



December 20, 2017

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the North American Open Irish Dance Championships Committee, please find the attached syllabus (PDF) and entry form (Excel) for our upcoming Championships to be held on February 17, 18, & 29, 2018. You will also find an apparel order form (Excel) to place your apparel order on.

Please ensure that you adhere to the following guidelines when submitting your entries. Entries will only be accepted if submitted by a teacher, one per class. Individual entries will not be accepted. The exception to this is Open Platform dancers. Incomplete information, or entries submitted that do not follow the directions outlined below, will be returned. NO LATE ENTRIES will be accepted.

In advance, we thank you for your cooperation and attention to detail in completing and returning your entries for the 2018 NAO Championships.

***Please adhere to the following guidelines when submitting your entries:***

1. All entries must be on the excel template provided – no other form of entry will be accepted. Entries will be returned if not completed correctly.
  - a. Please ensure that you follow the column headlines.
    - i. Last Name
    - ii. Lanyard Number
    - iii. First and Last Name
    - iv. School (Class)
    - v. DOB (Month, Day, Year)
    - vi. Age as of 9/1/17
2. DO NOT change any formatting/colors/etc. in the document.
3. DO NOT use all capitol letters.
4. All entries must be emailed on or before the closing date of Friday, January 12, 2018.
5. When sending your entries, please save the file by adding your class name to the beginning of the file. (ex. McGinley NAO 2018 Entry Form)
6. After the stage sheets have been completed, the template that you have completed will be returned to you with the competitors' numbers in the relevant competition shown in the file.
7. Please ensure dancers have met the qualifying criteria for championships, as set out in

rule 11(p) of the general rules, at the time of entry. All championship entries will be verified before dancers are permitted to compete.

8. Teachers are requested to ensure that all teams are eligible to dance **before** entering and allowing them to compete. If any teams are found to be ineligible they will be disqualified.
9. Teachers must declare, at the time of entry, if a ceili team is a mixed team. This only applies to the following competitions, section 6010 – 8020 on the syllabus.

For your information, please also find the schedule of events, i.e. timetable, from our 2017 event. Please note that this timetable may need to change to ensure that the three days are balanced. Once all of the entries are received, a timetable for 2018 will be issued as soon as possible.

If you have any questions about entries, please contact Lena McGinley at [lena@mcginleyirishdancers.com](mailto:lena@mcginleyirishdancers.com).

Lastly, please be reminded of the **facility fee** for the NAO Championships in Baltimore, Maryland.

A \$100 daily facility fee will be charged to all competition attendees that do not book within the contracted block. Reservations at the Radisson Hotel Baltimore Downtown-Inner Harbor individually, directly, or through a travel agent will not meet this requirement.

If you book at any other hotel, outside of the block through an online booking channel etc., you will not be considered a part of the Irish dancing block and will be charged the facility fee.

Therefore, please note that in order to avoid the facility fee penalty, you must book within the contracted CRN North American Open Irish Dance Championships guest room block.

Those excluded from the facility fee are dance families that reside within a 60-mile radius of the venue.

Again, on behalf of the NAO Committee, I would like to thank you for your cooperation and support of this prestigious event.

Sincerely,

*Lena McGinley*  
NAO Committee