

THE NAFC PETER J. SMITH CEILI COMPETITION

Peter J. Smith was, the first American elected President of An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha, the organization established to foster, promote and govern all forms of Irish dance worldwide, and was known to all who knew him as the "father" of Irish dance in North America.

Peter was a role model to countless dancers and musicians and is responsible for teaching and promoting over 50 teachers throughout the country. In 1957, Peter established The Peter Smith School of Irish Dance with the help of his sister Anne and embarked on a lifelong journey of sharing his talents and love of Irish music and dance with his students. During the next 50 plus years, Peter taught and mentored hundreds of students and teachers. His students have excelled in competitions throughout the United States and Canada attaining no fewer than three first places at the World Championships. They have performed at The Garden State Arts Center, The Meadowlands, Caesars Palace in Atlantic City and have appeared on numerous television shows.

Of his many accomplishments, his greatest pride is that his pupils include some of America's most successful teachers and adjudicators of Irish dancing. In addition to teaching, Peter worked to develop Irish dancing throughout North America. He was a founder of the American Association of Irish Dance. Peter also founded the Irish Dancing Teachers Association of North America, an organization that encourages teacher certification and appropriate dance venues as well as the conservation of skills and tradition of dance. Peter promoted Irish dancing throughout the world in any way possible.

The mission of the championships is two-fold: 1) to honor Peter's memory, and 2) to encourage the ceili dancing.

Rules

1. Teams must be entered by a teacher currently registered in good standing with CLRG, IDTANA, and a North American region. Registration fee will be \$20 per dancer.

2. For the purpose of scheduling, team members participating in any other NAFC event being held must indicate competitions when registering.
3. The ceili competitions will be offered in three age groups.

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4. Teams must report to the assigned stage, ready to compete when the scholarship competition is announced. Under no circumstance will the competition be delayed because a team is not present.
5. Live musical accompaniment shall be provided for all teams. Teams may specify the tempo at which they choose to perform.
6. Each team shall consist of not less than four and not more than eight dancers. Dancers may not dance on more than one team.
7. Dances must be chosen from 4-hand, 6-hand and 8-hand dances as listed in *Ár Rincí Céilí*. For the purposes of this competition, The Gates of Derry and Lannigan's Ball will be regarded as 8-hand dances.
8. Teams may be all girl teams or mixed teams. Should a team be mixed, the minimum number of male dancers performing must be as follows: 4 Hand Dance (1 male); 6 Hand Dance (2 males), 8 Hand Dance (2 Males).

(a) Four Hand Reel, Eight Hand Reel, Morris Reel, Cross Reel and Eight Hand Jig: Lead Around, Body and 1st Figure (top couples only).

> (b) St. Patrick's Day, Trip to the Cottage and High Cauced Cap: Lead Around, Body and 1st Figure (1st top couple only).

> (c) The Three Tunes: from the beginning up to and including the Hook and Chain.

> (d) The Sweets of May: from the beginning up to and including the See Saw.

> (e) The Gates of Derry: from the beginning up to and including the Swing Around of the 1st repeat of the dance.

> (f) Glencar Reel, Fairy Reel, Lannigan's Ball: teams will perform the full dance.

> (g) Humours of Bandon: Lead Around, Body, 1st Figure (top couple only), Body.

> (h) Duke Reel: Ring, Body, 1st Figure (all couples)

If during a stage performance, a dancer sustains an injury or falls on stage, the performance shall be suspended, and if the injured person(s) is/are unable to continue, substitute(s) shall be permitted and the group will be allowed to dance again.

Along with the monetary 1st place award to winning school, each winning team member will receive a medal which will depict NAFC on one side and a picture of Peter Smith on the other side.

