organizers registered with the SOBHD.

A registered competition failing to operate under SOBHD rules, including the rules pertaining to the registration scheme, will be asked to provide the SOBHD with details of any reason for non-compliance and will be dealt with at the discretion of the SOBHD. Failure to furnish details and reasons for non-compliance on request of the SOBHD constitutes grounds for expulsion from the registration scheme. All complaints and clarification required for situations not covered by the rules and regulations are dealt with by the SOBHD Registration Unit, whose decision is final.

## **SOBHD RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMPETITIONS**

### **1. Accommodation and marshaling of competitors**

- a. Suitable changing and toilet accommodation should be provided for competitors.
- b. An official should be appointed for the purpose of marshaling competitors and should be a teacher or competent parent. Premier dancers who have yet to compete that day should not be used as marshals or “runners.”

### **2. Size of platform**

The recommended minimum dimensions of the dancing platform, or other area used for dancing such as a stage or gymnasium, should be as follows:

Width	26 feet
Depth	20 feet
Height	3 feet

### **3. Equipment**

In Premier competitions, Highland Broadswords or similar type swords should be used for the Sword Dance and the organizing committee must provide a sufficient number - three sets of swords per platform. If two right-handed swords are used which will only lie one way, the Organizer or his or her designee should be asked to place them on the platform. It should then be announced that they will be left in position throughout the competition. In Pre-Premier competitions, especially in the Primary category, flat swords or a sword and a sheath are recommended.

### **4. Maximum number of dancers on the platform**

SOBHD Proposition passed – November 2016

The Organizer in consultation with the judge(s) may determine the maximum number of dancers (3 or 4) on a platform in all Highland and National dances, except the Strathspey and/or Reels, taking into consideration the available space on the platform and the safety and optimum performance of the dancers.

In the Fling, if 5 dancers are recalled for a final, all may dance together provided there is ample platform space.

Strathspey and/or Reels: one set only.

#### **5. Piping**

The same piper should play for all competitors in any one dance.

### **CHOREOGRAPHY COMPETITION GUIDELINES**

- A group choreography competition is open to registered dancers, the age groups to be set by the Organizer.
- Content should consist primarily of movements from Highland, National, Hornpipe and Jig books.
- A maximum time limit of five minutes should be set for the item to include entrance and exit of competitors and setting up and removal of props.
- Teams may use props during their performance, either static or non-static, but live animals are not permitted.
- For Group Choreography, a minimum of three and a maximum number of dancers to be set by the Organizer. Two dancers are a “duet”, not a group. The entry form must provide for “duet” competition in order to allow a group of two to compete.
- Music must be live or pre-recorded and may include vocal or percussion selections, but in all cases must be predominantly Scottish or Celtic in style. Music may be provided by the Competition Organizer. The Competition Organizer should be prepared to play either CDs or mp3 / ipods with the competitor’s selections on them. Some Organizers require the competitors to email their musical selections to them in advance.
- Costumes must follow the theme and content of the dance.
- Judges must be from the current SOBHD World-wide Judges Panel. The number of judges must be one or three to comply with the current scrutineering system. A total mark should be awarded. No separate prizes for costume etc.
- Whenever there is a panel of three judges adjudicating together for any dance at any competition (including Choreography), the results should be scrutineered and displayed as per Championships.
- Teams should consist of:
  - a. One school only
  - b. More than one school, in which case, the teacher/choreographer, if a judge, must not adjudicate any dancer in the choreography group for a period of three months after the date she or he last worked with them.

SOBHD rules regarding Choreography competitions do not specifically state that it is permissible for Pre-Premier dancers to be included in teams with Premier dancers; however, some Organizers allow mixed teams of Pre-Premier and Premier dancers to compete.

The Organizer is allowed to set age groups and restrictions. In the event that Beginner or Novice dancers are a part of a winning team, **their Registration Card should not be stamped**. This practice is at odds with the current SOBHD Pre-Premier Registration rules, but is presently accepted by the SOBHD.

## **FUSTA RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR COMPETITIONS**

### **JUDGES AND PIPERS**

In 2015 the fees for judging and teaching workshops were reviewed. FUSTA suggests the following standard fees for judges and pipers:

- Judging a Competition (up to 8 hours per day) - \$250 (minimum of \$200)
- Judging a Championship (up to 8 hours per day) - \$300 (minimum of \$250)
- Judging – beyond 8 hours per day - \$50 / hour
- Teaching a Workshop / Special Event - \$60 / hour – recommended fee
- Piping fees should be on a par with Judging Fees

Travel expenses, airport parking, mileage to and from the airport should be reimbursed. Recommended mileage reimbursement is not less than 50¢ per mile.

Organizers should either give the Judges and Pipers a per diem to cover meals or make other arrangements to have their meals paid for by the Organizing Committee.

A member of the Organizing Committee should pick up the pipers and judges at the airport and take them to their hotel. Similar arrangements should be made for the return trip. Pre-paid limousines or taxis are also acceptable. No dancer should be present at any time in any vehicle transporting a judge.

### **JUDGE'S AND PIPER'S CONTRACTS**

Judges and pipers should be furnished with detailed contracts regarding the events they will be attending. FUSTA has created contract templates for judges and pipers that can be duplicated and filled in. These templates can be downloaded from the FUSTA website, [www.fusta.us](http://www.fusta.us). Click on the “Resources” tab and then click on “other forms”.

Organizers wishing to use their own contract may do so, but should be sure to address all issues found within the FUSTA contract.

### **PROTESTS AND OBJECTIONS**

An objection to a person's eligibility to compete in any competition must be made in writing and shall not be considered unless the complainant gives his/her full name and address accompanied by a deposit, the amount to be set by the SOBHD, currently \$25. The deposit shall be returned should the objection be sustained. Such objection must be lodged with the Organizer of the event concerned, if possible before the event and not later than seven days after the date of the event. Unless resolved by the Organizer he/she shall refer the matter to the SOBHD. If there is not time for the SOBHD to reach a decision before the event takes place,

then the person about whom the complaint has been lodged shall be permitted to dance in the competition on the understanding that any awards he/she may win shall be withheld until the decision of the SOBHD be known. Should the objection be sustained, such awards shall be passed down to the competitor next in order of merit and any other awards suitably adjusted.

Any complaint made by an individual against the organization or adjudication of an event must be made in writing giving the complainants full name and address and shall be lodged with the Organizer if possible on the day of the event and not later than 48 hours after the event. Such complaint must be accompanied by a deposit, the amount to be set by the SOBHD, currently \$25. The deposit shall be returned should the complaint be upheld. If within seven days of lodging such complaint the complainant has no satisfaction from the Organizer, then the complainant may refer the matter to the Honorable Secretary of the SOBHD.

Any complaint made by an Association, as opposed to an individual, against the organization or adjudication of an event shall be sent direct in writing to the Honorable Secretary of the SOBHD as soon as possible and not later than 48 hours after the first meeting held by that Association following the event concerned. When sending such complaint to the SOBHD, a copy of same shall be sent by the Association to the Organizer or Judge against whom the complaint is directed.

#### **AFTER THE RUNNING OF A COMPETITION**

All paperwork pertaining to the competition should be held for a period of one full year from the date of the last competition.

