



Rialacha Fleadhanna Ceoil

Amended Congress 2007

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General

1. The official title for musical festivals sponsored by units of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann shall be **‘Fleadhanna Ceoil’**.
2. These Fleadhanna Ceoil shall be of four types:
 - (a) The Regional Fleadh: (applies to Britain, USA and County – if so desired)
 - (b) The County Fleadh
 - (c) The Provincial Fleadh
 - (d) The All-Ireland Fleadh
3. For the purpose of these competitions there shall be six Provinces viz. Ulster, Munster, Connacht, Leinster, Britain and North America. Qualifying Fleadhanna may also be held in such other overseas areas as are approved by the Central Executive Council.
4. Fleadhanna Ceoil shall be held to propagate, consolidate and perpetuate our Irish traditional music, both vocal and instrumental, dance as well as an teanga, by presenting it in a manner worthy of its dignity, and in accordance with the aims and objectives of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. It is not intended that competitions should be merely a means by which a competitor may gain a prize or defeat a rival, but rather a medium in which these competitors may pace each other on the road to excellence.
5. Proposals for the amendment of the Rules for Fleadhanna Ceoil shall be submitted to **Congress 2010** and thereafter every three years.

**Rules applicable to all Fleadhanna -County, Regional,
Provincial and All-Ireland.**

6. All **competitions** shall be traditional in character and in conformity with the Bunreacht of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.
7. **Solo and ensemble** competitions shall be held in the following grades:
 - (a) **Under 12** on January 1st in the year of the Fleadh
 - (b) **Between 12 and 15** on January 1st in the year of the Fleadh
 - (c) **Between 15 and 18** on January 1st in the year of the Fleadh
 - (d) **Over 18 years** on January 1st in the year of the Fleadh
8. In the event of a dispute, a certificate of age in the case of grades (a), (b) and (c) must be produced if requested by the Fleadh Rúnaí, within seven days of the competition. Failure to do so will entail automatic disqualification.
9. **Solo competitions** shall be held for the following instruments:
 - (1) fiddle; (2) two-row accordion; (3) concert flute;`
 - (4) whistle (made of any material and in any key, but must have 6 holes and a fipple);

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(5) piano accordion; (6) concertina; (7) uilleann pipes; (8) harp; (9) mouth organ; (10) banjo; (11) mandolin excluding banjo-mandolin; (12) piano; (13) old-style melodeon; (14) bodhrán; (15) war pipes; (16) miscellaneous such as, three and five row button accordion, piccolo, harmonica or any other acoustic instrument not catered for in aforementioned competitions; (17) céilí band drums; (18) accompaniment – confined to piano, harp, guitar and bouzouki type instruments; (31-34) **solo traditional singing in Irish and English** Separate competitions for men and ladies); (35) whistling; (36) liltling; (37) amhráin nua-cheaptha; (38) newly composed ballads.

Solo competitions for slow airs shall be held in all age groups for the following instruments:

(19) fiddle; (20) uilleann pipes. (21) concert flute; (22) whistle;

In all grades competitors shall submit a list of slow airs to the adjudicator/s as follows:

Under 12 -two slow airs; 12-15 -four slow airs; 15-18 -six slow airs; Over 18-eight slow airs.

(a) **In the Under 12 grade** each competitor shall play one slow air selected by the adjudicator from a list of two submitted.

(b) **In the 12-15 grade** each competitor shall play two slow airs, one selected by the adjudicator from a list of four submitted and the other selected by the competitor from the remaining three on the list.

(c) **In the 15-18 grade** each competitor shall play two slow airs, one selected by the adjudicator from a list of six submitted and the other by the competitor from the remaining five on the list.

(d) **In the Over 18 grade** each competitor shall play three slow airs, two selected by the adjudicator from a list of eight submitted and the other selected by the competitor from the remaining six on the list.

10. (a) **Ensemble competitions** shall be held for the following groups: duets, trios, céilí bands and marching bands.

