

Leabhar Rialacha Scór 2025

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael

SCÓR



GAA

**The acceptance of the ‘ethos’, ‘rules’ and ‘recommendations’ contained herein and the interpretation of same by the committees charged with organising the various stages, shall be a precondition to entry to Scór.**

Coiste Náisiúnta Scór

## **RÁITEAS CUSPÓRA SCÓR**

Is mian le Scór a bheith dílis do mhianta Chumann Lúthchleas Gael agus tacaíocht bheo a thabhairt do rincí, ceol agus amhránaíocht thraidisiúnta na hÉireann agus do na gnéithe eile a bhaineann lenár gcultúr dúchasach. Déantar sin trí chomórtais éagsúla ar ardchaighdeán a reáchtáil ag leibhéil ógánach agus daoine fásta, comórtais a spreagfadh páirtíocht agus ionchuimsiú agus a mbainfeadh na daoine a bheadh páirteach iontu lánsásamh astu. Úsáidfear an Ghaeilge chun cur leis na himeachtaí sin agus maisiú a dhéanamh orthu. Cothóidh sé eolas ar na hidéil náisiúnta agus dúil iontu trína chuid clubanna, sa bhaile agus i gcéin, agus cabhróidh sé chun misneach a mhúscailt sa phobal.

## **SCÓR MISSION STATEMENT**

Scór seeks to advance the aspiration of the GAA to actively promote and support traditional Irish dancing, music, song and other aspects of Irish culture, through a range of competitions at youth and adult levels; designed to encourage participation, enjoyment, inclusion and excellence. The Irish language shall be used to complement and enhance these activities. It shall foster an awareness and love of the national ideals and assist in promoting a community spirit through its clubs at home and abroad.

## CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

The Association has as its basic aim the strengthening of the National Identity in a 32-County Ireland through the preservation and promotion of Gaelic Games and pastimes. It is the International Governing Body responsible for the promotion of Gaelic Games and the Aims and Ethos of the Association.

**(Riail 1.2 of An Treoir Oifigiúil 2024)**

The Association shall promote and control the National games of Hurling, Gaelic Football, Handball and Rounders, and such other games, as may be sanctioned and approved by Annual Congress.

**(Riail 1.3 of An Treoir Oifigiúil 2024)**

The Association shall actively support the Irish language, traditional Irish dancing, music, song, and other aspects of Irish culture. It shall foster an awareness and love of the national ideals in the people of Ireland, and assist in promoting a community spirit through its clubs.

**(Riail 1.4(a) of An Treoir Oifigiúil 2024)**

The Association shall promote its aims amongst communities abroad through its International Units and World GAA.

**(Riail 1.4(b) of An Treoir Oifigiúil 2024)**

## WHAT IS SCÓR? / CÉARD É SCÓR?

Scór combines all the colour and rivalry of Gaelic Games with the social/fun element of Ireland's traditional pastimes. The competition was established by the GAA in 1969 with the aim of promoting Ireland's traditional pastimes and culture while offering club members the chance to meet up, have fun and represent their club during the winter months while Hurling, Football, Handball, Camogie, Ladies Football and Rounders had ceased.

There are 8 events/disciplines in Scór that cover all aspects of Irish culture: Figure/Céilí Dancing, Solo Singing, Recitation/Storytelling, Ballad Group, Novelty Act, Instrumental Music, Set Dancing and Quiz. The competition is divided into two age levels – Scór na nÓg for people under 17 years and Scór Sinsear for those over 17 years of age.

## SCÓR ORGANISATION

Each County is required to organise Scór na nÓg (U17) and Scór Sinsear Competitions as directed by Congress.

In accordance with **Riail 3.9 of An Treoir Oifigiúil 2024**, each County Committee shall elect an Officer for Irish and Culture.

In accordance with **Riail 3.18 (ix) of An Treoir Oifigiúil 2024**, each County Committee shall appoint a Cultural Committee which shall be responsible for (a) the

Irish Language (b) Scór and (c) other Cultural Activities.

In accordance with **Rial 3.30 A (vii) of An Treoir Oifigiúil 2024**, each Provincial Council shall appoint a Cultural Committee which shall be responsible for (a) the Irish Language, (b) Scór and (c) other Cultural Activities.

Each County Committee is expected to set up a SPECIAL COMMITTEE to promote, organise and run Scór Competitions.

Each County and Divisional Committee shall appoint a Rúnaí Scór and every Club shall have a Rúnaí Scór registered with the County Committee.

All Clubs and Divisions shall elect an Oifigeach Scór at their A.G.M.