## **SECTION 2 - PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF RUNNING A COMPETITION**

### **PLANNING YOUR COMPETITION**

#### **FIND A SUITABLE DATE** (minimum of a year prior to event)

Start by checking your regional listings to find out when other competitions are scheduled. If you are close to a neighboring region you should check for competitions in those regions as well. You **DO NOT** want to choose a date that would conflict with another established competition in your area, as both competitions will suffer from lack of competitors.

#### **FIND A SUITABLE VENUE** (minimum of a year before prior to event)

Should it be indoor or outdoor?

1. Outdoor – if you decide on an outdoor venue, unless the platform is covered you will also need a back-up indoor venue in case of inclement weather. Regardless of the venue for an outdoor competition, it is imperative that the dance platform is level and that the seams are tight and even so there is no chance a dancer might catch his or her foot where two or more boards are joined. The platform should conform to the minimum recommendations outlined in Section 1, “SOBHD Recommendations for Competitions”, page 11.
2. Indoor – choose a venue that will accommodate dancers, audience and equipment, such as a computer, printer, PA system, etc. The floor should be suitable for dancing, i.e.

wood floor, suitable risers with covering or very tight seams. Platform should be raised, or if that is not available, the seating should be raised as in a gymnasium with bleacher seating.

**NOTE:** In selecting a venue (indoor or outdoor) and selecting / constructing the competition platform, PLEASE consider the safety of the Dance Competitor. Please insure that the dancing platform / surface is:

- a. Stable and non-slippery
  - b. Wooden and has some flexibility – PLEASE avoid cement surfaces!!
  - c. Shaded (for outdoor venues)
  - d. Well lighted (for indoor venues)
3. Items you will need at either an outdoor or an indoor venue  
(You can put all your paperwork, manuals, office supplies in a large plastic storage tub for easy transport.)
- a. Power source to run various equipment
  - b. Computer
  - c. Printer
  - d. Scrutineer sheets/folder for each age group
  - e. Marshal sheets/clipboard for each Marshal
  - f. Dancer list/programs
  - g. Judges sheets (bring extras), folder or clip board for each judge to hold his or her judge's sheets
  - h. Extension cords
  - i. Stamp pad and competition stamp for Beginner, Novice and Intermediate cards
  - j. Office supplies - tape, scissors, paper clips, stapler, staples, etc.
  - k. Temporary Card/sheets for dancers who are moving up a category in Pre-Premier
  - l. No Card form for dancers who forget his or her registration card
  - m. "Last Set" sign on back of Marshal's clip board
  - n. Current copy of the SOBHD Constitution and Rules
  - o. Latest version of the FUSTA Competition Organizers' Manual
  - p. Swords
  - q. Duct tape
  - r. First aid kit
  - s. Water
  - t. Ice
  - u. Shade tents for judges, pipers, scrutineers, if outdoors
  - v. Additional items per your event type/venue: decorations, table skirts, drape, etc.
  - w. CD player for Choreography CDs or ipod player

### **HIRING JUDGES AND PIPERS (6 months to a year prior to event)**

Judges and pipers should be hired well in advance of the competition. Some organizers choose to hire their piper(s) and judge(s) a year in advance of the competition. The earlier you hire these professionals the better chance you have of getting the judge/piper you want before they are booked somewhere else that same day.

A list of recommended pipers for competitions and championships can be found on the FUSTA website (Members only section). Alternatively, contact Fred DeMarse – [FredDeMarse@chevron.com](mailto:FredDeMarse@chevron.com) – National Competition Organizers Chair for the latest copy.



If you choose not to hire a piper but use recorded music, then you need to insure that you have a sound system that is consistent, reliable and can be heard by all dance competitors on the stage, the judge(s) and the audience.

### **How many Judges and Pipers do you need for your competition?**

Opinions vary on this question; however, a general guideline for determining how many judges and pipers you will need for your competition is:

- Maximum of 75 dancers in an 8-hour day of judging per judge
- Maximum of 70 dancers in an 8-hour day of piping per piper

Please be sure to allow time in the competition schedule for the judge(s) and piper(s) to have a break.

### **ACCOMMODATIONS (6 months to a year prior to event)**

1. Make judge/piper travel arrangements and hotel accommodations as necessary, unless the judge/piper is flying in and out the same day.
2. Remember transportation for the judge/piper to/from the airport and to/from competition venue is necessary.
3. You may want to reserve a block of rooms at local hotel for competitors to stay if they are traveling any distance.
  - Many hotels will give a discounted room rate for your block if you ask them and arrange it ahead of time.
  - Some hotels require a contract to be signed, which stipulates a minimum number of rooms are guaranteed or a fee will be assessed. Make sure to review carefully so you are not charged if you can't meet the minimum.
4. If no block reservation, list suggested local hotels and rates on the entry form or associated website.

### **ADVERTISING YOUR COMPETITION (6 month to a year prior to event)**

1. List your competition and entry form on the following websites, as applicable:
  - a. FUSTA website
  - c. FUSTA delegates to distribute via email
  - d. SDC provincial delegates via email for those provinces close to your region
  - e. Local dancing association(s)
  - f. Local Scottish organization(s)
  - g. [www.dance.net](http://www.dance.net)
  - h. [www.toeandheel.com](http://www.toeandheel.com)

### **EVENT INSURANCE (6 months to a year prior to event)**

**Check with your venue to find out if you need to purchase event insurance. If you are organizing a large event at a venue other than a Games, you may need event insurance.**

**What is event insurance?** Insurance associated with events covers and protects organizations/organizers in specific areas.

- General Liability insurance protects a company or organization and all parties involved in the event - the organizer, venue, caterers, etc., for losses due to bodily

injury or property damage caused by the insured's employees or agents. Venues and agents will usually require liability for \$1,000,000.

- Third-party damage insurance covers damages to a location while it is under your control, protecting you from having to pay for repairs.

**Why you should consider Special Event coverage.** In a society where litigation runs rampant, it's always best to protect yourself from ever having to deal with those worst-case scenarios, especially if you're the one in charge. It's not just for your own protection. Many venues and vendors won't do business with a group that doesn't have insurance.

**Choosing the best policy.** With so many terms flying around in the world of insurance - "liquor liability," "general liability," "additional insured" - it's hard to know what is right for you. Most groups purchase general liability, which provides broad coverage for such incidents as people slipping and falling or a faulty product passed out in a gift bag.

**How to get it.** The first step is to call your own insurance agent and find out if you're already covered, and for what. In some policies, event coverage is automatic. Be sure the insurance carrier is financially stable and has a well-defined program for special event insurance. Remember that things like liquor and weather are add-ons, and you are responsible for informing your insurance agent if you plan to serve alcohol at an event.

Many groups opt to get a one-time event policy separate from the one that covers their day-to-day business. This effectively isolates the event, so that any incidents that occur do not affect the regular insurance plan.

