

## Grade Exams

**October 20, 2023**

### McBride School of Irish Dance & East Bay Feis

#### Grade examiner: Michael Smith, Jimmy Early and Christina Ryan

The McBride School of Irish Dance will be hosting grade examinations in conjunction with the East Bay Feis. The grade exams will be held Friday October 20th, during the late afternoon and evening. Please note this is the day before The East Bay Feis (which will be held on October 21 & 22, 2023). The exams will be held at the Doherty Station Community Center, Front Row Theater, and Ridgeview Rooms in San Ramon, CA.

We are offering Grades 1-10. Grades 7-10 will be examined by a CLRG selected Grade Examiner.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Dancers must provide evidence of having completed previous grade exams, where applicable.

**Permission:** Applicants must be part of a CLRG registered school and have consulted their respective TCRG for information and permission before applying for the Grade exams.

**Grades:** Exams will run from 1 through 10. You can attempt no more than three grades at a time

**Dances:** Please see the grid below for the required dances.

Grade	Dances
1.	Basic Reel and Light Jig
2.	Basic Slip Jig and Single Jig
3.	Primary Reel and Basic Heavy Jig
4.	Primary Slip Jig and St Patrick's Day
5.	Advanced Reel, Basic Hornpipe and the Walls of Limerick
6.	Advanced Slip Jig, The Blackbird and the Siege of Ennis
7.	Advanced Heavy Jig, Garden of Daisies and the Four Hand Reel
8.	Advanced Hornpipe, Job of Journeywork and Humours of Bandon
9.	Two Modern Set dances, one in 6/8 time and the other in 2/4 or 4/4 time and High Cauled Cap
10.	Two modern Set dances, one in 6/8 time and the other in 2/4 or 4/4 time and the Eight Hand Jig

**LENGTH:** Please note dances are 40 bars, which equates to 2.5 steps

**EXAMINER:** Michael Smith, Christina Ryan & James Early

**SCHEDULE:** Grade exams will be offered the day before the Feis on Friday October, 20th. We will begin exams at 1:00pm.

**REGISTRATION:** Register at [www.feisinfo.com](http://www.feisinfo.com)

**FEES:** Please see the grid below with fees listed for each grade. Grade exam fees are not part of the Feis family max. Nor are they subject to any discount for multiple children from the same family

**Exam Fee Schedule**

Grades 1, 2, 3            \$30 each, \$90 for all 3

Grades 4, 5, 6            \$35 each, \$105 for all 3

Grades 7,8,9, 10        \$50 each

**ATTIRE:** Do not wear Feis costumes. Candidates should wear a top and skirt or shorts or long pants, suitable for dance.

**AGE:** There is no maximum age limit on the grade exams. Adults may participate.

**Contact:** [McBrideDancers@gmail.com](mailto:McBrideDancers@gmail.com); [eastbayFeis@gmail.com](mailto:eastbayFeis@gmail.com); or [tcrgeileen@gmail.com](mailto:tcrgeileen@gmail.com)

### **Rules/Regulations for Grade Examinations Effective from January 1st 2018:**

All 12 Grade Examinations must be completed for a candidate to be eligible to apply to take the TCRG examination.

All examiners must be aware of and adhere to the procedures, rules, etc. to ensure that examinations are conducted in the same manner worldwide.

1. Examiners of choice may be used for Grades 1-6, a minimum of 2 different examiners to be used through these grades.
2. The same Grade Examiner may not examine in the same class for a period of 3 years. \*This also applies where a regional authority or group of classes hold the examinations.
3. Rotation lists are in operation by an tUdarás Scrúdaithe for Grades 7-10. (IRL) (U.K.) (IRL+UK =EU) (USA) (AUS) Five names are given from the rotation list. The Udarás Scrúdaithe must be notified as soon as possible of the name of the chosen examiner to ensure continuity of the rota.
4. Grade exams must be examined by at least 4 examiners up to and including grade 10 plus two different SDCRG examiners for grades 11 and 12.
5. Grades 11 and 12 are conducted by SDCRG examiners. Special application forms must be submitted for these exams. Candidates must be at least 16 years or older to take Grade 11. Candidates must be at least 17 years or older to take Grade 12.
6. A different SDCRG must examine each of Grades 11 and 12. These examiners must not have examined any of the candidate's grades from 7-10.
7. The results of Grades 11 & 12 are not given to the candidates until they have been ratified by the Udarás Scrúdaithe.
8. The candidates will receive Diplomas signed by both the examiner and Chairperson of An tUdaras Scrúdaithe for Grades 11 & 12. The Chairperson of An Coimisiún will also sign the Grade 12 Diploma.
9. Each Grade must be passed before a candidate may attempt the next grade.
10. All candidates must produce previous reports before proceeding to higher grades. Please bring to the exam.
11. Grade examiners must ensure that all grades have been taken before examining the next grade. Please ensure that all grades are in order, as at a later stage the exams taken may not stand.
12. A candidate must take all grades in order, beginning with Grade 1 - the Preliminary grade is optional.
13. A candidate must apply through a registered school.
14. A candidate may only attempt a maximum of 3 consecutive Grades at any one sitting.
15. A three month period must elapse before the next grade is attempted.

16. A candidate would be permitted to retake any grade for a better score upon submission of a specific written request to the Udarás Scrúdaithe, with the understanding that the second result would replace the earlier one and that the dancer would be required to pay the usual fee for the grade being taken.
17. A certificate is awarded for each grade. Grade examinations are unlike competitions in that each candidate performs the dances individually and receives a detailed written assessment.
18. A grade should be awarded for each solo dance performed and averaged to achieve the overall grade. Ceilí Dances should not be included in the average grade. Comments should be noted on the theoretical knowledge.
19. Candidates must be able to adequately demonstrate practical and theoretical knowledge of all ceili dances as per "Ár Rincí Foirne" as specified in the syllabus for Grades 5 -12 inclusive. The candidates must not be asked to teach these dances.
20. 40 bars of music must be danced for all Reels, Single or Hop Jigs, Light Jigs, Slip Jigs, Heavy Jigs and Hornpipes.
21. Dance costumes should not be worn.
22. Only Basic Steps may be danced in the Preliminary grade and Grades 1, 2 & 3.
23. St. Patrick's Day, Blackbird, Garden of Daisies, Job of Journeywork, King of the Fairies, Three Sea Captains, and Jockey to the Fair must be performed in a traditional style and manner.
24. The same set dance must not be performed in more than one of the grades from 9 to 12 inclusive.
25. An Comhdháil Grades are accepted by An Coimisiún, proof of having taken examinations e.g. certificates or marking sheets must be submitted beforehand, and produced at the examination.