The County Officer for Irish and Culture has responsibility for:

- Promotion of Scór within the county;
- Organisation of County Scór Committee;
- Contact with Provincial and National Scór Committees;
- Promoting to the greatest degree possible the use of Irish in Scór activities.

## CLÁR

Cumann Lúthchleas Gael agus	
Scór	3
Scór Organisation	3
An Coiste Náisiúnta	6
Scór na nÓg (Babhtaí)	7
Scór Sinsear (Babhtaí)	8
Rialacha	9
Agóidí	14

### **Rialacha le hAghaidh na gComórtas**

Rince Foirne	16
Amhránaíocht Aonair	18
Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht	19
Bailéadghrúpa	20
Nuachleas	21
Ceol Uirlise	23
Rince Seit	24
Tráth na gCeist	26

## COISTE NÁISIÚNTA SCÓR

Coiste Náisiúnta Scór is the National Organising Committee of Scór. Its members are appointed for a three year period by Uachtarán Chumann Lúthchleas Gael and report to Ard-Chomhairle. The remit of the Coiste is:

- Promotion of Scór;
- Review and implementation of Rialacha Scór;
- Review and improvement of Scór Competitions;
- Arrange for the National Finals of Scór Competitions;
- Arrange a Consultative Meeting of representatives of National, Provincial and County Scór Committees during its three year term;
- Carry out any other duties assigned to it by Uachtarán CLG in the terms of reference;
- Report to Ard-Chomhairle.

## List of Stage Competitions / Liosta na gComórtas Stáitse

**\*Tráth na gCeisteanna (Cuid a Dó)**  
**Rince Foirne**  
**Amhránaíocht Aonair**  
**Aithriseoireacht/Scéalaíocht**  
**Bailéadghrúpa**  
**Nuachleas**  
**Ceol Uirlise**  
**Rince Seit**

**Quiz (Part 2)**  
**Figure/Céilí Dancing**  
**Solo Singing**  
**Recitation/Storytelling**  
**Ballad Group**  
**Novelty Act**  
**Instrumental Music**  
**Set Dancing**

Competitions shall normally be run off in the order given with an interval not exceeding 20 mins, coming after Bailéadghrúpa. The order of competition may be changed at the discretion of the organising committee provided that three (3) days' notice is given to clubs/counties.

Provinces may run additional competitions to Provincial Final level.

\*Tráth na gCeist comprises an initial Table Quiz, held separately and prior to the Stage Competitions, with a concluding on-stage session.

## SCÓR NA nÓG

### For Competitors Under 17 years on:

1 Eanáir 2025 – 2025 Competition

1 Eanáir 2026 – 2026 Competition

1 Eanáir 2027 – 2027 Competition

## BABHTA A hAON / STAGE ONE

**Club Competitions:** To be run off among the club's own members with the winners going forward to Divisional or District Board Stage where deemed necessary or otherwise to:

## BABHTA A DÓ / STAGE TWO

### County Final:

To be completed at least two weeks prior to the Provincial Final, with the winners to go forward to:

## BABHTA A TRÍ / STAGE THREE

### Provincial Competition:

To be completed at least four weeks in advance of the All-Ireland Finals, with the winners going forward to:

## BABHTA A CEATHAIR / STAGE FOUR

**All-Ireland Finals:** The date and venue for the All-Ireland Finals of Scór na nÓg shall be as decided by Coiste Náisiúnta Scór. Dates of Provincial Finals of Scór na nÓg shall be as agreed between the relevant Provincial Committees and Coiste Náisiúnta Scór.

Any exceptions to the above must be agreed with Coiste Náisiúnta Scór.

## SCÓR SINSEAR

**For Competitors 17 years and over on:**

1 Eanáir 2025 – 2025 Competition

1 Eanáir 2026 – 2026 Competition

1 Eanáir 2027 – 2027 Competition

**Exception: A club may include a maximum of two members in their final year of eligibility for Scór na nÓg in an 8-hand troupe in both Rince Foirne and Rince Seit Competitions only.**

## BABHTA A hAON / STAGE ONE

**Club Competitions:** To be run off among the club's members with winners progressing to Divisional/District Board Stage where deemed necessary or otherwise to:

## BABHTA A DÓ / STAGE TWO

**County Final:** To be completed at least two weeks prior to the Provincial Competition, with the winners to go forward to:

## BABHTA A TRÍ / STAGE THREE

**Provincial Competition:** To be completed at least four weeks in advance of the All-Ireland Finals, with the winners going forward to:

## BABHTA A CEATHAIR / STAGE FOUR

**All Ireland Finals:** The date and venue for the All-Ireland Finals of Scór Sinsear shall be as decided by Coiste Náisiúnta Scór. Dates of Provincial Finals of Scór Sinsear shall be as agreed between the relevant Provincial Committees and Coiste Náisiúnta Scór.