## **COMPILING YOUR ENTRY FORM (6 months to 9 months prior to event)**

Entry forms should be divided into two sections and include at least the following information:

1. Competition Information for Dancers
  - a. Dancer Categories - Primary, Beginner, Novice, Intermediate, Premier
  - b. Age groups if pre-determined by age or to be determined by Organizer
  - c. Dances in each category/age group with number of steps to be danced

**On your entry form - if you are doing the Jig, please list the number of finishing steps (e.g. 3&1 or 4&2)**

- d. Entry fees
  - e. Closing date (should be **bold** or highlighted) - Indicate a late fee if you take late entries.
  - f. FUSTA Competition Number
  - g. Dancer registration times for morning and afternoon
  - h. Start times for morning and afternoon dancers
  - i. State that the competition will be run under SOBHD rules
  - j. Organizer contact information including email, address and phone number
  - k. Name and address of competition venue (should be **bold** or highlighted); directions would be nice, too
  - l. Awards, including special awards
  - m. Accommodations or host hotel
  - n. Name of Judge and Piper if contracts are signed and returned **(This information is helpful to publish, but it is not required to do so.)**
2. Tear off sheet or separate sheet of dancer Information to be sent to Organizer
    - a. Dancer name
    - b. Dancer contact information including email, address and phone number

- c. Dancer category
- d. Date of Birth**
- e. Age on day of competition
- f. FUSTA/SDC or other SOBHD dancer registration number
- g. Kilt tartan (optional)
- h. Events the dancer is entering
- i. Disclaimer release for parent or guardian to sign
- j. Teacher name (another way to get information to the dancer if necessary)
- k. Email address of dancer/parent.
- l. Additional donation or ticket information (award donations, advanced ticket sales, etc.)

### **COMPETITION RULES**

1. All FUSTA-registered competitions must be run in accordance with SOBHD competition rules outlined in the first section of this manual.
2. Entry forms may specify age groups **OR** entry forms may state that age groups will be decided according to entries received. Regardless of which method is used, Organizers still reserve the right to alter specified age groups to suit entries received. However, any change in age groups from what is stated on the entry form must be announced prior to commencing the competition.
3. The SOBHD does not insist that dancers dance in any order **except that the lowest number in each set of dancers should always be on the Judge's left.** The general practice at most competitions is "**first to enter, last to compete,**" which means the earlier a dancer enters the higher the number in the group he/she receives and the later a dancer enters the lower the number in the group he/she receives. Many organizers continue to take entries the week before the competition. While no one wants to turn away entries, the practice of taking late entries can make management of the contest less efficient.
4. The Organizer is responsible for accepting and processing entries. This may be done manually or using a computer. Most Organizers process the entries as they come in, starting with the highest number for each age group and assigning numbers thereafter in descending order, so that early entries receive a high number and late entries receive a low number. The lowest number at a competition should be 101, not 100 or any double digit numbers.
5. An experienced Organizer will be able to balance age groupings not established on the entry form to ensure sufficient entries per age group, bearing in mind the age range.

### **COMPETITION RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. FUSTA recommends that all Intermediate dancers under 12 years' of age dance "cut steps". The reasoning behind this recommendation stems from the 2014 SOBHD decision to reduce the number of steps in a championship for Premier dancers in the 7 & U12 age category. If there are Intermediate entries for dancers younger than 12 years and older than 12 years, it is the Competition Organizers decision whether or not to divide the Category into two or more sections. If the Intermediate category cannot be divided, then it is the Competition Organizers' decision whether to have the Intermediate group dance "cut steps" or long steps in their dances.
2. FUSTA recommends that Competition Organizers insure having a Premier U12 years' age category despite the number of entries in the age group. The reasoning behind this recommendation stems from the 2014 SOBHD decision to reduce the number of steps

for Premier dancers in the 7 & U12 age category. Premier U12 years' dancers dance cut steps in Championships, and it would be unfair if they had to train for long steps for Competitions because the Premier age groups were combined due to insufficient entries.

3. FUSTA recommends that Competition Organizers work with teachers and other Organizers in your area to coordinate the dances and number of steps for each dance during a competitive season. The concern has been raised that if no coordination among competitions is reached, then the younger and less experienced dancers have a lot of new material to learn in a short period of time, which creates a lot of stress for both dancers and teachers.

### **AGE GROUP CLASSIFICATIONS**

Age groups should be listed specifically in terms of allowable age groups – Example - 7 years and under 10 years. The SOBHD has discontinued the practice of listing the next group as “9 and under”, so Organizers should no longer list age groups that way. Instead, what used to be known as “9 and under” should now be listed as “7 and under 10”. Also, “11 and under” should now be listed as “10 and under 12,” “13 and under” has become “12 and under 14,” 15 and under” is now “14 and under 16,” “17 and under” is now “16 and under 18” and “18 and over” remains unchanged.

If age groups are not pre-determined, Organizers should attempt to divide dancers into even-sized groups based on number of entries received keeping in mind dancers' age (so an 8-year-old is not competing against a 16-year-old if possible) and healthy quality of competition (try to avoid very small groups).

### **PURCHASING TROPHIES, MEDALS AND PARTICIPATION AWARDS**

(12 months to 3 months prior to event)

1. Purchase medals to be awarded to all Pre-Premier classes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd places. Ribbons **OR** medals for all 4th, 5th & 6th place winners. Plan on purchasing at least an additional five of each to provide enough for any ties that may occur.
2. Each age group requires a class trophy (except Primary). Purchase one extra in the event of a tie (or be ready to order one quickly to ship out ASAP to the winner).
3. If there is prize money for the Premier dancers, putting either cash or checks into envelopes prior to the competition makes the awards ceremony more efficient. Some large competitions use prize vouchers that can be cashed at the Treasurer/Cashier's office at the Games.
4. Be sure to purchase any special trophies well in advance of the competition, as well as keeper trophies to give the dancer if the award is perpetual.
5. If your competition has perpetual trophies (trophies that are awarded each year with the new winner's name added to the trophy) be sure to send out letters to the winners reminding them the trophy is due back well in advance of the competition. Request that any engraving be done prior to returning trophies the day of the competition. It is also helpful if the winning dancer (or parent) signs a release form with their contact information and a waiver of liability making them responsible for damage to the trophy or replacements if necessary.
6. It is common practice to give each Primary dancer a participation award/gift before the Primary award ceremony. These can be anything you would like, except a trophy or item that could be deemed a “trophy”.
7. In planning for number of medals, FUSTA recommends the following places be awarded in the **Beginner, Novice and Intermediate categories**. However, this is not

mandatory. The Organizer may determine the number of placings to be given in the Beginner and Novice groups.

1 to 3 dancers = 1 place

4 to 5 dancers = 2 places

6 or more dancers = 3 or more places as determined by the Organizer.

In all other categories (Primary and Premier), the number of placings is up to the Competition Organizer and judge's discretion.

## **RECEIVING COMPETITION ENTRIES** (6 months or more to 2 weeks prior to event)

### **1. Set age groups**

As close to the competition as you can (but not the night before) the organizer should divide the entries in each category into age groups. Class size is determined by the Organizer; however, a good guideline on class size would be to not have more than 16 dancers in one class (unless the class can't be broken because of the age of the dancers).