Marching Band Competitions shall be held for the following:

Accordion Bands (Under 18 and Over 18); Miscellaneous (Under 18 and Over 18) Flute Bands Under 18 and Over 18) and Pipe Bands –one grade only. (27-30)

(b) A competition shall be held for instrumental groups (**Grúpaí Ceoil**) as distinct from Céilí Bands. Groups shall have not less than four members and not more than 20 members. Groups shall be allowed a maximum time on stage of 10 minutes inclusive of performance time. They shall perform their own choice of music for a period of six to eight minutes; two marks shall be deducted for each minute or part thereof in excess of eight minutes or less than six minutes. Whistlers and lilters may be included, as well as players of bodhrán and bones, but piano and drums are not permitted in this competition. Slow airs in the Grúpaí Ceoil competition need not be played solo. Special attention should be paid to selection of items, and efforts should be made to play tunes other than jigs, reels and hornpipes, e.g. slow airs, set dances, old marches, harp music, to give as good a variety as possible. Attention should also be given to instrumentation, arrangement and presentation of the music. A list of music pieces to be played, e.g. slip jig, air, march, etc. shall be submitted by each group leader to the adjudicators prior to the performance.

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11. (a) A **Céilí Band** shall consist of not less than five, and not more than ten members. A band with more than ten members or less than five members shall be disqualified.
- (b) A **Duet** shall comprise of two melody instruments. A senior Duet (grade d) shall comprise
of two different melody instruments.
- (c) A **Trio** shall comprise of three melody instruments. In a senior Trio (grade d) there must be at least two different melody instruments.
- In the case of **Duets and Trios**, all participants must at all times play the melody of the tune. Competitors may not change instruments during the performance.
- 12 Electronic or amplified instruments are not accepted in any competition except an electric piano in céilí band competitions where a piano is not available.
- 13 Breaches of the foregoing rules shall entail disqualification.
- 14 **Tunes** to be played at competitions shall be selected from the following, in accordance with the **Clár na gComórtas**, designed by CEC -**Air** (slow or lively), **Reel, Polka, Hornpipe, Jig (double, single, slip), Slide, Set Dance, March, Mazurka, Planxty, Fling, Barn Dance, Schottische, Clan March**. Competitors shall play each tune twice only. In the case of a reel which is played singly a competitor may play such a reel three times (AB AB AB). Competitors who play extra tunes e.g. two jigs or two reels in lieu of one shall be adjudicated on the first tune of the selection only and shall be penalized by the deduction of two marks for each extra tune attempted.
- Only slow airs based strictly on the traditional airs and not on modern arrangements shall be accepted. No penalty shall be levied on a competitor in the Slow Airs Competition if he/she plays the air through only once.
- 15 **In Under 12 and 12-15 grades**, a competitor shall play one tune from each of two classes specified in Rule 14.
- 16 **In grade 15-18** a competitor shall play one tune from each of three classes specified in Rule 14
- 17 **In the Over 18 grade**, a competitor shall play one tune from each of four classes specified in Rule 14, but must include a slow air in the case of fiddle, whistle, concert flute and uilleann pipes.
- 18 (a) In the case of **Céilí Bands**, grades (a) and (b) competitors shall play one tune from each of two classes specified in Rule 14.
- In grade (c) competitors shall play two reels in succession, plus one tune from each of two other classes listed in Rule 14.
- For céilí bands over 18, tunes required are two reels in succession, two jigs in succession and a maximum of two tunes played in succession from each of two other classes specified in Rule 14. In the event of a recall a Senior Céilí Band is required to play two different reels in succession.
- (b) In all **Marching Band** competitions, each band shall play a minimum of two Marches, plus a selection from the tunes listed in Rule 14. The time of performances shall be from TEN

MINUTES (minimum) to TWELVE MINUTES (maximum).

The prompting and coaching of competitors during the course of the competition is prohibited.

19. In competitions **for amhránaíocht ar an sean nós (solo traditional singing)** the following are required:

Under 12 (grade a) competitors are required to sing two songs: ceann mall (slow) and ceann mear (lively).

