



SPEECH & DRAMA

Teachers of Ireland

RULES AND REGULATIONS 2026

SPEECH AND DRAMA TEACHERS OF IRELAND, CLG



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Table of Contents

<i>Chairperson’s Acknowledgement</i>	2
<i>Membership and Entry Regulations</i>	3
General Entry Regulations.....	3
<i>Late Entries</i>	5
<i>Age Definitions</i>	6
<i>Online Regulations</i>	7
<i>Online Adjudication Regulations</i>	8
<i>Live Final Regulations</i>	9
Live Events (no online element).....	9
Live Events (following online heats).....	9
<i>Entrants with Additional Needs</i>	10
<i>Regulation Breach Procedures</i>	11
<i>Dispute / Appeals Process</i>	12
<i>Code of Conduct</i>	13



SPEECH & DRAMA

Teachers of Ireland

Chairperson's Acknowledgement

We are delighted to bring you another year of the much anticipated SDTOI Hybrid Feis - 2026
The highlight of the term calendar!

We look forward to what promises to be a wonderful celebration of talent, teamwork & achievement. This event is designed to be a fully inclusive, fair and enjoyable process where every child is given the opportunity to fully embrace their own talent and ability while growing in confidence throughout the process.

We have endeavoured to include all rules and regulations for Feis 2026 in this clearly laid out document. This comprehensive booklet has been developed to support the ethos of the Feis: an event that offers equal opportunities, that is fair and inclusive, and that celebrates children of all backgrounds, supporting their individuality, efforts, strengths, learning and accomplishments. Competition is framed positively as an opportunity to support children's overall development in and beyond performance, in a fun and safe environment. We focus on process, effort, and teamwork and also acknowledge the end product resulting from these.

We hope this booklet will benefit you as you prepare your entrants for FEIS 2026.

Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland would like to extend our thanks to all the teachers, entrants, families, adjudicators, assistants, and volunteers for their commitment, dedication, and support of the Feis over the past number of years. We look forward to continuing to grow and build on the success of our Hybrid Feis.

I would like to thank our board members for their dedication, time, and support both in the run up to, and on the day of, the Feis.

Thank you also to our valued sponsors for their continued support.

We look forward to a fantastic Feis and to welcoming everyone from all over Ireland.

June Allison,

Chairperson SDToI

Contact Us: [Feis Team 2026](#)



Membership and Entry Regulations

General Entry Regulations

1. Entry to Feis 2026 is open to current members of Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland (hereafter referred to as SDToI).
 - a. *Need to renew your membership? **Email** - info@speechanddramateachersofireland.ie*
 - b. *Want to join? **Email** - info@speechanddramateachersofireland.ie*
2. Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland membership is open to individuals not organisations.
3. All entering teachers must be active members of Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland.
4. Entrants must agree to the rules of entry by ticking the appropriate box on their entry form.
5. The board reserves the right to cancel / amend / or otherwise adapt competitions as it sees fit.
6. Ticking “consent to use images” in the entry form allows Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland to use these in promotional communications, including but not limited to, our social media platforms and website. “Images” in this context, refers also to videos.
7. Entries will only be confirmed once full payment has been received.
8. Payment is via a payment link which will be sent to you.
9. Time limits will be strictly enforced – see online and live rules for further details.
10. All relevant dates are listed on the Feis brochure.
11. Late entries may be permitted under specific circumstances – please see next section on late entries.
12. No substitutions are permitted under any circumstances.
 - a. Entry form – once entered a name may not be changed; a new form must be submitted for every entrant.
 - b. Video submissions – the entrant named on the entry form must be the same entrant for whom a video is submitted.
 - c. Live Heats – the entrant presenting to live heats must be the same entrant named on the entry form.
 - d. Live Finals – the entrant presenting to finals must be the same entrant who qualified through online heats.
 - e. Pieces – entrants qualifying for finals must present the same piece they submitted online.