- a. Age groups are determined using the dancers' age as of the date of the competition, or other predetermined date, which is why you want to have their actual birth date on the entry forms.
- b. If the number of entries in a category is low, it is still the responsibility of the Organizer to split (or not split) the category into age groups.
- c. Age groups should be as balanced as much as possible in terms of number of dancers. An experienced Organizer will be able to balance age groupings to ensure sufficient entries per age group, bearing in mind age range.
- d. Age groups cannot be broken in the middle of an age, so all dancers the same age will always be in the same group. For example, if there are 20 dancers in the Beginner category, with 10 dancers between 6 and under 12. The remaining dancers are 12 years and older, with three dancers all age 12. A break could be made for all dancers under 12 which would give you one class of 10 dancers, and another class of 10 dancers. Or a set could be made of dancers over 12 years, creating a class of 13 dancers and one class of 7 dancers.
- e. When breaking categories into age groupings, be sure to keep in mind that an age group in any Premier category not having six dancers in it would not qualify for overall aggregate trophies unless it was based on a dance-off of the trophy winners.

### **2. Assign numbers**

The number sequences used must be three digits, which means the lowest number assigned would be 101. Other than that, the numbers are up to the Organizer's discretion. The amount of numbers needed will depend on the sequence used for each category and each age group and the total number of dancers registered for your competition. There are two generally accepted methods of assigning numbers to dancers.

- a. Upon receiving the first entry form, a number is assigned. When subsequent entries are received, the next number, in numerical order, is assigned. This method means that the numbers in an age group will not be in numerical order, but it is very efficient in handling large numbers of entries. Because the numbers in each age group are not sequential most judges and some tally teams do not like this method, so an Organizer may want to discuss this with their head scrutineer.
- b. Another more commonly used method is to assign a number to the first entrant into a category/age grouping and giving the next number to the next entrant in that same

category/age group. For example, the first Primary dancer to enter would be number 130, the next would be number 129, and so on. Unless you have used this method in the past, it can be more difficult to use, as you may have no idea how many dancers may enter in a category or age group. However, for most competitions, if you plan on 30 numbers per age group you should be fine. So, as in the Primary example you plan for 101 through 130 for the Primary group. When the last number in an age group has been assigned, jumping at least 20 digits before the next age group is recommended. That way, the judge and the scrutineers know that there is a new group competing.

### 3. Competitor numbers

- a. Numbers should be approximately 3" X 5".
- b. Numbers and safety-pins can be purchased online from various vendors. One place to purchase numbers is Rainbow Racing [www.rainbowracing.com](http://www.rainbowracing.com) (500 for \$65). (Google search "competitor numbers")
- c. To save money, numbers can be drawn onto interfacing, printed on cardstock, or printed on Tyvek®. This is convenient for small competitions, but an Organizer should keep in mind that cardstock tears easily, and the numbers must be large enough to be easily seen at 20 feet.

## PLATFORM ASSIGNMENTS AND JUDGES ROTATION

The Organizer needs to make platform assignments for the age groups and judges rotations for each dance when there are two or more platforms. An Excel spreadsheet or something similar is useful when creating platform schedules. One color may be used for each judge as in the example provided.

When doing platform assignments, groups that are approximately the same size should dance at the same time, so the platforms finish within a set or two of each other. Pre-Premier and Pre-Championship groups can be run at the same time because they perform the same dances and the same number of steps.

A letter – A, B, C etc. – is assigned to each judge (in alphabetical order).

We have included examples for platform assignments and judges rotation for the following scenarios:

- Competitions (Pre-Championship, Pre-Premier, National Dance) with three platforms (using three, four or six judges)
- Championships with one platform (three or four judges) and two platforms (six judges).

If you are holding Choreography competitions, the organizers must use either one or three judges. If three judges are used, judges mark individual score sheets and the judges' results must be posted following the competition results.

Be sure to include the number of dancers in each group and the number of sets in each dance on the platform sheet for the Marshal. This same information should be noted on the Judge's sheets as well.

If there are multiple platforms, two Marshals are recommended for each platform.

A copy of the platform assignments should be:

- included in the Judges' folders in addition to their judges' sheets so they know which platform they are judging on next.
- given to each Marshal so she/he can line up the appropriate age groups on the correct platform.
- given to the Announcer so he/she can call the age groups to the marshaling area.
- given to each piper so they know the order of the day and the size of each group.

### **ORGANIZING VOLUNTEERS** (4 weeks to 1 week prior to the event)

Make a schedule of volunteers for the day and over-communicate your needs/expectations to your volunteers. The quality of your volunteers can make or break how your competition is run so make sure they understand exactly what their responsibilities are and how to do them.

1. **Marshals** help get the dancers lined up numerically in the lineup area and put the dancers up on the platform in correct order (lowest number to the judge's left). When selecting Dance Marshals for your event, FUSTA recommends that people over 16 years of age be asked. Marshaling is an important task to take on and situations may arise that a younger person may not be able to easily manage.
2. **Scrutineers** should be certified by FUSTA if possible. That way you are getting someone who is trained to do scrutineering by hand or by computer as well as a person less likely to make mistakes and more likely to be able to solve problems as they arise. Refer to FUSTA's Scrutineering Manual for any questions.
3. **Runners** retrieve the completed judge's sheet from the judge once he/she is done adjudicating the group and takes the completed sheet to the scrutineers.
4. **Announcer** announces results along with other pertinent information throughout the day.
5. **Registration** – We recommend having more than one person registering dancers so that the process does not delay the start of the competition. If you have multiple platforms or a large number of age groups, you may want to have additional volunteers to register the dancers. At Registration, all dancers must present their current registration card. The Organizer needs to be sure that all dancers have current cards and keep track of those dancers who don't produce cards.
6. **Swords** - A minimum of three sets per judge are needed unless you are not doing a Sword dance that day.

**NOTE:** Some large competitions and Championships have started having "staff" shirts for the volunteers and other workers. This helps identify staff people to make it easier for your attendees to know who to go to with questions.

### **ORGANIZING THE CONCESSION (OPTIONAL)** (4 weeks to 2 days prior to the event)

1. This can be used as a fundraiser to help offset the costs associated with putting on a competition. Ask around to other local competitions to help determine how much to purchase and what items sell best so you don't over buy. If you are using the concession to help offset costs, be sure to schedule your day so people are there over lunch so they will buy food.
2. Don't forget lunch for judges/pipers and volunteers.

## **PREPARING PAPERWORK (4 weeks to 2 days prior to the event)**

Examples of all items listed below are included. Be sure to visit <http://fusta.us> for the most current forms.

1. Paperwork needed
  - a. Judge's sheets
  - b. Dancers' list handout/program
    - This is a list of competitors organized by competitor number, category and events. It is common to include space to record the results for each group.
    - NOTE: This document should not be distributed until the day of the event and should NEVER be given to the judge(s) prior to the competition
  - c. Announcer sheet
  - d. Dancer Safety Announcement – template available in “Competition Organizers” folder
  - e. Marshaling sheets and platform numbers/letters
  - f. Temporary Card Forms/sheets
  - g. No Card Forms

## **SIGNS**

Remember – you can never have too much signage. Letting people know where things are is key to a successful competition. Be sure signs are clearly legible from far away, don't include unnecessary decoration on the signage, and make sure they are hung high enough in an unobstructed view of the audience seating area.