In 12-15, 15-18 and Over 18 competitions, competitors shall submit a list of songs to the adjudicator as follows:

- 12-15 - four songs (two slow and two lively);
- 15-18 - four songs (two slow and two lively);
- Over 18 - six songs (four slow and two lively).

In the grades 12-15, 15-18 and Over 18 each competitor shall sing two songs, the first selected by the adjudicator from the list submitted and the other contrasting song selected from the list by the competitor. In all lists of songs, the lively songs must be clearly denoted.

Newly Composed Ballad - Amhráin Nua Cheaptha must not previously have been sung at any Fleadh Cheoil prior to the current year. Words of songs must be submitted in writing with entry at County or Regional Fleadh and must accompany results to Provincial and/or All Ireland level.

- 20 In all solo competitions, a competitor must compete in own age group only. In competitions for

Rogha Ghléas, a competitor may compete on One instrument only. In competitions for **Duets, Trios, Céilí Bands and Grúpaí Ceoil**, a competitor may compete once only in any group of any of the aforementioned competitions. A competitor may also compete in a higher age group, provided that he/she changes his/her instrument.

- 21 Competitors may not enter in the name of their teachers or in the name of any other organisation other than a unit of Comhaltas.

22. All competitions at Fleadhanna Cheoil shall be held indoors, apart from marching bands and war pipes which shall be held in outdoor arenas of 40 x 20 metres..

23. **All entries shall close 21 days** prior to the opening day of a Fleadh. Late entries shall not under any circumstances be accepted after the closing date.

24. **Competitors** shall, as far as possible, compete in the order in which they are called by the **Call Steward**. A competitor who fails to present himself when called for a specific competition, and who has not notified the Call Steward on duty of a just cause for his absence, shall be disqualified from the competition. **The Call Steward** shall terminate a competition after the completion of the performance by the last available competitor, unless he/she has been previously notified that the missing competitor is 'held up' in another competition, in which case the competition shall be shall open for a maximum of fifteen minutes. Once the Call Steward has closed the competition it cannot be reopened.

25. Only **adjudicators** from the official panel may officiate at any Fleadh. In exceptional

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circumstances, however, special permission may be sought of CEC, Provincial Council, County or Regional Board applicable to All-Ireland, Provincial, County or Regional Fleadh, to engage a person not included in this panel.

26. Normally one adjudicator shall officiate at all solo competitions, and two at duet, trio, Grúpaí Ceoil and Céilí Bands, three at Marching Band competitions. In these competitions, one adjudicator shall give a brief oral adjudication in general and constructive terms, after the conclusion of the competition. He/She shall write constructive comments on each adjudication sheet and shall award an individual mark for each tune played or song sung, apart from competitions for Grúpaí Ceoil and Marching Bands. Adjudicators should recognise and comment favourably on all styles of playing and not unduly criticise local styles. Adjudicators shall have due regard for the feelings or sensitivities of competitors when writing comments and allocating marks which will be recorded on the adjudication sheets.
27. (a) In senior **Céilí Band Competitions** at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann a minimum of four adjudicators will officiate. Seated apart, they shall mark their adjudication sheet separately and the results will be calculated in the recognised points system: 11. 7. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1.
- (b) In all other **Céilí Band competitions at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann** a minimum of Three adjudicators must officiate. Seated apart, they shall mark their adjudication sheet separately and the results will be calculated in the recognised points system: 11. 7. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1.
- (c) In **senior Céilí Band Competitions at Provincial Fleadhanna** a minimum of four adjudicators will officiate. Seated apart, they shall mark their adjudication sheet separately and the results will be calculated in the recognised points system: 11. 7. 5. 4. 3. 2. 1.
- (d) **In Grúpaí Ceoil and Marching Band** competitions adjudicators may confer and come to an agreed decision.
- (e) In all other competitions where three or more adjudicators officiate, seated apart they must mark sheets separately.
28. No communication with the adjudicator is permissible on the day of competition at the Fleadh venue – before or during the competitions -except through the stewards.
29. In the event of an objection, the aggrieved party shall, within seven days of the termination of the Fleadh, lodge with the Fleadh secretary, a written statement, setting forth the exact grounds of complaint, together with a fee of €10. These objections shall be considered by the appropriate body, i.e. regional board, county board, provincial council or CEC and if the objection is upheld, the €10 shall be returned, otherwise it shall be forfeited to the Board or Council. Any Fleadh Rúnaí may request proof of age, without filing an objection.
30. At **Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann** an adjudicator may not be used in the same competition on two consecutive years, where possible.
31. The necessary current rate of travelling expenses as agreed by the Ardchomhairle, shall be paid