Any exceptions to the above must be agreed with Coiste Náisiúnta Scór.



# RIALACHA

## **Knowledge of Rules**

1. There shall be an onus on all competitors and clubs to have full knowledge of the rules and regulations of Scór.

2. **Eligibility**

### **2. Eligibility**

I. Competitors must be registered members of their GAA club in accordance with the current edition of An Treoir Oifigiúil. Competitors from Camogie, Ladies Gaelic Football, Handball and Rounders clubs are eligible and welcome to compete but must be registered and bona fide members of these clubs in accordance with the official membership guidelines of the organisations concerned.

II. Competitors must be registered as members of their clubs at least three days before the date of competition.

III. Competitors may complete for just one club in Scór in any given year.

IV. Where a competitor has dual eligibility as a member of more than one club, they must exercise their option prior to the commencement of that year's competitions. For example, if a competitor is a member of a number of different clubs and is eligible to represent any of those clubs, they may only represent one club in Scór that year. This may include a hurling club, a football club, a camogie club, a ladies football club, a third level club, a rounders club or a handball club.

V. Combinations of two or more clubs permitted by County Board for the purposes of playing underage football/hurling shall be allowed enter Scór na nÓg competition under the name of the Combination, subject to the approval of County Board.

VI. A club within the Combination retains the right to enter competitions in their own right. However, if they do, members of teams and/or individuals who represent the club, may not also represent the Combination.

VII. Combinations as listed above must operate for all underage levels of club activity. A combination at a single age level does not entitle entry to Scór na nÓg,

VIII. A Combination may not be formed solely for the purposes of Scór participation.

IX. A member of a club that is not participating in Scór does not have the right

to represent another club except as provided under Rule V.

3. Clubs competing in Scór competitions must submit the GAA/Associate Body Membership number of all of their competitors to the County Scór Secretary when entering. These numbers must accompany county entrants at Provincial level and Provincial winners at All-Ireland level.
4. A club may enter Scór by entering as few as one competition.
5. Where a club does not hold its own competition, it is at the discretion of the county how many teams/competitors from each unit are entitled to compete in each discipline at the 1st inter club competition..
6. An entry fee for Scór Sinsear and Scór na nÓg at Divisional/County level shall be at the discretion of each Divisional or County Scór Committee.
7. In accordance with the amateur ethos of the Association: Fulltime professional performers are not eligible to take part in competitions relative to their profession. People whose livelihood is the teaching of music, dancing or elocution are not allowed to participate in competitions in which they specialise.

Breach of any eligibility rule shall result in disqualification.

### **General**

8. The language of Scór shall be Irish and English only.
9. At no level of the Competition should Scór be held in the Lounge Bar of a hotel, licensed premises or Public House while there is an open bar in operation.

### **Rules of Competition**

10. All Scór competitions are open to club members. The gender of the competitor(s) shall have no bearing on marks awarded for performance in any competition.
11. A draw shall take place for the running order. Competitors shall then be numbered on the programme and take part in the order in which they are listed.
12. Competitors in all competitions must report backstage immediately when called to do so by Bean/Fear an Tí.
13. If competitors are not ready when their turn comes, they are eliminated and Bean/Fear an Tí continues with the next competitor(s). This rule to apply except in the case of exceptional circumstances and at the discretion of the Organising Committee.
14. Bean/Fear an Tí must introduce all acts from the stage. Competitors may not introduce their acts except in Recitation/Storytelling where the competitor

may announce the name of the recitation/story and the author.

15. Where winners are unable to go forward to the next round the Organising Committee shall nominate the next highest placed available competitor(s) to take their place.

16.(i) Live musical accompaniment shall be provided by the Organising Committee at Provincial Final and All-Ireland Final levels for Rince Foirne and Rince Seit, and must be used by all groups of dancers.

(ii) Where an Organising Committee at an earlier level decides to provide the musical accompaniment, it shall be used by all groups. If accompaniment is not provided, then dance groups must provide their own accompaniment.

(III) A live musical accompaniment shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) persons playing instruments using the in-house amplification system only.

**Penalty:** Failure to comply shall result in the disqualification of competitors

17. In the Nuachleas competition a bell shall be rung one minute before the time is due to elapse as a warning to competitors. No bell will be used in any other timed competition.