1. Platform numbers/letters
2. Registration
3. Other signs per your location's needs
  - a. Changing rooms
  - b. Directional signs in building
  - c. Parking signs
  - d. Driving directional signs at major crossroads

## **SETTING UP THE SCRUTINEERING**

**(Highland Scrutineer is recommended for computer tally) or have items ready for scrutineering by hand (4 weeks to 2 days prior to event)**

1. Hire/ask certified scrutineer(s) -- All attempts to have Certified Scrutineers for your competition should be made as they have undergone the workshop and have passed the test to become certified. This knowledge makes it easier to effectively scrutineer manually or using a software system and to resolve any issues related to scrutineering.
2. All scrutineers should also be able to manually scrutineer the competition and scrutineering result forms should be available at all competitions. Some competitions run both the manual and computer systems. This can be helpful should a computer crash during the competition or power become unavailable at outdoor venues. Refer to the FUSTA Scrutineering Manual.

## **Competition Box / Binder and Files (at least one week prior to the event)**

A great tool to have is a complete competition box/file, which can contain the following:

1. **For the Registration Table:**
  - a. Admission Stamp and Ink Pad



- b. List of Free Admissions (volunteers, patrons, sponsors, etc.)
- c. List of Competitors
- d. Binder or folder with all dancer entry forms
- e. Safety Pins
- f. Registration Card box with FUSTA Stamp and ink pad
- g. Competitor Numbers
- h. Group Folders
- i. First Aid Kit and Ice (if no EMS is hired for the event)

**2. For the Scrutineering Table:**

- a. Calculators
- b. Pens and Pencils
- c. Stapler
- d. Current copy of the SOBHD Constitution and Rules
- e. FUSTA Competition Binder
- f. Judge(s) Sheet Folders
- g. Scrutineering Sheets (blanks if scrutineering electronically – just in case)
- h. Copy machine/printer for Highland Scrutineer or last-minute copy needs

## **COMPETITION DAY**

### **ORGANIZER'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

In order to have a successful competition, the Organizer should be the communication hub for all aspects of the Highland Dance competition.

1. Communicate with venue/grounds/games committee.
2. Coordinate transportation and timing of Judge(s)/Piper(s) arrival to and exit from the competition.
  - o Do NOT keep the judges/pipers waiting to leave the competition site until you are done with whatever you are doing. Designate someone to transport them if you are not able to.
3. Solve problems for all aspects of the competition - Registration, Scrutineering, Marshaling, etc.
4. Coordinate volunteers
5. Remember Competition Box/Files!

### **Venue Set-Up** (chairs, line up/marshaling area, scrutineer/announcing area, platform)

If possible, set up the night/day before so that you are ready before competitors arrive. Something is bound to come up the morning of the competition. It is easier to handle the unexpected when the expected is taken care of. The competition should be completely set-up 30 minutes prior to registration.

Try to place marshaling chairs off to the side of the platforms, clearly labeled so the judges don't have dancers behind the platform and dancers/parents can easily see where they need to line up.

### **Dance Platform**

1. See suggested dimensions in Section 1, "SOBHD Recommendations for Competitions, page 11.
2. Stairs to platform (if needed)

3. If outdoors, who is the Field/Grounds contact? How will you be able to contact them?
4. Upkeep, sweeping, is needed periodically throughout the day.
5. Supplies: duct tape, broom, drills (if outdoor), etc.

### **Judges Area**

1. Is centered and in front of stage approximately 20 feet from the platform.
2. Includes a table and chair for each judge.
3. If it is a sunny area, you will need to be prepared for shade (e.g. easy up)
4. **This area needs to be roped off (from the front of the stage to comfortably behind the judge). The judges cannot be disturbed by dancers, photographers, spectators, etc. This space is off limits to all except the Organizer and runners.**
5. Check with your judge(s) about their area before you begin the competition.
6. Check with your judge prior to the start of the competition about the number of awards you want to give out for each of the competitive groups. Upfront communication will prevent any unpleasant surprises. Also please inform your judge of the number of competitors in each competitive group. The number can be placed in a corner of the judge's sheet.
7. Provide refreshments for the judge(s) during the day.

### **Registration / Scrutineering / Announcer Area** (usually isolated and possibly under a tent and needs to be roped off)

1. PA system – reliable system that allows all competition participants to clearly hear announcements
2. Registration table (1) and chairs (2) – can also be in a separate area from scrutineering to keep dancers and spectators from coming up to scrutineers/announcer and asking questions, etc.
3. Scrutineering table (2) and chairs (4)
  - a. Only scrutineers, the Organizer, etc. should be allowed near the table during the event
  - b. If using a computer for scrutineering, you will need to plan appropriately for outlets and leads for computer(s) and printer(s)

### **Line Up / Marshaling Area**

1. Could be on either side of the stage or just one side
2. Stairs for the platform (if needed)
3. Chairs (number of your largest group is a good indicator of amount)
4. Dance boards for warm up are appreciated by dancers
5. Supplies: Clipboards for marshals, marshalling sheets, water with cups, etc.

### **Other**

1. Access to rest rooms in the immediate area. If not, you will need port-a-potties
2. Swords (if you have competitors for the Sword)
3. Table and chair for piper(s)
4. Seating for the audience - The audience should be a minimum of ten feet behind the judge's table
5. Shade tents for everyone including audience (if outside)

## Registering Competitors

1. All competitors should have **CURRENT** registration cards. Make sure the sticker reads the current year. If they have forgotten their card, see Section 1, "Registration Cards / No Cards", page 7 for what to do with dancers who don't have a card.
  - Primary (Green)
  - Beginner (Blue)
  - Novice (Yellow)
  - Intermediate (Pink)
  - Premier (White)
2. Bring a binder/folder with a copy of all received entry forms in case someone shows up that you do not have on your list. That way you can check your files and know if they paid and you just missed them or if they need to pay you!
  - It is also helpful to write the check number on each entry form as it's received or to make a copy of all checks and keep them in the binder as well so that you have them on hand in case of an issue or question.
  - Some competitions are starting to get into online registration via PayPal. If you want to do online registration, be sure to print out their registration so you have it easily on-hand that day.
3. If you have not already done so, provide the dancers with their competitor number and a list of the dancers entered in the competition (list can be available for purchase if you choose, just be sure it is available). If you have a large number of competitors, you may want to organize the competitor numbers by category and age group.
4. Once all dancers are registered, go through the list to determine who is in attendance and who is not. Those dancers not in attendance should be marked off all Marshaling lists. (This will avoid delays looking for dancers in the marshaling area who aren't at the competition.)

## Starting the competition

1. **Announcing**
  - Begin with housekeeping information (No food in theatre, washroom locations etc.)
  - Welcome dancers and parents
  - Read out Dancer Safety Announcement – use template available in "Competition Organizers" folder
  - Introduce Judge(s) and Piper(s)
  - Announce order of dances
  - Make first call for the first dance – (Use platform names/numbers if more than one). After a few moments make final call for group(s).
  - Depending on size of group – make first call for next group with a minimum of four sets left to dance
  - The announcer needs to do the final call for dancers to come to the marshaling area one or two sets before their group is up to compete
  - When announcing, the category, age group and dance to be performed needs to be clearly stated. This way, if some dancers are not performing that specific dance, they do not need to report to the marshaling area.
  - **DANCER SAFETY**

FUSTA maintains that the protection of all dancers is paramount! In support of that position, FUSTA recommends that all Competition Organizers read out the following statement to the audience at the beginning of the morning and afternoon sessions of their competitive event.