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by the Fleadh treasurer to all adjudicators on the termination of their duties at the Fleadh. Suitable accommodation and meals shall be provided free by the Fleadh committee.

- 32 The official Comhaltas trophy or medal shall be awarded to prize-winners. This trophy or medal shall be purchased from Head-Office.
- 33 Adjudicators may withhold the awarding of a first prize, should competitors fail to reach a meritorious standard.
34. **Perpetual trophies** shall, as far as possible, be presented to the winners at the Competition Venue. In any event, all trophies and prizes shall be distributed to the winners within one month of the termination of the Fleadh.
- 35 The Fleadh Secretary shall arrange for the winners of perpetual trophies to sign an undertaking to return these trophies to the officer designated in the Bunreacht, on the written demand of this officer in the case of an objection being upheld, and in any event, not later than one month prior to the next Fleadh. This officer shall at the expense of the Fleadh committee, have the names of the previous year's winners inscribed in Irish on the Perpetual trophies. He shall also arrange to have these trophies polished for exhibition, prior to the Fleadh.
36. The Secretary of the Fleadh shall supply a detailed report of the Fleadh to the appropriate secretary. He shall also supply a list of prize-winners to the local and National Press and to the Secretaries of the Regional Board, County Board, Provincial Council or CEC as appropriate. He shall also forward to the appropriate Secretary the signed undertakings in Rule 35.
- 37 Copies of **Adjudication Sheets** shall be sent to the competitor on request, five days after the Fleadh on the prepayment of €1 per sheet.
- 38 The CEC shall from time to time, design a **Clár na gComórtas**, suitable for Regional, County, Provincial and All-Ireland Fleadhanna. Copies of this clár shall be purchased from Oifig an Chomhaltais, 32 Cearnóg Belgrave, Baile na Manach, Co. Átha Cliath.
- 39 The Fleadh Executive Committee shall arrange adequate stewarding for the efficient running of the Fleadh, its competitions, concerts, céilithe and displays. It shall provide satisfactory amplification for Official Opening, Pageant, Concert and Céilithe
- 40 Centres where competitions are held shall require the following stewards:
- (a). **A Competition's Call Steward:**
This steward shall arrange for the starting and finishing of each competition. He/she shall see that the competitors compete in the order in which they appear on the programme.
- (b) **An Adjudicator's Clerk:**
He/she shall be responsible for the adjudicators' sheets. This clerk shall arrange for the provision by the Fleadh Secretary of adequate supplies of blank adjudication sheets, and shall return to the Fleadh Secretary all completed adjudicators' sheets.