SPEECH & DRAMA

Teachers of Ireland

13. Holders of Associate Diplomas cannot enter as candidates in the Feis.
14. The decision of adjudicators is final.
 - a. Where a breach of rules is identified or queried, adjudicators will be advised by the Feis Team on the appropriate course of action.
 - b. Adjudicators may not be approached directly by teachers, parents, or entrants regarding their decision.
15. Entrants must perform in English (except where there is a request for consideration under our Additional Needs section).
16. Teachers and audience members are advised that photography or recording is not allowed in event rooms. It is the responsibility of SDToI members to inform their entrants, their families and guests, of the rules and regulations.
17. Disputes* must be raised in writing to the **Feis Team** within 5 days of the date of live finals.
 - a. A fee of €50 is payable to Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland upon raising a dispute.
 - b. The fee is payable through the Speech and Drama Teachers of Ireland payment link which will be sent to you in the event of a dispute being raised.
 - c. Should your dispute be upheld, this fee is refunded.

**See Disputes Section of this document for further details.*



Late Entries

We understand that on occasion an entrant may be missed on a teacher's list, or a student may decide after the closing date that they wish to participate. There is a late entry option which may be available on a case by case basis:

1. Late entries may be processed after the closing date of February 9th. However, any late entries will only be accepted until February 13th at 9pm.
2. No entries will be processed under any circumstances after 9pm on February 13th.
3. The late entry option is available only to teachers who have already submitted entries by the official closing date of February 9th
4. "Late Entry" after the official closing date is defined as:
 - a. A new student entry from a teacher already registered for FEIS 2026.
 - i. Each event for which they register will be subject to the administration fee.
 - b. An existing entrant who wishes to swap from one category to another, or who wishes to add a category to their entry.
 - c. Entry forms will be open to accept new entrants
 - d. Changes to selected events must be requested by [EMAIL](#).
5. An administration charge of **€5 per requested change** will apply in all circumstances.
 - a. The administration fee will appear on your teacher spreadsheet for your records, and will be payable via payment link which you will receive.
6. There will be no late entry available for uploads to video folders.



Age Definitions

1. Entrants must be in the correct age range for their events as of January 1st 2026, **except:**
 - a. Where an entrant is younger than the lowest age category available.
 - i. **e.g.** Junior Shakespeare is only open to those between 12 and 14yrs.
Entrants below this age will be accepted should they wish to enter.
Teachers should ensure that the standard expected in the age category is met.
2. Entrants may not present in a category if they are above the upper age limit.
3. Regardless of age, Associate Diploma holders may not present in any category.
4. Duologues / Groups
 - a. Where entrants fall into more than one age category, they must be entered in the higher age category.
5. Teachers are responsible for ensuring their entrants are in the correct age category.
 - a. Entrants presenting in the wrong age categories will receive feedback and marks but will not be eligible for awards.



Online Regulations

1. Entry Forms
 - a. Forms will be sent to all members / past members once the event opens for registration.
 - b. Parents / guardians / entrants may not submit entry forms.
 - c. Entry is through the forms only.
 - d. Up to the closing date of February 9th, any changes to entries can be facilitated.
 - e. An entrant can be withdrawn from the event at any stage up to the closing date.
 - i. They will remain on the entry list, with 0 competition entries.
 - ii. They will incur no fee.
 - f. Entrants withdrawn after the closing date or failing to present for adjudication online or in person will not receive a refund under any circumstances.
 - g. After the closing date of February 9th, the Late Entry guidelines apply.
2. Video Uploads (**see How To Guide*)
 - a. Video uploads will be accepted once the full entry fee has been paid.
 - b. Entries can be uploaded at any stage up to the closing date.
 - c. Teacher folders will be closed once this date has passed and no further changes / uploads will be allowed.
 - d. All reasonable efforts will be made by the Feis Team to support teachers during the audit stage prior to videos being allocated to the adjudicator.
 - e. Teachers will be notified via their spreadsheets if an expected entry is missing.
 - f. Videos must be labelled with the entrants Unique Identifier (UIN)
 - g. Entrants must state the name of their piece and its author.
 - h. Entrants must not introduce themselves by name.
 - i. Entrants must not wear any uniform that could identify their location.
 - j. Videos can only be accepted through the SDToI Google Drive.
 - k. Video uploads to the SDToI Google Drive can only be made by active members.
 - l. Parents / Entrants / Guardians must not be given access to the SDToI Google Drive.
 - m. Videos uploaded by anyone not registered as a member will not be forwarded for adjudication and will be deleted.
 - n. Teachers are given a set period to review their entries.
 - o. Teachers are responsible for ensuring their entries are correct.
 - p. It is the responsibility of the teacher to maintain and securely store all video submission files on their own drive until the conclusion of the competition. Files which are deleted or removed by a teacher prior to the competition may be disqualified. SDToI do not hold back up files and are not responsible for retrieving any files deleted by a teacher.
 - q. Videos are retained for 10 days after the live event, and then deleted.