Attention Dancers, Parents and Teachers:

The (Insert your event name) along with FUSTA (Insert your FUSTA Region) would like to make the following reminders for the protection of all dancers.

- We ask all dancers to use the assigned changing areas for costume changes. Please do not change costumes in a public area. We will allow enough time between dances for costume changes.
- Also, a reminder for parents, only females are allowed in the Girls changing area and only males are allowed in the Boys changing area.
- If you are taking pictures or videos of your dancer, please be sure that you are only photographing or videoing your dancer and not anyone else!

We take the safety and security of all dancers very seriously and we hope that you will help us insure this goal.

## 2. Marshaling

Marshals have a very important job. The marshals need to make sure the dancers are all accounted for before the group begins dancing. Also, the marshal needs to ensure the dancers are in the correct order entering the stage. The dancer with the lowest number will go first if entering the stage from the judge's right hand side, or last if entering from the left hand side, so their numbers are in ascending order from the judge's left to right when facing the judge. When the set of competitors on stage is dancing, the marshal makes sure the next set of competitors is ready to enter the stage. The marshals also need to make sure the only people in the marshaling area are the competitors who have been called there. Unless there are extenuating circumstances (i.e. severe weather) prohibiting dancers from leaving the marshaling area, the only people in the marshaling area should be the dancers called for the next sets and the marshal. No parents, teachers and dancers who have not been called to the marshaling area should be there. Additionally, when selecting Dance Marshals, FUSTA recommends that people over 16 years of age be asked. Marshaling is an important task to take on and situations may arise that a younger person may not be able to easily manage.

- Number of dancers on the platform for a Fling is 3 or 4. Three for all other dances except Reels (4).
- Ask the Judge for his or her preference as to how many dancers can be put up.
- The marshal needs to be aware of the total number in the group to make sure no dancer dances alone at the end of the group (3 & 2) or (2 & 2).
- Be sure to show "last set" sign to the Judge so he or she is aware that the final set is about to dance.
- Reels: This is more difficult to marshal. You may be required to ask for volunteers and/or the first dancers to stay and dance with the last one or two sets. These dancers must remove their numbers from their kilts so the Judge is aware who are the fill-ins. The fill-ins are always put in the set as if they make up the last one or two dancers and never the first or second dancer of the set.
- Dancers may be required to dance in levels other than their own at small competitions. All dancers must compete in their own level before filling in on another level.

- The largest reel age group may be required to dance first in order to allow for fill-ins for the other smaller age groups.
3. **Runners:** The runner is used to run the judge's score sheets from the judge to the scrutineering area. The runner is not to look at the sheets, nor communicate with anyone other than the judge, scrutineer or the Organizer. In most cases, the runner is sitting a little away from the judge, but not usually in the audience, ready to take the sheets as an age group finishes. Judges will only pass their sheets when an age group has been completed.
4. **Scrutineering:**
- The number of places awarded per age group should be decided ahead of time (and communicated to the judge) so all parties (judges, scrutineers, and awards people) know how many places to go to when compiling scores and awarding prizes.
  - At a competition it is recommended to have at least two experienced scrutineers. Make sure that they understand the difference between a judge's dancer mark (score between 0 and 100) and dance points (137, 91, 71, 53, 37, 23). Judge's marks are only used by the scrutineers as a means to rank the top six dancers in the group. Please refer to the FUSTA Scrutineering Manual for clarification on any scrutineering questions.
  - Part of the job duty of a scrutineer is to protect the privacy of the information and activities in the scrutineering room. Under NO circumstances should information from the judges' scoring sheets be shared with people outside of the scrutineering room!
  - All scrutineering sheets should be kept by the Competition Organizer for at least one year after the competition has completed.

## AWARDS

### 1. Presenting awards:

- The Pre-Premier groups are the most difficult as you are required to stamp Beginner, Novice and Intermediate cards for the first, second or third place winners.
- Have all dancers who placed called up on stage – preferably placed in numerical order
- Have one runner stand behind the dancers who will take the dance cards from **Beginner dancers** who placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in the **Fling, Sword, Triubhas, Reel, or Special or Trophy Fling only**. Cards should be taken from **Novice dancers** and **Intermediate dancers** who placed 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in **ANY** dance so they may be stamped. This runner will take the cards to the stamper. The dancers must be reminded to pick up the cards before leaving the platform area.
- Other smaller competitions take the cards as dancers register in the Pre-Premier levels. The cards are stamped prior to awards being handed out. All dancers pick up their cards immediately following the group's awards.
- For easy flow of awards, it is best to have the medals laid out in sets PRIOR to the start of awards, or better yet, the start of the competition.

- Rather than have the award person walk to each dancer, the person handing out the award should stand to the left or the right of the group. Each winner when called walks to the award person, receives their medal then walks behind the group, back to his/her place to await the next dance.

## 2. Announcing :

- An announcer's sheet is helpful to show the dancers' number, name, and hometown (in many cases), in order of their placing.
- The results for all events in a single age group are announced before moving to the next age group.
- Dances are generally announced in the order performed.
- The overall trophy for the age group can be announced at the end of the age group's individual dance results or after all of the dance results have been given.  
**Remember** – The Primary group **does not** receive trophies.

## 3. Stamping cards

### a. Twelve-month rule explanation (SOBHD AGM 2015):

- A dancer changes from Beginner to Novice after placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Fling, Sword, Triubhas, Reel or Trophy Fling in six different competitions, or after TWELVE months from the date of his or her first win, whichever is longer.
- A Novice dancer moves to Intermediate after placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in any dance in six different competitions or after TWELVE months from the date of his or her first win, whichever is longer.
- An Intermediate dancer moves to Premier after placing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in any dance in six different competitions or after TWELVE months from the date of his or her first win, whichever is longer.

### b. What to do if dancer receives a sixth stamp:

- The stamper should provide the dancer with a temporary form to hold for up to 14 days. The temporary card allows the dancers to continue competing while a new card is being applied for.
- See Section 1 "Temporary Cards", page 7.

### c. What to do when a dancer receives the first stamp: A dancer receiving a stamp for the first time must have the date of the competition added to the card. This is the responsibility of the Competition Organizer. This date indicates the start of the twelve months in that particular category.

### d. Multi-day competition "event" (Fri, Sat, Sun, etc.) explanation: For multi-day "events", dancers only receive one stamp regardless of how many days they win. To be considered a single "event", no dances can be repeated over the course of the event.

### e. No Card – No Award - Section 1, "Registration Cards / No Card", page 7.

## Temporary Cards

See Section 1, "Temporary Cards", page 7.