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- 41 The **Fleadh Executive Committee** shall be as follows: Patron, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Joint Treasurers, Publicity Officer, plus the Chairmen of the following subcommittees including Finance, Accommodation, Catering, Stewarding, Halls & Venues, Signposting & Street Decorations, Street Entertainment, Concerts and Céilithe.
- 42 **The Fleadh Executive Committee (FEC)** shall under the jurisdiction of the Regional or County Board, Provincial Council or CEC as the case maybe, be responsible for the running of the Fleadh.
43. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of each County or Regional Board, together with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Provincial Council, shall be ex-officio members of all Fleadh Committees within their respective areas of jurisdiction, be they Regional, County, Provincial or All-Ireland Fleadhanna.
- 44 The jurisdiction of a FEC shall be temporary and shall terminate not later then four months, in the case of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann and three months in the case of Provincial, County or Regional Fleadhanna subsequent to the last day of the Fleadh and consequently on a formal dissolution and surrender to the County or Regional Board, Provincial Council or CEC as appropriate, of its responsibilities and equipment.
- 45 When all outstanding accounts have been paid by the FEC a Balance Sheet shall be prepared (by a Chartered Accountant in the case of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann) which shall be forwarded to the Regional Board, County Board, Provincial Council or CEC as appropriate, not later than three or four months as applicable, after the termination of the Fleadh. In default of compliance by the FEC with this requirement, the Regional Board, County Board, Provincial Council or CEC as appropriate, shall itself engage a Chartered Accountant, debiting the FEC with his due fees, and on ascertainment of the Balance Sheet, the share of the local Branch, Regional Board, Provincial of the nett profits shall be reduced by 5%. This amount shall be paid to the Regional Board, County Board, Provincial Council or CEC as appropriate.
- 46 All net profits shall on the issue of the Balance Sheet be paid by the FEC to the Treasurer of the County or Regional Board, Provincial Council or CEC as appropriate, who will then be responsible for the proper distribution of such nett profits.
- 47 The Fleadh Executive Committee shall arrange adequate stewarding for the efficient running of the Fleadh, its competitions, concerts, céilithe and displays. It shall provide satisfactory amplification for Official Opening, Pageant, Concert and Céilithe.
- 48 The Fleadh Executive Committee shall ensure that venues are available for the purpose of ‘music and singing sessions’ when the competitions are concluded.
- 49 All Fleadh Committee members shall wear distinctive badges during the Fleadh. Badges shall also be provided by the FEC to denote: (a) Ardchomhairle, (b) Coiste, (c) Moltóir, (d) Maor. The Comhaltas symbol shall be incorporated in all badges as means of identification in use at Fleadhanna.

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50. Before a Fleadh Cheoil is finally allocated, and provided that all matters appertaining to the Fleadh venue are satisfactory, a sum of money shall be collected from the traders of the area, subject to the discretion of the responsible unit.
51. **Perpetual trophies** acquired, and scrolls, banners, flags, bunting etc., provided out of Fleadh Funds are the property of the Regional or County Board, Provincial Council or CEC as the case maybe. The use of such trophies and equipment shall be confined to the appropriate FEC for succeeding Fleadhanna, in accordance with Fleadh Rules and Bunreacht.
52. Fleadhanna shall be opened on the first night of the Fleadh by the Patron, under the Chairmanship of the President or Vice-President of the CEC in that order. In the absence of these officers, the Chairman of the County or Regional Board shall officiate.
53. **All dances shall be céilithe, mixed céilithe or sets** and adhere to the aims and objectives of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann. Parades shall, as far as possible, be of a cultural and historic nature.
54. All video and audio recordings of competitions are expressly forbidden, without prior written permission of Competitor,/Parent/Guardian on behalf of the competitor. The organising committee, or individual(s) nominated by such committee shall consider all applications for such facilities

County & Regional Fleadhanna

55. One County Fleadh may be held annually having County Board status. One Regional Fleadh maybe held annually in each Region having Regional status. A County Board may at its discretion organise Regional Fleadhanna prior to the County Fleadh.
56. The Branch shall seek selection as Fleadh centre at the Autumn meeting of the County or Regional Board. The application in writing shall be lodged with the County or Regional Secretary not later than two weeks prior to that meeting.
57. The Fleadh may be held at any time except on the weekend of (a) Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann; (b) Fleadh Nua; (c) Annual Congress;
58. The County or Regional Board shall, in conjunction with the Provincial Council, have complete jurisdiction over the County or Regional Fleadh; and in all matters appertaining to the Fleadh, the rulings of the Provincial Council shall be final.
59. The County or Regional Board shall convene a special meeting consisting of members of the County or Regional Board and the local branch. This meeting shall elect from its own members the Fleadh Executive Committee.
60. The nett profits of the Fleadh shall be divided as follows:
 - a. 50% to the Branch running the Fleadh;
 - b. 50% to the County or Regional Board.Losses shall be borne in the same proportions.