Online Adjudication Regulations

As per the general rules, the board reserves the right to adapt, amend, or cancel any category.

1. Adjudicators do not have access to personal details of entrants or their teachers.
2. UIN's are allocated randomly.
3. All entrants receive feedback and comment sheets from adjudicators.
4. All reasonable efforts will be made to notify teachers of their finalists 21 days prior to finals.
5. Teachers are requested to contact us as soon as possible when they know a student cannot present to finals.
6. The decision of adjudicators is final.
7. Once adjudicators have completed their categories, their access to videos is removed.

Live Final Regulations

As per the general rules, the board reserves the right to adapt, amend, or cancel any category.

Live Events (no online element)

1. Live events are subject to the same regulations as online events, with the following exceptions:
 - a. Allocation of awards will not include a shortlist, as only those present can be selected for awards.
 - b. Categories may be sub-divided into heats, subject to entry numbers.
 - c. Awards allocated within heats are final awards.
 - d. There will be no overall category award, unless only 1 heat takes place.

Live Events (following online heats)

1. Time limits will be strictly enforced for the live finals.
 - a. Entrants exceeding the time limit will be adjudicated, and will receive a mark, but will not be considered for awards.
2. Once set, the event timetable cannot be changed.
3. All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that the timetable facilitates teachers and parents to see as many entrants perform as possible.
4. Entrants must be within the stated age range on 1st January, 2026. It is the responsibility of teachers to ensure that entrants are correctly entered.
 - a. Entrants presenting in the wrong age categories will receive marks and feedback but will not be eligible to receive awards.
5. Entrants may supply a clean copy of their chosen pieces to their adjudicators on the day of the live final but are not required to do so. Pieces supplied will not be returned.
6. Entrants must perform the same piece in both online heats and live finals.
7. Entrants must dress appropriately for the event (school uniforms are not permitted).



SPEECH & DRAMA

Teachers of Ireland

- a. Costume is permitted but will not influence marking.
8. Entrants are responsible for setting their own stage and where applicable managing their own technology during their competition. Assistants can help with placement of heavy items – i.e. tables.
 - a. This does not apply to any entrant with specific additional needs who may require support.
9. The decision of the Adjudicator is final.
10. Entrants (or their accompanying adult) are required to sign in on arrival to their event room.
11. Only those entrants who have qualified through online heats are permitted to present to the live event for adjudication.
12. All attendees at the live event, including but not limited to, entrants, teachers, audience, etc. must comply with instructions from event organisers/volunteers.
13. Code of conduct
 - a. All attendees are requested to abide by the Feis Code of Conduct



SPEECH & DRAMA

Teachers of Ireland

Entrants with Additional Needs

All children are welcome to participate in Feis 2026. We endeavour to provide an environment that supports and includes children of all backgrounds and circumstances.

Online Event

1. Teachers are requested to inform us in writing 7 days in advance of the closing date of February 9th if any entrant requires consideration on medical, physical, sensory, or intellectual grounds.
2. Information will be shared with the specific adjudicator only, using the UIN as reference.
3. We do not require, nor can we ask for, clinical or medical diagnostic information.
4. Accommodations are made on a case-by-case basis.

Live Event

1. Teachers are requested to inform us in writing 7 days in advance of the finals on April 18th & 19th if a finalist requires consideration on medical, physical, sensory, or intellectual grounds.
2. Information will be shared with the specific adjudicator, and room assistants.
3. Accommodations are made on a case-by-case basis.

Please note that not every entrant with additional needs requires additional accommodation or support. We request information only where it is necessary to ensure that the entrant is afforded equality of opportunity.



Regulation Breach Procedures

The Feis team acknowledges the difference between error and deliberate regulation breach. All reasonable attempts will be made by the team to assist members with administrative errors. Regulation breaches will be dealt with on a case by case basis. In the extremely rare cases where an intentional breach is suspected or identified, the following will apply.

The FEIS team will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that no child's experience is marred by identification of a rule breach. Communications will be to the SDToI member in the first instance, and the relevant parent/guardian in the second instance, should the relevant member not be available.