## **18. Adjudicators**

- I. A qualified adjudicator shall be someone with recognised expertise in the discipline through performance or teaching and who is or has been involved in practicing their art.
- II. The Organising Committee at each level shall be responsible for the appointment of qualified adjudicators to adjudicate each competition.
- III. **Beidh caighdeán cuí Gaeilge ag moltóirí nuair a bheidh moltóireacht á déanamh ar iontrálacha Gaeilge i gcomórtais Scór agus taispeánfar cruthúnas de sin sna moltaí a scríobhfar síos ar an mbileog mharcála. Is leis na comórtais Amhránaíochta Aonair, Bailéadghrúpa, Aithriseoireachta/Scéalaíochta agus Nuachlis amháin a bhaineann an riail seo. Tiocfaidh sí i bhfeidhm tar éis an chéad bhabhta i gcomórtais chontae.**  
(Adjudicators shall have the appropriate level of Irish when adjudicating entries as Gaeilge at Scór competitions with their competence in Irish reflected in the comments written down on the adjudicators comment sheets. This shall apply to the Solo Singing, Ballad Group, Recitation/Storytelling and Novelty Act competitions. This is to take effect after the first round in county competitions)
- IV. The number of Adjudicators at local and county level is at the discretion of the relevant organising Committee.

- V. (a) At Provincial Final and All-Ireland level three Adjudicators will judge each discipline. 12, 5 and 2 points shall be apportioned to those placed in First, Second and Third places respectively in each competition (where 5 teams participate at Provincial or All-Ireland stage 12, 5, 2 and 1 points shall be apportioned to those placed in First, Second, Third and Fourth places respectively in each competition).
- (b) The Committee shall nominate one Adjudicator by lot as Master Adjudicator in each competition and in the event of a tie on the aggregate of marks awarded the marks of the Master Adjudicator will decide the outcome between those tied.
- (c) The identity of the Master Adjudicator will be known only to the Organising Committee.
- VI. Adjudicators at Provincial and All Ireland level should not be from the counties of the competitors in the competition.
- VII. Competitors taking part in Scór competitions shall not adjudicate in any discipline in the competition on that day/night.
- VIII. A Competitor who qualified to represent their county in any discipline shall be precluded from adjudicating in those disciplines for the remainder of the competition year.
- IX. An Adjudicator who adjudicates a particular discipline at provincial final level in Scór na nÓg or Scór Sinsear shall not adjudicate the All-Ireland Final in that discipline at that level.
- X. At All-Ireland level, where three adjudicators are in use for each competition, an adjudicator may adjudicate in no more than two competitions on any one day/night;
19. Responsibility for the monitoring of all rules where breaches warrant a penalty shall be the responsibility of the Organising Committee at each level of the competition. Breaches shall be advised to the relevant adjudicator(s) who shall make the necessary adjustments before handing in results..
20. Any adjudication marks that need to be changed because of genuine error shall carry the initials of that person making the change. This shall only be the adjudicator who awarded the marks.
21. A copy of the completed relevant scorecard and competitors personal remark sheets shall be made available to Club Rúnaí in relation to Divisional/District Board and County Final within 7 days from the Rúnaí of the Organising Committee. Similarly, relevant score cards and personal

remark sheets shall be made available to County Scór Secretaries within 7 days of Provincial and All-Ireland Finals by the Rúnaí of the Provincial or National Organising Committee.

22. Coistí Contae agus Cúige shall compile and forward a list of suitably qualified adjudicators each year to the Coiste Náisiúnta for the purposes of appointing Adjudicators to All-Ireland Finals.
23. Competitors and other persons attending Scór shall not be entitled to question the adjudicators. Adjudicators should not discuss performances or their decisions with competitors or others. The organising committee may communicate with adjudicators to inform them of infringements which may impact on scoring.  
The organising committee shall be entitled to intervene in the event of a breach of rule where a penalty applies.
24. Clubs shall be responsible for the conduct of their teams, mentors and supporters at all stages of Scór competitions.
25. The Raffle Prizes at Scór na nÓg or Scór Sinsear competitions shall not include alcoholic drink.

### **Scór Programmes**

26. In Scór programmes, at provincial and All-Ireland stages, the names of all competitors shall be included in both Irish and English unless a competitor specifies otherwise.
27. The competitions shall be run off as listed in the programme unless otherwise arranged by the organising committee as specified earlier in this booklet.
28. Competitors will be referred to as representing their Club and County in the latter stages of the competition.
29. The following Rules shall be included in all programmes:  
Rules 11, 12, 23, 24 & 31

### **Bean an Tí/Fear an Tí**

30. The Organising Committee at each level will appoint a Bean Tí/Fear Tí to compere the competitions and announce the winners. Those appointed shall have the ability to compere bilingually as Gaeilge and in English.

