

Beaumont School of Highland Dance

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Q&A New-to-Highland Parents

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Topics

- Competition Days
- What Judges Look For
- Types of Competition
- Changing Status
- Competitive Levels and Progression System
- Memberships
- Costumes & Dances



Competition Days

Special Note for Outdoor Competitions—Lines can be long to get through the gate & parking can be far away. Plan ahead & give yourself lots of time.

Arriving

With your ScotDance card, pick up your dancer's competition number at the registration table. You can usually buy a program at the same table or nearby. It is a good idea to purchase one so you can keep track of the day's events.

Announcements

Listen carefully to the announcements. Dancers who miss their calls may not be allowed to dance out of turn. Be sure to be at your platform on time.

The Program

Once you have a program, find your dancer's name and group. Most programs list the youngest dancers first, then move through the ages and categories. Generally the categories (Primary, Beginner, Novice, Intermediate and Premier) are broken into age groups. For example: Beginner 8 & under 10 years. This group will list all the Beginner dancers who are 8 and 9 years old. If you are in this group, these are your competitors.

The program will look something like this:

Beginner 8 & under 10 years

114 Faye Kinnitt	143 Candi Barr	200 Sarah Tonin
135 Dinah Sore	188 Your Dancer	205 Tamara Knight
141 Colleen Cardd	189 Ryan Koake	

If you can't find your child's name in the program go to the Competition Secretary's table and ask for help. They will correct the problem if there is one.

Once you've found your child's name in the program, go to the Schedule of Events and see where your child's group will dance. The group may stay on the same platform or may change platforms for each dance.

When you hear the announcer say, "First call for Beginner 8 & under 10 years Fling" (or whatever dance being done) send your dancer to the line-up Area — these are usually found at the sides of the gym or dancing platforms. Then sit back and enjoy watching your child.

The dancers at the top of the list dance first, generally in groups of 3 or 4, and continue through the list. Organizers try to make it work so no one dances alone. Dancers compete from highest number to lowest number. Show up to your platform line-up area on time. Don't miss your dance!

Awards

Generally results will be announced in the order of the program. If your dancer's number is called they need to bring their ScotDance card up to the stage with them, unless the organizers took it at the registration table. Be sure they pick up the card at the end of results. If your dancer wins a perpetual trophy, you will need to sign for it at the trophy table, have your dancer's name and the year engraved on the next blank plaque and return it to the same competition the following year.

Extra Notes





Memberships

A membership in the Edmonton Highland Dancing Association (EHDA), while not mandatory, is highly recommended. EHDA membership entitles members to:

- Free pipe practices
- Costume exchanges
- Workshops
- Parent seminars
- Closed competitions
- Bursaries
- Provincial Representative sponsorship
- Vote at the monthly meetings
- Supports highland dancing in the Edmonton area.

This membership can be bought through the Association at www.ehda.ca

Dancers **must** have a valid ScotDance card to compete at all Scottish Official Board of Highland Dance (SOBHD) sanctioned competitions. This card is valid anywhere in the world. Dancers must register and pay an annual fee each year with ScotDance Alberta to receive their card. When competitors change status (i.e. Primary to Beginner) a new card must be applied for as quickly as possible. The new card will be issued for the new status at no charge.



Costumes & Dances—Keeping It Straight

Kilt dances:

Pas de Basque, Pas de Basque & High Cuts

Fling, Sword, Seann Truibhas, Reel

Johnny, Laddie

Aboyne or Lilt Dress dances:

Lilt

Flora

Village Maid

Scotch Measure

Blue Bonnets

Earl of Errol

Jig & Hornpipe each have separate costumes for these dances.

What Judges Look For - Key Elements

Judges are trained professionals who have passed a rigorous exam and continuously maintain and update their knowledge and skills.

Each dance is judged separately based only on what the judge sees on the stage for that moment. Meaning that the dances the judge has seen earlier that day have no bearing on the next dance performed by your child; also, how your child danced at any previous competition has no bearing on how they will be judged at this competition.