- i. Communications in relation to breach of procedures will be documented by the FEIS Team and retained on our records.
- ii. Communications will be directly with the SDToI member and not the entrant or their parent/guardian where at all possible.
- iii. The board reserves the right to communicate directly with the entrant (if over 18yrs) / their parent/guardian where the SDToI member is not available
- iv. This communication is not covered under dispute resolution procedures, and is offered as a courtesy only.
- v. Disputes can only be raised by the relevant SDToI member.
- vi. In the first instance, breach procedures will be managed by the Feis Team.
- vii. In the event of an appeal, proceedings will be managed by the SDToI board.
- viii. Appeals / Disputes can be raised up to 5 days following the live final event, subject to payment of the dispute management fee of €50 - payable through our website only.
- ix. This payment will be returned should the dispute be upheld.
- x. Breaches are subject to different procedures, depending on the nature of the breach.
- xi. Substitutions
- xii. If a substitution is identified, the entrant will be disqualified.
- xiii. Awards presented to entrants identified as substitutions will be revoked.
- xiv. The SDToI member who entered the substitution will not be eligible to enter anyone in the identified category in the Feis following Feis 2026.
- xv. All costs incurred from retrieval of any awards (trophies / medals etc.) will be borne by the SDToI member who made the substitution.
- xvi. It is the responsibility of the SDToI member to communicate with the entrant and/or their parent/guardian in relation to these proceedings.
- xvii. Where the SDToI member does not communicate with the entrant, the FEIS TEAM may provide them with information regarding the identified breach, the communications with the member, and the resulting outcome.
- xviii. Failure to comply with these procedures will result in removal of the SDToI member from the organisation.
- xix. SDToI members have the right to appeal decisions handed down by the SDToI board. Appeals must be raised within 5 working days.



Dispute / Appeals Process

- i. Disagreement with the decision of an adjudicator, or disagreement with event procedures /decisions made by the Feis Team and/or volunteers are not in themselves grounds for dispute.
- ii. Disputes can be raised in the following circumstances:
- iii. Where inconsistencies arise in given marking schemes in specific events.
- iv. Where inconsistencies arise in given marking schemes between specific events (unless those events are subject to variations in marking schemes in the first instance).
- v. Where there is an unfair enforcement of regulations.
- vi. Where regulations may not have been adhered to.

Conducting a dispute / appeal

- i. If you wish to dispute or appeal a decision, contact [Feis Team 2026](#) within 5 working days of the date of the live event.
- ii. If after discussing the matter with us, you still wish to appeal a decision, you must communicate in writing to the SDToI Board within 5 working days of that discussion.
- iii. The written communication must contain the grounds for the dispute.
- iv. The grounds on which you believe your issue was not properly dealt with or assessed.
- v. Specific evidence supporting the dispute.
- vi. Written acknowledgement will be sent within 5 working days of receiving correspondence.
- vii. The dispute will be reviewed by the SDToI board AND an independent party at the SDToI board meeting directly following the date of receipt of a request to dispute.
- viii. Decisions reached at that meeting are final, and will be communicated to the appellant within 5 working days of the SDToI board meeting.
- ix. Should a dispute be upheld, any amendments to our regulations and procedures will be added to this booklet.



Code of Conduct

The FEIS Team has developed a full code of conduct which you are invited to read in full. A summary is listed here:

- i. Breaches of the code of conduct will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- ii. The Feis Team reserves the right to remove any persons found to be in breach of the code of conduct.
- iii. Removals will be an act of last resort.
- iv. Prior to removal the Feis Team will
 1. Establish the nature of the breach
 2. Establish the context in which the individual/s are attending (i.e. members, event Entrants, family members etc.)
 3. Explain the code of conduct and the specific breach occurring.
 4. Request adherence to the code.
 5. Record the event in writing.
 6. If the situation does not resolve, the Chairpersons will be consulted.
 7. Chairperson/s will consult with the individual/s involved, repeating the code of conduct and requesting adherence.
 8. Chairperson/s will record the event in writing.
 9. If the situation does not resolve, those in breach will be asked to leave the event.
- v. Individuals found to be in breach of the code of conduct will not be eligible to attend the event the following year.
- vi. All attendees are invited to read the code of conduct which has been shared with all members via email.