### **Rehearsals**

31. Competitors wishing to rehearse outside of designated on-stage rehearsals must do so outside the main hall except where arrangements have been made with relevant organising committee beforehand, wherein such facilities shall be available to all participants in said discipline(s).

### **ALL-IRELAND FINALS**

32. Coiste Náisiúnta Scór shall appoint adjudicators for both Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsear Finals.
33. Coiste Náisiúnta Scór shall appoint Bean/Fear an Tí for both Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsear Finals.
34. The All-Ireland Final programme shall include material printed in English and Irish.
35. Provincial Scór Secretaries shall be responsible for the provision of the following information to the Programme Editor not less than three weeks before the date of the Finals:
  - Names of Competitors in Irish and English;
  - Names of Competitors' clubs in Irish and English;
  - A high-definition photograph of the competitors representing the province in each discipline.

### **Powers of the Organising Committee**

36. The Final decision on these rules rests with the organising committee at each stage.
37. **Objections**  
Objections are governed by the relevant rules of the current An Treoir Oifigiúil with the specific provisions for Scór as below
  - i. "Competition Control Committee" etc. shall be interpreted as "Organising Committee of Scór" at that level. (County/Provincial/National)
  - ii. Objections shall be lodged by the \*Secretary of the relevant unit with the Secretary of the Organising Committee of Scór at that particular level **\*(Note: Not the Scór Secretary)**.
  - iii. An Objection shall be lodged within three days of the notified starting time of Scór on that particular occasion, quoting the relevant rules from An Treoir Oifigiúil and Leabhar Rialacha Scór.
  - iv. An objection shall be accompanied by a fee of €100 in respect of a club and €300 euro in respect of a county or province, returnable if the objection is successful.
  - v. Three (3) eligible members of the Organising Committee shall constitute a quorum for a hearing. Riail 7.3 (u) and (aa) of An Treoir Oifigiúil 2024 (as may be subsequently amended) shall apply where relevant.

- vi. A decision shall be notified as soon as possible and before the next stage of the relevant competition
- vii. There shall be no objection on the basis of an adjudicator's decision nor the imposition of penalty points in any competition.
- viii. Any appeal arising shall be to the Appeals/Hearings Committee at County/Provincial/INational level.
- ix. There shall be no objection or appeal against the adjudicators appointed by an Organising Committee.

## RINCE FOIRNE

1. (a) Each group shall consist of not less than four and not more than eight dancers.  
  
(b) The gender of participants shall have no bearing on the awarding of marks.
2. (a) Live musical accompaniment shall be provided by the Organising Committee at Provincial Final and All Ireland Final levels and must be used by all groups of dancers.  
  
(b) Where an Organising Committee at an earlier level decides to provide the musical accompaniment, it shall be used by all groups. If accompaniment is not provided, then dance groups must provide their own accompaniment.  
  
(c) A live musical accompaniment shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) persons playing instruments using the in-house amplification system only.

**Penalty: Failure to comply shall result in disqualification of competitors.**

3. One dance to be contributed by each group.
4. A Dance On / Dance Off is permitted (but not required) in this competition. No marks shall be awarded for Dance On or Dance Off. Dance On: A maximum of 24 bars of music danced/marched. Dance Off: A maximum of 24 bars of music danced/marched. The 24 bars of music played in both Dance On and Dance Off includes any music introduction.

**Penalty for each breach of 24 bars: Dance On: 5 marks, Dance Off: 5 marks.**

5. Duration of the dance. Each team shall dance the lead-around, one body only and **shall stop** after one figure of the dance (danced by all couples), where dances are composed in such a structure, and shall be according to Ár Rincí Céilí (CLRG) or Leabhar Rince Céilí (An Chomhdháil).
6. Dances must only be chosen from all 4-hand, 6-hand and 8-hand dances as listed in Ár Rincí Céilí (CLRG) or Leabhar Rince Céilí (An Chomhdháil).

Simplicity in dress, preferably in club colours, is recommended. Dancing groups shall not be allowed to dance in schools of dancing costumes and the wearing of dancing wigs is also forbidden.

**Penalty: Disqualification.**

7. A timber stage shall be provided at all levels.
8. Only dancers and musical accompanists are permitted on the stage.
9. 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 at the end of the respective competition. However, if the group has made a mistake in the first performance, prior to the fall, an error penalty should be carried forward to the second performance.