Timing

- 10% of overall mark
- How well dancer keeps time to music and ability to perform steps in time to the music
- Ability to perform the movements to their specific rhythms

Deportment

- 10% of overall mark
- How well dancer carries themselves and their body throughout the dance

Technique

- 80% of overall mark
- Placement of feet, head and arms in relation to the rest of the dancer's body
- Performing the dance as specified by SOBHD
- Every part of the dancer's body has a specific place to be for every count of music

Note to Parents & Dancers: There are many different steps for each dance so if your child is doing something different than the person beside them it may be that both dancers are correct.

Special note to Dancers: Just do what you are taught to do and don't worry about what your neighbour is doing.

Additional Notes:



Types of Competition

Open Competition

The most common type of competition is the "Open" competition. All dancers holding a current ScotDance card can compete in open competitions.

Closed Competition

Closed competitions are restricted to dancers holding membership in the designated local association. *For example—dancers living in Edmonton region cannot dance in a Calgary Highland Dance Association (CHDA) closed competition.*

Pre-Championship

For Premier level dancers only, this type of competition is open to all Premier dancers who have never won a championship title or a pre-championship title.

Championship

For Premier level dancers only. The four highland dances (Fling, Sword, Seann Truibhas and Reel) are competed with steps set each year by the Scottish Official Board of Highland Dance (SOBHD).

Restricted Premier

For Premier level dancers only. A competition limited to premier level dancers who have not won an overall (aggregate) trophy in a Premier or Restricted Premier class for two years preceding the date of the Restricted Premier event they are entering.



Changing Status

Dancers move from either Primary or Beginners up through Novice, Intermediate, and finally Premier. This is called "changing status."

A new ScotDance card must be applied for with each and every change of status and at the beginning of every calendar year. Fees are only due once per year. There is no charge to change status.

You will need to present your ScotDance card at every competition your child competes in.

Special Note regarding changing status from Novice to Intermediate:

When your novice dancer collects all six stamps and moves from Novice to Intermediate, you must take their completed Novice card to their first Intermediate competition and present it to the Competition Secretary PRIOR to their dancing to receive a Temporary Intermediate card which will be dated and stamped. The dancer will then remain in Intermediate for one calendar year to that date. The Temporary Intermediate card and Novice card are then both sent to the registrar to receive the permanent Intermediate card.

Levels of Competition & Progression System



Dancers are classified by ability or level as follows:

Primary

Dancers 4-6 years. The day the dancer turns 7 years, they must compete as a Beginner dancer.

May compete in: Fling, Sword, Pas de Basque, Pas de Basque & High Cuts

Beginner

Dancers are Beginner status until the competitor either a) gains a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd placing in the Fling, Sword, Sean Truibhas or Reel at six separate competitions OR b) until 6 months following the first Beginner stamp

May compete in:

*Fling, Sword, Seann Truibhas, Reel
Lilt, Flora*

Novice

Dancers are Novice status until the competitor either a) gains a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd placing in the Fling, Sword, Sean Truibhas, Reel, Lilt or Flora at six separate competitions OR b) until 6 months following the first Novice stamp whichever (a or b) occurs later.

May compete in:

Fling, Sword, Seann Truibhas, Reel, Lilt, Flora

Intermediate

Intermediate status is held for one year from the date of the competitor's first Intermediate competition after which the competitor becomes a Premier dancer.

May compete in:

Fling, Sword, Seann Truibhas, Reel, Lilt, Flora, Johnny, Laddie, Jig, Hornpipe

Premier

Premier status is maintained hereafter. The dancer may now choose to enter into Pre-Championship, Championship and/or regular Premier competition.

May compete in:

*Fling, Sword, Seann Truibhas, Reel, Lilt, Flora, Johnny, Laddie, Jig,
Hornpipe, Village Maid, Scotch Measure, Blue Bonnets, Earl of Errol*