- 61 **Clár na gComórtas** and Entry Forms shall be sent to Branch Secretaries, County and Regional Secretaries and Schools at least six weeks prior to the Fleadh.
- 62 The names of Céilí Bands must be submitted to the County or Regional Board for prior approval before engagements are made.
- 63 Adjudicators for competitions shall, as far as possible, be drawn from outside the Region or County.
- 64 **The prizes** to be awarded at Regional or County Fleadhanna shall be as follows: First Prize: Whatever Perpetual Trophy is available, together with trophy or gilt medal, Second Prize: Silver medal; Third Prize: Bronze medal; Marching Bands First Prize: Whatever Trophy is available and a Certificate.
- 65 **Competitions shall be confined to:**
Residents of the County or Region in which the Fleadh is being held. In the case of Céilí Bands, marching bands and Grúpaí Ceoil, it is recommended as far as possible, that these also be residents of the County or Region.
Competitors shall be deemed to be residents of the County or Region only if ordinarily resident in that County/Region for a period of not less than six months prior to the date of the qualifying Fleadh.
In the case of competitions for Newly Composed Ballads and Amhráin Nua Cheaptha, the composer must be a resident of the county or region.
- Breaches of the foregoing rule shall entail automatic disqualification.
- For Newly Composed Ballads and Amhráin Nua Cheaptha competitions, the composer shall be the only name listed and the composer may recruit the services of a singer from outside of the Fleadh area to sing his/her composition.
- 66 Winners of First and Second prizes shall qualify for the Provincial Fleadh in the same year, together with a maximum of one other competitor in each competition, if the Adjudicator is satisfied that the competitors have reached a sufficiently high standard in the appropriate grade. Where a competitor – other than first or second prize-winner is nominated, the appropriate adjudication sheet, suitably endorsed and signed by the Adjudicator, must accompany the official returns. Nominations not accompanied by such a sheet cannot be accepted by Provincial Council. Such nominations are entirely a matter for the Adjudicator and should only be made in the case of an exceptionally good performance.
- 67 County Boards, who wish, may introduce **Set Dancing Competitions** to County Fleadhanna, in order to promote this part of our cultural heritage.
- 68 County/Regional Fleadh Committees shall produce a **Souvenir Programme** which shall contain the following information:
- a. The names and addresses of all competitors or name of Comhaltas Branch in lieu of

- address;
- b. The names of the adjudicators;
 - c. The Centres for and the approximate starting times of each competition;
 - d. The names of the Fleadh Executive Committee;
 - e. The names and address of the previous year's first prize-winners;
 - f. The Perpetual Trophy available for each competition, with donor's names;
 - g. The time schedule for the various events, i.e. Parade, Pageants, Concerts, etc;
 - h. The names of the Officers of the County/Regional Board.

Provincial Fleadhanna

69. The Provincial Fleadh shall be held in each County within the Province in turn, provided such County has an active County Board. In the case of Britain, the Provincial Fleadh shall be decided by the Council of Britain. Provincial Fleadhanna shall be held over two days. Departure from this rule requires sanction of the CEC. The Provincial Council may, at its discretion stipulate that a fixed sum be collected and lodged to the account of the Fleadh Executive Committee before the Fleadh is finally allocated. In so far as it is possible, no two Provincial Fleadhanna shall be held on the same date.
70. A County shall seek selection as Fleadh Centre from the Provincial Council at its March meeting. The application in writing from the County Secretary shall be lodged with the Provincial Secretary not later than February 1st in the year preceding the Fleadh. The application shall set forth:
- (a) the proposed venue for the Fleadh;
 - (b) the numerical strength of the Branch at that venue;
 - (c) the population of the venue;
 - (d) facilities for competitions, concerts and céilithe at the venue;
 - (e) catering and accommodation facilities at the venue;
 - (f) transport facilities.
71. The Provincial Council shall, in conjunction with the CEC have complete jurisdiction over the Provincial Fleadh and in all matters appertaining to the Fleadh, the rulings of the CEC shall be final. The admission charges to Provincial Fleadhanna event shall be fixed by the Provincial Council. A reduced admission charge will apply to Under 18's.
72. The County Board sponsoring the Fleadh shall convene a meeting of the County Board and local branch to elect from their own members the FEC. The FEC shall be responsible to the County Board, which shall in turn be responsible to the Provincial Council.
73. All monies received by the FEC shall, on receipt, be lodged to the credit of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in a current account in a Bank approved by the Provincial Council, in the name of the Provincial Fleadh Cheoil, with signatures of two treasurers (one a member of the County or Regional Board and the other a nominee of the Provincial Council). All drawings on the said account shall be by cheque bearing their joint signatures.