**Nóta:** In the above event an additional medal for that level of the competition will be awarded to the substitute dancer.

## AMHRÁNAÍOCHT AONAIR

1. The song being sung must be of the history of Ireland, its people, places and folklore. The Bean/Fear an Tí may give an introduction on the origin of the song (this is not included in the time allowed for the song).
2. Adjudication will be on the standard of singing, not on the selection of the song.
3. Each competitor shall sing one song.
4. A competitor may accompany themselves or be accompanied by another person playing a single instrument at Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsear level. The person providing accompaniment must be from the same club as the singer. Keyboard / digital piano accompaniment is also permitted. **Pre-programming shall incur automatic disqualification.** An acoustic piano is not allowed.

In Scór na nÓg, the person providing accompaniment must meet the age requirements as set out in the rules for Scór na nÓg. In Scór Sinsear, the person providing accompaniment must meet the age requirements as set out in the rules for Scór Sinsear.

### **Penalty: Disqualification.**

5. A song shall not be of more than six minutes duration.

**Penalty: Failure to comply with time period shall mean a penalty of one mark for the first ten seconds or part thereof over time, with an additional mark per five seconds or part thereof thereafter.**

## AITHRISEOIREACHT/SCÉALAÍOCHT

1. Recitations, monologues, poems and stories relating to Ireland, its history, local folklore, people and places shall be acceptable for this competition. Humour and originality are permitted.
2. One contribution of not more than six minutes duration from each competitor.

**Penalty: Failure to comply with time period shall mean a penalty of one mark for the first ten seconds (or part thereof) over time, with an additional mark per five seconds (or part thereof) thereafter.**

3. A competitor may announce the name and author of their piece.
4. Where a competitor introduces his/her recitation/story, other than announcing the name of the piece and the author, this shall be included as part of the presentation in counting the time allowed.
5. Competitors are allowed to dress up if they so wish.
6. Independent off-stage musical accompaniment is permitted at Scór na nÓg and Scór Sinsear level. The person providing accompaniment must be from the same club as the performer. In Scór na nÓg, the person providing accompaniment must meet the age requirements as set out in the rules for Scór na nÓg. In Scór Sinsear, the person providing accompaniment must meet the age requirements as set out in the rules for Scór Sinsear.

### **Penalty: Disqualification**

7. An act containing racism, sectarianism, sexual offensiveness, vulgarity by action or word or any other behaviour deemed offensive shall result in disqualification from the competition. The portrayal of drunkenness in Scór na nÓg is also forbidden.

Disqualification is the responsibility of the relevant organising committee (at club, county, provincial or national level). A decision regarding disqualification shall be made prior to the announcement of the winners on the day. Relevant participants shall be notified prior to the announcement of the winners.

## **BAILÉADGHRÚPA**

### **1. Ballad Singing**

- (i) A “ballad” is a song that tells a story. Therefore, the overall emphasis is that groups communicate the meaning and sentiment of their songs to the audience in an engaging and sincere fashion.
  - (ii) Groups shall focus on creating song arrangements that reflect and reinforce the stories their ballads are telling.
  - (iii) Musical techniques such as harmonisation, part-singing, dynamics etc..., may be used for effect but shall not dominate performances.
- 2. Ballads must be of the History of Ireland, its people, places or folklore.
  - 3. Groups must sing two contrasting ballads, the contrast to be in tempo.
  - 4. Groups must comprise of at least three and not more than five members.

#### **Penalty: Disqualification**

- 5. The number in the group playing instruments shall be limited to three per song.

#### **Penalty: Disqualification**

Groups are not required to have instruments.

- 6. Ballads may be sung as Gaeilge or in English.
- 7. It is not permissible to have a conductor nor accompaniment by anyone outside the group.

#### **Penalty: Disqualification**

- 8. A piano is not allowed.
- 9. Electrified mains or battery-operated instruments are not permitted.

## NUACHLEAS

1. This competition shall depict a stage presentation, rich in cultural content with a theme based on an aspect of Irish life, culture or folklore. It shall be a dramatic presentation in serious or comedic form. Mime is acceptable. The main aim should be to clearly communicate a story through dramatic presentation while demonstrating the ability to engage and entertain the audience.
2. This presentation shall not under any circumstances belittle our country or its people nor be derogatory or belittling to other nationalities.
3. The act may be performed by groups of at least three and not more than eight people. **Any breach of this rule shall result in automatic disqualification.**

- Scór na nÓg / Scór Sinsear: two non-participating mentors only, permitted side stage.

