

# **Bracken School of Irish Dance**

## Bracken Blackout Feis/ Bracken School Feis

### Frequently Asked Questions

The Bracken School of Irish Dance is excited to welcome you to our double feis weekend!

#### **Are the two feiseanna separate?**

YES THEY ARE!

- Saturday, April 27, 2019 is the Bracken Blackout Feis. This feis is a “Blackout” feis - please see below for specifics.
- Sunday, April 28, 2019 is the Bracken School Feis. This feis is a traditional feis in terms of costumes.
- Both feiseanna are being held at Triton Regional High School, 112 Elm St, Byfield, MA 01922.
- Register for both on Feisweb – they are listed separately

#### **Who are the judges?**

We are pleased to announce our panel of out-of-region judges:

- Mary Bryan – Toronto
- Gavin Doherty - Belfast
- Tim O’Hare - Chicago
- Kathy Dennehy - Chicago
- Patricia Gilchrist Kelso - Toronto
- Sinead Gilchrist-Sharkey - Toronto
- Anne Marie O’Donnell – Toronto
- Bernadette Dillon Gavin – Chicago
- Justine Ward-Mallinson – Manchester, UK

#### **Will the judges be rotated for each feis?**

Yes. Adjudicators will not judge the same competitions on both days, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

#### **Where can I find the syllabi?**

- On our website: [brackenirishdanceboston.com](http://brackenirishdanceboston.com)
- On the Bracken School Feis facebook page

#### **Will there be an area to hang used dresses/vests/jackets?**

- Yes, there will be a dress rack near the registration desk.

#### **What vendors will be there?**

Devlin Dance Shoes

Pop Culture

Feis Fayre (Sunday only)

#### **Will there be concessions available?**

Breakfast, lunch, and snack options will be available at very reasonable prices. Proceeds benefit the Bracken Family Organization. Thank you for supporting our dancers! **Cash only**, please.

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#### **What does a “Blackout Feis” mean?**

The goal of a blackout feis is for the dancers to focus on the dancing, not the costumes and the bling. All dancers (from first feis through and including open champions) are asked to leave the formal costumes at home and dance in modest, simple attire in black. Mr. Thomas Bracken, A.D.C.R.G, has developed the following costume requirements for our Bracken Blackout Feis in order to comply with North American Feis Committee guidelines:

- No solo costumes
- No school costumes
- No school branded attire on stages
- No bling on clothing, hair, shoe buckles, jewelry, etc with the exception of stud earrings which are permitted. No hoops or dangling earrings.
- No wigs, hair pieces, crowns, tiaras – hair should be kept neatly off the face.
- No makeup or very minimal, natural-looking makeup.
- No obvious graphics or lettering. A small logo (ex: Nike™ swoosh on hip) is acceptable.
- Black tights for girls (no poodle socks)– short socks may be worn under the tights to improve comfort and shoe fit.
- Tops for girls: black leotard or black T-shirt, either short or long sleeved, but must meet the requirements set forth by the NAIDC including: “necklines must be at the collarbone level or above” - low scoop or v necks that do not cover the collar bone are not permitted. No tank tops or cami tops are permitted. “Body suits should be of premium fabric and not showing the body contour in detail. Recommended fabrics include: velvet and lycra.” Example of acceptable leotard (this specific style is not required):  
[https://www.dancewearsolutions.com/leotards/long\\_sleeve/mt2435.aspx?position=14](https://www.dancewearsolutions.com/leotards/long_sleeve/mt2435.aspx?position=14)
- Black skirt or skort for girls. It should be comfortable for dancing and adhere to NAIDC requirements for length. “Tight sport skirts or gym skirts are not suitable.” Example of acceptable skirt (this specific style not required):  
[https://www.dancewearsolutions.com/bottoms/skirts\\_and\\_tutus/s8250.aspx?position=27](https://www.dancewearsolutions.com/bottoms/skirts_and_tutus/s8250.aspx?position=27)
- Boys: Boys should wear long black pants and a black top conforming to the same requirements as the girls.

[https://www.clrg.ie/images/CLRG%20Presentation%20Rule\\_April%202016.pdf](https://www.clrg.ie/images/CLRG%20Presentation%20Rule_April%202016.pdf)

#### **What do I need to know about the venue - Triton Regional High School?**

- Ample, free parking
- Spacious seating in gyms and auditorium
- Lots of space for camping in hallways
- Large cafeteria
- Snacks will be available outside gyms and auditorium; full menu available in cafeteria
- Registration inside front doors; pick up your number card here!

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#### Are there local accommodations?

- Fairfield Inn, Amesbury, MA 01913 (approximately 10 minute drive to Triton Regional High School) <https://www.reservations.com/hotel/fairfield-inn-by-marriott-amesbury>
- Hampton Inn, Amesbury, MA 01913 (approximately 10 minute drive to Triton High School) <http://www.guestreservations.com/hampton-inn-amesbury/booking>
- Double Tree Boston North Shore / CoCo Key Indoor Water Park 50 Ferncroft Rd, Danvers, MA 01923 (approximately 15 minute drive to Triton Regional High School) <http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/massachusetts/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-boston-north-shore-BOSNSDT/attractions/waterpark-info.html>
- Portsmouth, NH is about 30 minutes north of Triton Regional High School and has many options.

#### When will the schedule be released?

- The detailed schedule will be released as soon as possible after entries close, the Wednesday before the feis at the latest (as is typical in New England).
- The schedule will follow a typical New England region feis where we will provide specific start times for each competition.
- Grades will dance all light shoe dances consecutively and will then change shoes while another age group dances and then return to the stage to dance all hard shoe dances consecutively (including traditional set). This format gets your dancers in and out as quickly as possible while keeping the schedule moving and giving dancers a chance to change shoes in a relaxed manner, have some water and rest for a minute before starting hard shoe.

#### What do I need to know about awards?

- Awards will be presented in the cafeteria or courtyard outside cafeteria, weather permitting.
- Medal rounds for preliminary and open championships
- Sashes for all open and preliminary championship placements
- Trophies for top three in preliminary championship
- Unique awards for top three in open championships

#### What are some other reasons I should attend the Bracken double feis weekend?

- We have a history of running on time.
- We are excited to welcome you – you will find friendly staff all over the venue.
- If you haven't tried a black out feis yet come see what it's all about!
- The Newburyport area is a great place to visit in the spring.
  - Enjoy the Newburyport Waterfront / Downtown (10 minutes from venue), Amesbury Downtown (10 minutes from venue), Hampton Beach and Portsmouth, NH (30 minutes from venue) areas for great restaurants, fun shops, and outdoor spaces. <http://newburyportchamber.org/> <http://amesburychamber.com/> <http://portsmouthchamber.org/>
  - Shopping! The outlets in Kittery, ME are about 30 minutes north of the venue. Tax free Seabrook, NH is only 15 minutes from the venue.

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- CoCo Key indoor water park is 15 minutes from the venue.  
<http://www.cocokeyboston.com/>

### **What if I have other questions?**

Please contact us directly on our facebook page: Bracken School Feis or send an email to [brackenfeis@gmail.com](mailto:brackenfeis@gmail.com). Please note the feis committee does not frequent the voy boards. We will attempt to check them regularly between now and the feis weekend, but it is best to contact us directly with any questions.