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- 74 The net profits of the Provincial Fleadh shall be divided and paid as follows:
25% to the branch running the Fleadh;
25% to the County or Regional Board;
25% to the Provincial Council;
25% to the Central Council.
Losses shall be borne in the same proportion.
- 75 Competitions at Provincial Fleadhanna shall be confined to those who have secured First or Second prize in the “confined” competitions at the County or Regional Fleadh within the Province in the current year together with a maximum of one other competitor from each county in each competition as defined in Rule 66.
- 76 Provincial Fleadh Committees shall produce a Souvenir Programme which shall contain the following information:
- The names and addresses of all competitors or name of Comhaltas Branch in lieu of address;
 - The names of the adjudicators;
 - The Centres for and the approximate starting times of each competition;
 - The names of the Fleadh Executive Committee;
 - The names and address of the previous year’s first prize-winners;
 - The Perpetual Trophy available for each competition, with donor’s names;
 - Diagram, or sketch of the town, showing the location of halls, etc;
 - The time schedule for the various events, i.e. Parade, Pageants, Concerts, etc;
 - The names of the Officers of the Provincial Council.
- 77 **Winners of Over 18 Competitions at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann** in the previous year are ineligible to compete in the Provincial Fleadh or County Fleadh.
- 78 Adjudicators shall, as far as possible, be drawn from outside the Province.
- 79 Prizes to be awarded shall be as follows: First Prize: Whatever Perpetual Trophy is available together with trophy or gilt medal; Second Prize: Silver medal; Third Prize: Bronze medal; Céilí Bands / Grúpaí Ceoil: Trophies or medals shall be awarded to each member of céilí band and Grúpaí Ceoil winning first, second or third prize; Marching Bands First Prize: Whatever Trophy is available and Certificate.
- 80 The names of Concert artists and céilí bands must first be submitted to the Provincial Council for prior approval before engagements are made.
- Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann**
- 81 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann shall be held on the weekend preceding the last Monday in August. Should it be found necessary to change the date of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, the Ard Chomhairle shall have the authority to do so without reference to Congress. No other Comhaltas function shall be held on those dates.
- 82 The venue shall be determined one year in advance -at the first meeting of the CEC after the

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corresponding Fleadh, from nominations submitted by branches to County Boards and recommended in order of preference by the Provincial Councils. It shall be decided by secret ballot; where there are three or more nominations the elimination system shall be adopted.