## **AFTER THE COMPETITION**

1. Balance finances to track where money was lost/made
2. Distribute results to necessary individuals/websites
3. Pay judges/pipers and other expenses
4. Write down thoughts/suggestions for improvements for following year

### **Other thoughts / suggestions**

1. Organize your competition as if everyone attending was a new dancer/family who had never been to a competition before.
2. Signage is always helpful – mark what and where everything is located to ease confusion.
3. It's hard for attendees to know who are the “go-to” people in case of help, questions or an emergency – Badges or staff or volunteer shirts are helpful!
4. Go with the flow – things will change, problems will arise.
5. Have a first aid kit or athletic trainer or at least ice on hand for the day – there is always some type of injury...even if very minor!

### **Forms / Templates / Documented Needed**

All of the following are found at the FUSTA website – <http://fusta.us>. Be sure to visit the website for the most up-to-date forms.

1. Lists
  - a. SOBHD Judges
  - b. Pipers
  - c. Certified Scrutineers
2. Judge/Piper Contract
3. Entry Form
4. Temporary card form for dancers moving up
5. Form to return if dancer competes without card along with who to send the form to
6. Scrutineering manual

Additional forms are available from the National Competition Organizer Chair. These include:

1. Competition and Championship event evaluation form – from the SOBHD website
2. Dancer Protection Announcement
3. Judge's Sheet Template
4. Tally Sheet Template

### **Contact Info**

#### **1. National contact info;**

National Competition Organizer Chair/FUSTA Vice President  
Fred DeMarse, [FredDemarse@chevron.com](mailto:FredDemarse@chevron.com)

National Registrar, Diane Krugh, [LadyDi5711@aol.com](mailto:LadyDi5711@aol.com)

#### **2. Regional Registrars' contact information**

East – Catherine Fisher – [cdfpdb@comcast.net](mailto:cdfpdb@comcast.net)

Midwest – Cindy Kopenski – [clkopens@gmail.com](mailto:clkopens@gmail.com)

Northwest – Kiki Bentzen – [kikibentzen@comcast.net](mailto:kikibentzen@comcast.net)

Southeast – Bridget Boswell – [SEFUSTA@live.com](mailto:SEFUSTA@live.com)

Southwest – Heather Cronkhite – [hcronkhite@comcast.net](mailto:hcronkhite@comcast.net)

West – Betsy Watson – [fustawest.reg@gmail.com](mailto:fustawest.reg@gmail.com)

### 3. Regional Competition Liaisons' contact information

East – Lynne Bustos- [lbustos@ptd.net](mailto:lbustos@ptd.net)

Midwest – Alison Plemmons – [Aplemmons@comcast.net](mailto:Aplemmons@comcast.net)

Northwest – Heather Donehoo – [h.donehoo@comcast.net](mailto:h.donehoo@comcast.net)

Southeast – Pat Johnston – [patriciatj@aol.com](mailto:patriciatj@aol.com)

Southwest – Libby Lee Dyer – [scot2dance@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scot2dance@sbcglobal.net)

West – Jessica Bach- [bach.jess@gmail.com](mailto:bach.jess@gmail.com)

## **SECTION 3 - TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF RUNNING A CHAMPIONSHIP**

An Organizer **may** opt to apply to organize a championship event after successfully holding a non-championship competition for three years. The SOBHD annually grants permission to Organizers to run a championship event, so it is up to them whether or not a championship application is awarded to the Organizer. The Board insures that championships are properly carried out and insures that championship titles are not duplicated.

Championship Organizers must annually complete an application to run a championship event and send it to the SOBHD in time for their September meeting prior to the scheduled event. The Board meeting is always the third Sunday of the month, but it may take more than a few days for the application to reach the Board office, so please allow time for that. The application must contain the proposed name of the championship, age groups, venue, and Organizer information. No championship applications for the upcoming year are accepted after the November SOBHD meeting. All applications must be sent in with their appropriate registration fee.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Competitors must be at least seven years old to compete in a championship.
- Each dancer must dance the steps in the sequence set by the Board for that year.
- A championship must include all four Highland Dances:
  1. Highland Fling
  2. Sword Dance - the dance must be performed over a set of right- and left-handed raised hilted swords.
  3. Seann Triubhas
  4. Reel - Strathspey and Reel of Tulloch or Strathspey and Highland Reel or Reel of Tulloch (Hullachan) or Strathspey, Highland Reel and Reel of Tulloch
- A competitor is restricted to a maximum of eight solo dances on any one day.



- No competition in Highland Dancing may be entitled “Championship” without the sanction of the Board.
- A championship must be held under the rules of the SOBHD and must be advertised as “Recognized by the SOBHD.”
- Age groups must state the age of the youngest competitor eligible to compete in the class (7 & under 10, 10 & under 12). This does not include the oldest age group.
- Championships must have at least 6 dancers in the age group to go ahead. If a dancer withdraws during the event (once the age group has started to dance) due to illness or injury, leaving fewer than six dancers in the age group, it does not affect the championship status.
- If there are fewer than six dancers in an age group, the Organizer may amalgamate age groups to meet the minimum number of dancers required for a championship. Amalgamation may not include dancers under age 16 with dancers in 16 and over age groups.
- Organizers must hold judges/scrutineering sheets for one year from the date of the Championship. Judges/scrutineering sheets may be called in at random for checking.
- Championships may be held on the same day provided they are at least 750 miles apart.
- Closed championships may be held on the same day and at the same venue as an open championship or at a different venue on the same day as an open championship provided the venues are at least 750 miles apart. A closed championship may be held on the same day as another closed championship regardless of distance provided that one closed championship does not include the boundaries of the other.

## **TITLES OF CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Titles of championships are limited to the following five classes:

### **World**

**National** - including the entire country

**Area** - covering a large geographic area in the country

**County** - covering a geographical county, district or region

All Championship titles must be approved by the SOBHD.

## **OPEN AND CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Open** - all competitors may compete.

**Closed** - competitors must qualify by birth or by being a resident for six months prior to the event in the county or area covered by the championship.

**National or Area** - may be open or closed at the discretion of the Organizer.

**County** - may be open or closed at the discretion of the Board, but only one type will be sanctioned during any one calendar year for a particular county.

## **CERTIFICATES**

The winner of a championship receives a certificate issued by the SOBHD.

The Organizer has the responsibility to:

1. Provide championship reports to the Board containing the names of the winners within seven days of the event.
2. Forward the completed certificates to the respective winners after receiving them from the Board.

## **JUDGES FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

A judge for a championship must be selected from the SOBHD Worldwide Judges Panel. Special designation on the list of judges indicates those judges who are qualified to judge at the championship level.

In a championship there must be at least three judges who mark independently. They should be seated to allow an uninterrupted view of the dancers. They do not communicate with each other while judging. If for an unforeseen reason, a judge is unable to officiate and it is impossible to fill his/her place with an eligible judge, the remaining judges may judge the championship. This should be announced to the competitors and an explanation sent to the SOBHD.

During a competition, no person should be allowed to contact the judges except the scrutineers or the person authorized to pick up the judges marks for the scrutineers.

For championships, the judges write their marks on a sheet supplied by the Organizer. These sheets are in duplicate – the top copy is handed to the scrutineer and the second copy is held by the judge. No other notes should be kept.

