



Craobh Saorstíle Micháel Flatley

The Michael Flatley Freestyle Championship

Rules and Directives, Competition 71 / Riallacha agus treoracha, comortás 71

1. These Rules and Directives must be read in conjunction with the General Rules and other relevant sections of the official syllabus.
2. Introduced in 2023, this category, sponsored by Michael Flatley, provides a way for dancers to stimulate creativity and expression in Irish dance, without restrictions to arm or head movements.
3. This is a solo competition, open to dancers who participated at their 2023 regional oireachtas (in solo or team events) born in 2006 or earlier.
4. Dancers may choose soft shoe or hard shoe, and must perform a 90-second routine, in a manner suitable for a general audience, on a stage no larger than 28' x 28'.
5. The core style of the routine must be Irish dance. Participants are challenged to explore the blending of traditional Irish dancing with progressive upper body and head movements, to create a unique interpretation of Irish dancing in a manner which broadens our art form. Articulation and execution of footwork, timing, and rhythm are of the utmost importance, and the performance should portray a character/theme through dance and mime.
6. Routines performed live at the World Championships (for those who are selected) must replicate the routine submitted in the video, unless changes have been recommended and/or approved by the Lord of the Dance team.
7. The music chosen should reflect the character/theme of the performance, and be specifically Irish i.e., Reels, Light Jigs, Slip Jigs, Single Jigs, Double Jigs, Hornpipes, Irish marches, Irish slow airs, or set dance music. A cappella segments are also acceptable. A tune outside of this range which enhances or depicts the character/theme may be incorporated for a maximum of 16 bars for the live performance at the World Championships, with prior approval from the Lord of the Dance team.
8. All music must comply with the ownership, source, licensing and submission requirements as outlined on page 8 of the official syllabus.
9. Costuming must be suitable for a general audience, with modesty in mind. The costume used for the live performance at the World Championships may be enhanced from what is worn in the video submission, with prior approval from the Lord of the Dance team. Changes to costuming must not be substantially dissimilar to that used in the video.
10. Small/basic props may be utilized, provided they enhance the performance. Props must be portable and of a kind that can be placed and removed easily and quickly. The use of "smoke", "straw", "confetti", "liquid" etc. will not be permitted. This rule will be strictly enforced.
11. Interested participants are required to record a video of their performance (filmed in landscape mode) and upload it to YouTube (ensure the upload is marked as **unlisted**), then e-mail the link, along with name, age, dance school and region, to freestylecomp@lordofthedance.com no later than **Tuesday, 30th January 2024 at 5pm (Irish Time)**. There is no fee for this level of the competition. Videos not meeting these guidelines will not be accepted for consideration.
12. An independent review board will assess the videos, and select the top performances. Those participants will be invited to perform live at the World Championships, for which a registration fee applies.

13. Every effort will be made to decide and notify successful applications as soon as possible, so that travel and accommodation plans can be finalized. The committee is aiming for mid to late February to notify the finalists. The date for the live competition is **Sunday, 31st March 2024**.
14. Videos will be adjudicated under the following headings:
 - a. Musicality (20 marks)
 - b. Creativity (20 marks)
 - c. Dance Performance and Style (30 marks)
 - d. Articulation and Execution (30 marks)
15. There will be one competition with two perpetual awards; one each for the top male and the top female dancer. The competition will be adjudicated by one of the 2024 Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne adjudication panels.
16. A commemorative token will be presented to all finalists appearing on stage for this event.
17. Visit the official World Championships website for further information: www.clrgoireachtas.com