- 83 The centre may be located in any County having a strong County Board, and active branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann at the centre.
- 84 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann shall rotate among the counties in each Province provided that a suitable venue is available, the order of rotation to be decided by Provincial Convention.
- 85 The Provincial Council nominating the centre shall through its Secretary forward to the General Secretary of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann prior to the appropriate CEC meeting, information supplied by the Branch applying for the Fleadh regarding the following:
- a. Population of the proposed centre;
 - b. Numerical strength of the local branch;
 - c. Facilities for competitions, concerts and céilithe, i.e. number capacity and suitability of halls;
 - d. Travelling facilities;
 - e. Facilities for lodgings and catering.
- After the receipt of each valid application the standing committee shall visit the proposed venues and report to the Ard Chomhairle meeting at which the Fleadh is being allocated on the suitability of the proposed venues
- 86 The conduct of the Fleadh shall be reviewed and if necessary, revised or amended by the CEC in the light of progress reported at the CEC meeting held three months subsequent to the date on which the Fleadh was allocated to the centre, provided that such revisions and amendments are in keeping with Rules for Fleadhanna.
- 87 The CEC shall have complete jurisdiction over the Fleadh and in all matters appertaining to the Fleadh its rulings shall be final.
- 88 The **County Board** sponsoring the Fleadh Cheoil shall convene a meeting consisting of members of the County Board and the local Branch. This meeting shall elect the Fleadh Executive Committee. This FEC shall be answerable to the Central Executive Council. Members of sub-committees shall be subject to the prior approval of the FEC.
- 89 All monies received by the FEC shall on receipt be lodged to the credit of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann in a current account in a Bank approved by the CEC in the names of Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann with signatures of two treasurers (one member of the County and the other a nominee of the CEC). All drawings on the said account shall be by cheque bearing their joint signatures.

90 (a) The Ard Chomhairle will decide the levy to be paid by the Fleadh Committee: 2/3 to be paid by the 1st December in the year preceding the Fleadh and 1/3 to be paid by the end of June in the year of the Fleadh. 10% of this levy will be paid to the Sponsoring Branch, County Board and Provincial Council on receipt of Balance Sheet following the Fleadh.

(b) All net profits shall on the issue of the balance sheet be paid to the sponsoring branch for the promotion of cultural traditions – as enshrined in the aims and objectives of Comhaltas – in the area and as approved by the Ard Chomhairle

(c) Any losses on the Fleadh shall be borne in equal parts by the Ard Chomhairle, Provincial Council, County Board and local branch from their share of the levy mentioned at (a)

91 The Fleadh Executive Committee shall produce a **Souvenir Programme** which shall contain the following information:

- a. Names and addresses or name of Comhaltas Branch of all competitors;
- b. The centres for and approximate starting time of each competition;
- c. The names of the Fleadh Executive Committee;
- d. The names and addresses of previous year's first prize winners;
- e. The Perpetual Trophies available for each competition, with donors' names;
- f. Diagram or sketch of the town showing the location of halls,
- g. The time schedule of the various events, i.e. Parade, Pageant, Concerts, etc;
- h. The names of the Officers of the Central Executive Council.

92 The admission charges to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann competition centres, céilithe and concerts shall be fixed by the CEC in conjunction with the local organisers, when allocating the Fleadh to a venue, and reduced admission charge shall apply to Under 18s.

93 All competitions at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann, including Marching Bands, Uilleann Pipes, and competitions for Slow Airs, are confined to the following:

- (a) Those who have secured First or Second prize at the Provincial Fleadhanna in the current year;
- (b) Competitors of a sufficiently high standard, normally resident in countries where no qualifying Fleadhanna are held and whose entries reach Rúnaí na Fleidhe not later than one calendar month prior to the Fleadh. Where more than two entries are received for any one competition from any one country, the Fleadh Executive Committee shall arrange an elimination competition prior to the competition proper.
- (c) Excluding winners of Newly Composed Ballads and Amhráin Nua Cheaptha, those who won First Prize in the Over 18 Grade at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in the previous year.

94 The **prizes** to be awarded at Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann shall be as follows:

First Prize: Whatever Perpetual Trophy is available together with trophy or gilt medal;

Second Prize: Gold medal;

Third Prize: Silver medal;

Céilí Bands / Grúpaí Ceoil: A Trophy or medals shall be given to each member of céilí band and Grúpaí Ceoil winning first, second or third prize;

Marching Bands First Prize: Whatever perpetual Challenge Trophy is available and Certificate.

95 All disputes involving interpretation of Fleadh Rules shall be resolved by reference to



RIALACHA FLEADHANNA CEOIL

AMENDED CONGRESS 2007

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