An SOBHD judge may not adjudicate the same championship more than three years in succession.

## **DANCER OF THE DAY AWARD IN A CHAMPIONSHIP**

If a Dancer of the Day trophy (based on points) is to be awarded at a championship, there must be at least six competitors who have competed in each age group in order for the aggregate points earned from those dances to qualify in calculating the overall winner. If there are fewer than six competitors in an age group for an individual dance, then the points gained in that dance for that particular age group are not included in the total aggregate points calculated toward the Dancer of the Day Trophy for those dancers. If it has been decided in advance to hold a “dance-off” for an overall award, then all eligible competitors may compete regardless of the number of competitors within the individual group. (For example, all Premier age group trophy winners are eligible for a “dance off” to determine the overall Dancer of the Day. Even if there were only 5 competitors in an age group, that age group trophy winner may still compete in the “dance off”). All rules pertaining to an “overall” trophy or award must be advertised on the entry form or program.

Other issues related to a “Dancer of the Day” Dance-Off:

- This dance does not count as one of the 8 maximum dances a dancer may compete in one day.
- Either one or three judges must judge a Dance-Off event. If three judges judge the event, the results should be posted.

## **SCRUTINEERING AT CHAMPIONSHIPS**

In a championship, it is highly recommended by FUSTA to have at least three or four scrutineers who can check one another's results. In some cases, you may have two sets of people using separate computers. Make sure that they understand the difference between a judge's dancer mark (score between 0 and 100) and dance points (137, 91, 71, 53, 37, 23). Judge's marks are only used by the scrutineers as a means to rank the top six dancers in the group.

Please refer to the FUSTA Scrutineering Manual for clarification on any scrutineering questions.

## **POSTING OF CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS**

In a championship, the first six placings of each judge must be posted for display after the results are announced. These results are the computer-generated judges' placing sheets – NOT the original judges' scoring sheets! The judges' placing sheets MUST be posted at the competition venue even if copies of the placings are printed and sold.

## **PREMIERSHIPS**

Premierships are a relatively new style of competitive event in the US that includes only National Dances, but still follows a championship-style format by having 3 judges and set steps defined for each dance. Premierships may include four National Dances in their format. Several larger US competitions who host championships have also hosted Premierships as part of their competition event.

Preliminary guidelines have already been defined and used for organizing this type of competition in North America. Scotland is test piloting Premiership events in the 2014-2015 competitive season, after which we hope that definitive guidelines for applying for and running of such events will be finalized.

## **CURRENT FUSTA RULES GOVERNING SCOTTISH NATIONAL DANCE PREMIERSHIPS (from 2014)**

### **1. Application, Approval and Renewal of Premierships**

- a. FUSTA is the national governing body of the 'Scottish National Dance Premierships' or 'Premierships' as they are commonly referred to in the US. Premierships must follow the rules set out for such events by FUSTA. Furthermore, Premierships are governed by the current SOBHD Constitution and Rules.
- b. Organizers wishing to host a Premiership event must apply to FUSTA for an event in the following calendar year. Application due date will be set by the National Competition Organizer. An organizer may apply to hold a Premiership after successfully running a regular competition for 3 years preceding the Premiership.
- c. Each application must be accompanied by the full registration fee which is set forth each year by FUSTA. Applications not accompanied by the full fee will not be accepted.
- d. Organizers will be able to suggest 3 possible titles for their Premiership event, one of which will be selected by FUSTA. That title will be granted only to the requesting organization until that organization, as indicated in writing, wishes to discontinue renewal of their Premiership. Premiership titles may only be utilized once in any calendar year.
- e. Titles of Premiership are limited to the following 4 classes:
  - i. National – Covering a whole country
  - ii. Area – Covering a large geographical area of the country such as North, South, East, West , in which case the boundary of the proposed area Premiership must be clearly defined by the organizers and receive the approval of FUSTA.

- iii. Regional – Covering one geographical region as defined by FUSTA.
  - iv. Additional Titles – Selected as appropriate, e.g. Motor City Open Premiership
- f. Premierships may be categorized as Open or Closed where, similar to SOBHD sanctioned Championships, Open Premierships occurring on the same day must be separated by 750 miles and the boundaries of Closed Premierships occurring on the same day must include the same area or competitors.
  - g. Results including the top 6 winners of each group must be sent to FUSTA within 10 days of the event. Judges marking sheets and results should also be retained for the period of 1 year. Judges sheets may be called in at random by FUSTA.
  - h. Certificates for the aggregate winners in each age group are not required to be sent out.
  - i. No competition in the United States may advertise the title of 'Premiership' without the sanction of FUSTA.

## **2. Premiership Event Details**

- a. Premierships must be advertised as 'Recognized by FUSTA'. Organizers must display their registration number on the entry form.
- b. Premierships are open to Premier dancers aged 7 and up only. Organizations not adhering to the rule risk FUSTA not renewing their event as a Premiership.
- c. Similar to SOBHD Championships, FUSTA's Scottish National Dance Premiership steps will be selected for two categories: Junior (7 Years – Under 16 Years) and Senior (16 Years & Over).
- d. Premiership classes can be divided after the event's registration closing date at the discretion of the organizer and the Technical Advisor listed on the organizer's Premiership application. Six (6) dancers constitute a class. Classes combining Junior (7 Years & Under 16 Years) and Senior (16 Years & Over) dancers is not permitted. Withdrawal of entrant(s) due to injury or illness incurred during the event does not nullify the Premiership.
- e. Each dance in a Premiership is scrutineered to 6 places and prizes are awarded to 6<sup>th</sup> place. The prizes awarded to the overall winner and runner-ups are at the discretion of the organizer. Similar to a Championship, the judges' placing sheets must be posted for display after the results are announced.
- f. Four (4) dances will be included in Premierships. These four dances, as well as their steps, will be decided upon each calendar year by the FUSTA Advisory Committee. Dances may include the Irish Jig, Sailor's Hornpipe and any of the following Scottish National Dances: Flora MacDonald's Fancy, Scottish Lilt, Blue Bonnets Over the Border, Village Maid, Scotch Measure, Earl of Errol, Wilt Thou Go to the Barracks Johnnie and Heilan' Laddie. The number of steps will be determined by the Advisory Committee but 4 or 5 steps (where appropriate) is encouraged.

- g. Dancers participating in a Premiership must dance the dances and steps as set by FUSTA's Advisory Committee for that calendar year. Dancing a non-Premiership step in a Premiership will lead to disqualification.
- h. Three (3) judges must simultaneously judge a Premiership. If for any unforeseen reason one of the 3 appointed judges is unable to adjudicate and it is found impossible to fill his/her place with another eligible judge, the two (2) remaining judges shall judge. The circumstances shall be announced to the competitors prior to the competition and an explanation must be sent to FUSTA.
- i. The use of live pipers or musicians is strongly recommended for Premierships.
- j. Duplicate judges' mark sheets must be used and will be provided by FUSTA at no cost to the organizer.

If you are interested in hosting a Premiership, it needs to be registered with FUSTA on an annual basis, similar to a Championship. Please contact the FUSTA Vice President if you are interested in hosting a Premiership at your competition event.