Exception: An additional adult(s) will be permitted for each competitor(s) with additional needs. In this instance, the organising committee must be informed by a representative of a club/county/province prior to the commencement of the programme.

In both cases, these mentors shall not be permitted to assist with the setting or clearing of the stage.

#### 4. Props:

- (a) **Hand-held props only.** A hand-held prop shall be an object that can be carried on and off stage by hand by one performer. A performer shall use as many props as he/she shall deem necessary. Live animals or birds shall not be permitted, nor shall the presence of a naked flame.
  - (b) **No electrically operated equipment** other than the in-house amplification or that provided by the Organising Committee shall be allowed. It shall be permitted to use battery operated equipment.
5. Each contribution shall take no more than 10 minutes including setting up and removal of all props. A warning bell will be rung by the organising committee one minute before the time has elapsed to enable performers to adhere to this rule.
  6. All debris must be cleared from the stage floor. Debris may include items such as water, flour, talcum powder and rice amongst others.
  7. In Scór na nÓg competitions the representation of drunkenness on stage shall not be permitted.

#### Procedure:

A clear stage will be shown and Bean/Fear an Tí will announce “time starts now”. Lights may be dimmed, or curtains may be closed to allow props to be placed on stage. At the end of the act, a clear stage will be announced at the direction of a designated group mentor and shown again when competitors have removed all

props and debris from the stage. The clear stage announcement shall signal to the time keeper that the time shall stop.

**Penalties:**

1. **Time Penalty:** Failure to comply with the allocated time period will result in a penalty of one mark for the first ten seconds (or part thereof) over time, with an additional mark for each five seconds (or part thereof) thereafter.
2. **Handheld Props Penalty:** Ten marks shall be deducted for any breach of the rule regarding handheld props.
3. **Electrically Operated Props Penalty:** Ten marks shall be deducted for any breach of the rule regarding electrically operated props.
4. **Stage Debris Penalty:** Ten marks shall be deducted where debris is not removed from the stage floor following an act.
5. **Content Penalty:** An act containing racism, sectarianism, sexual offensiveness, vulgarity by action or word, portrayal of drunkenness (Scór na nÓg) or any other behaviour deemed offensive shall result in disqualification from the competition.

Disqualification is the responsibility of the relevant organising committee (at club, county, provincial or national level). A decision regarding disqualification shall be made prior to the announcement of the winners on the day. Relevant participants shall be notified prior to the announcement of the winners.

The calculation of marks to be deducted regarding the above penalties shall be the responsibility of the organising committee. A representative of the organising committee shall inform the relevant adjudicator(s) of marks to be deducted. The adjudicator(s) will make any necessary deductions before they submit their final result to the committee.

## CEOL UIRLISE

1. This competition is for Irish traditional music.
2. The competition is for groups of at least two and not more than five people.

### **Penalty: Disqualification.**

3. In Scór na nÓg each group shall play only two (2) tunes, each to be of different character. In Scór Sinsear each group shall play three tunes made up of one single tune and a selection of two (2) tunes similar in character but different in character to the first tune played. **For example one jig and two reels.**

### **Nóta: The penalty for breach of this rule shall be disqualification.**

4. An electric instrument, mains or battery operated, is not permitted with the exception of Rule 5.

### **Penalty: Disqualification.**

5. A keyboard / digital piano is allowed provided it is set in piano mode and used accordingly. **Pre-programming shall incur automatic disqualification.** An acoustic piano is not allowed..

### **Penalty: Disqualification.**

6. It is not permissible to have a conductor nor accompaniment by anyone outside the group.

### **Penalty: Disqualification.**

7. The musical selection performed may include harmony as part of the arrangement but this shall not dominate the performance.

## RINCE SEIT

1. (a) Each group shall consist of not more than eight dancers and not less than four and shall dance any two figures of a traditional country set dance;  
  
(b) Dances permitted for the Rince Foirne competition are not acceptable for the purposes of the Rince Seit;  
  
(c) The gender of participants shall have no bearing on the awarding of marks.
2. (a) Live musical accompaniment shall be provided by the Organising Committee at Provincial Final and All-Ireland Final levels and must be used by all groups of dancers.  
  
(b) Where an Organising Committee at an earlier level decides to provide the musical accompaniment, it shall be used by all groups. If the Organising Committee does not provide accompaniment, groups must provide their own.  
  
(d) A live musical accompaniment shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) persons playing Instruments using the in-house amplification system only.

**Penalty: Failure to comply shall result in disqualification of competitors.**

3. A Dance On / Dance Off is permitted (but not required) in this competition. No marks shall be awarded for Dance On or Dance Off. Dance On: A maximum of 24 bars of music danced/marched. Dance Off: A maximum of 24 bars of music danced/marched. The 24 bars of music played in both Dance On and Dance Off includes any music introduction.

**Penalty for each breach of 24 bars: Dance On: 5 marks, Dance Off: 5marks.**

4. Groups may only dance two parts of a traditional set.
5. Simplicity in dress, preferably in club colours, is recommended. Dancing groups shall not be allowed to dance in schools of dancing costumes and the wearing of dancing wigs is also forbidden.

**Penalty: Disqualification**

6. A timber floor shall be provided at all levels.
7. **Only dancers and musical accompanists are permitted on the stage.**
8. 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 at the end of the respective competition. However, if the group has made a mistake in the first performance, prior to the fall, an error penalty should be carried forward to the second performance.

、 **Nóta:**



- (1) What is required for the purpose of this competition is that the competing team (a full set comprising of eight persons or a half-set comprising of four persons will dance any two figures of a traditional country set dance.
- (2) In the event of rule 8 above, an additional medal for that level of the competition will be awarded to the substitute dancer.

## **Tráth na gCeist**

### **Na Rialacha**

1. This competition is for club teams of four members.
2. Teams shall be seated at a table.

### **Format**

3. The Tráth na gCeist shall be divided into two parts: an initial table quiz and a second phase 'Final Phase' to be completed immediately after the initial table quiz, consisting of four rounds of five individual questions, each answer is worth two marks.

### **Table Quiz**

4. The table quiz will comprise of ten rounds of six questions. Each round shall include a "ceist as Gaeilge."
5. The Máistreás/Máistir na gCeisteanna shall have one set of questions for all teams.
6. Each team shall receive their questions on the following categories:
  - Gaelic and Ladies Football
  - Hurling and Camogie
  - General G.A.A. Round
  - Irish History
  - World History and World Geography
  - Irish Geography
  - Irish Current Affairs
  - World Current Affairs
  - Irish Culture
  - General Knowledge
7. The top three teams and ties at the end of this table quiz will go forward to the on-stage quiz.

### **Final Phase of Quiz**

8. This final phase will comprise of four rounds of five individual questions, with one member from each team competing in each round. The answers to the 'Final phase' questions shall be in written form. Each question is worth two marks.
9. These questions shall consist of:
  - G.A.A.
  - Irish History
  - Irish Geography
  - Irish Current Affairs
  - General Knowledge
10. The maximum time allowed for the individual on stage questions is fifteen seconds per question. The timekeeper, appointed by the Organising Committee, will signify the end of each block of fifteen seconds.
11. The answers to each individual set of five questions shall be announced while answer sheets are being corrected after each respective round.
12. The team score shall be given after the end of the final round of two mark questions.
13. The team with the highest aggregate score shall be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, Máistreás/Máistir na gCeisteanna shall continue to ask blocks of five team questions, one from each category, in the order, as below
  1. Gaa;
  2. Irish History;
  3. Irish Geography;
  4. Irish Current Affairs;
  5. General Knowledge;

until the winner is decided. The answers shall be in written format, each correct tie-break answer is worth 1 mark

### **General**

14. Questions on both Irish and World Current Affairs shall relate to a period of one year prior to the date of the Tráth na gCeist.

15. Questions in relation to all Gaelic games shall be confined to a period of 20 years prior to the date of the Tráth na gCeist. This restriction shall not apply in Scór Sinsear.
16. Questions shall be of the type which will have a definite answer.
17. No part questions shall be asked and no half marks shall be awarded.
18. At All-Ireland Scór Final stage, three teams per province are eligible to take part.
19. Provincial Finals shall be organised on the same basis.
20. Only the winning team shall be presented medals at Provincial & All-Ireland Final stage.

### **Answers**

21. Unless specified by Máistreás/Máistir na gCeisteanna, a surname shall suffice for an answer requiring a person's name as the answer. However, should a contestant offer an answer with an incorrect first name, the answer shall be deemed incorrect.
22. The decision of Máistreás/Máistir na gCeisteanna in the case of all answers given by the contestants shall be final.
23. Competitors must not prompt. If Máistreás/Máistir na gCeisteanna rules that a prompt has been made by a team member, the contestant will forfeit the marks. If a prompt is given from the audience, a new question is asked of the competitor/team.
24. Where a question is asked as Gaeilge an answer must be given as Gaeilge. Exception non-Irish names. In other incidents, Máistreás/Máistir na gCeisteanna shall advise when the answer will be accepted in English.