

NEWCASTLE SCD FESTIVAL

REGULATIONS

1. There will be a maximum of 50 entries with no more than ten entries in classes 3 and 4. As soon as the maximum is reached no further entries will be accepted. A waiting list will be used in case any entry withdraws.
2. Entry is by online form via the Registration page of the Newcastle Festival website. Payment of the entry fee is required to secure entries. Entries which cannot be accommodated due to capacity will be refunded in full. Entries withdrawn by teams will be entitled to a 50% refund of entry fees. Entries must be received on or before **16 November 2025**.
3. Restrictions
 - i) Competitors should not take part in more than one team in each class
 - ii) Teams in two classes with an overlap of dancers must perform different dances.
4. Teams should normally consist of four couples, except in the Display Class. Teams of three couples may be accepted if the Organising Committee is informed in advance and space is available.
5. For all classes except the display
 - i) All dances are to be chosen from RSCDS publications as listed in the latest edition of the RSCDS Index to Formations and Movements
 - ii) Dance choice must be made by online form via the Newcastle Festival website by **21 December 2025**
 - iii) Dances will normally be performed four times through
 - iv) Each chosen dance must show both setting and travelling steps.
 - v) The level of difficulty of a chosen dance will be taken into account.
6. Competitors should provide their own music. If using recorded music, this must be emailed to info@thenewcastlefestival.co.uk at least two weeks before the Festival, carefully annotating which entry the recording applies to. A keyboard will be made available to those wishing to use one.
7. The Organising Committee will decide the running order of the classes and the order of teams will be decided by ballot. The final programme will be published at least two weeks before the Festival.
8. Competitors who fail to appear at their designated time will forfeit their right to compete.
9. In all competitive classes, the Adjudicators will place the first three competitors in each class and announce their marks. Marks and general comments will appear on the adjudication sheets for each team and these may be collected at the end of the festival.
10. In non-competitive classes, general comments will appear on the participation sheet for each team and these may be collected at the end of the festival.
11. The decision of the Adjudicators shall be final.
12. The Organising Committee reserves the right to alter, modify or cancel any of the arrangements for the Festival if this is deemed necessary or expedient.

Updated September 2025

CLASSES

- Teams may make their own choice of dances within the rules
- The Maurice Cooper trophy will be awarded for the highest scoring single dance in Classes 1 to 5, and 7 of the Festival

Class	Name	Entry criteria	Fee	Trophy	Notes
1	Open Ladies	2 dances; one in Strathspey and one in Reel or Jig time	£20	Edith Spencer	
2	Open Men	2 dances; one in Strathspey and one in Reel or Jig time	£20	John Cass	
3	Under 12 years	2 dances; one in Reel and one in Jig time	£10	Chris Blair	Governing date is the age of the dancer at 31 December 2025
4	Under 18 years	2 dances; one in Strathspey and one in Reel or Jig time	£10	Chris Blair	Governing date is the age of the dancer at 31 December 2025
5	Open Mixed	2 dances; one in Strathspey and one in Reel or Jig time	£20	Stanley Hutchinson	
6	Display	A display of at least three published Scottish Country dance of which one must show Strathspey.	£20	Mabel Ellison	• The adjudicator will be seated with the audience for this class only • The class will be judged on the entertainment value of the display through the medium of Scottish country dances • Each team will be allocated up to a maximum of six minutes • The team should introduce its display including the dances used (up to 30 seconds in addition to the 6 minute limit) • Teams should provide their own music; any source of music may be used • No adjudication sheets will be issued • The winners will be asked to present their Display at the Evening Dance
7	Novice	2 dances; one in Strathspey and one in Reel or Jig time	£20	Patricia Cass	• The committee has introduced this class to widen access to the Festival. We appreciate your judgement when selecting dancers to be in the spirit of this section. • Teams may be any combination • At least 75% of the team should have no more than 2 years Scottish dance experience • The remaining 25% should have no more than 5 years Scottish dance experience.
8	Non-competitive	2 dances; one in Strathspey and one in Reel or Jig time	£20		• Teams may be any combination • Teams will not be adjudicated but general comments will appear on a participation sheet.

N.B. Trophies will become the responsibility of the winners after they have signed an undertaking to be responsible for their safe keeping and for their return to the Festival Organising Committee, free of cost, cleaned and in good condition.

PHOTOGRAPHY

In order to comply with regulations, it is necessary for us to inform participants and spectators that photography and video of children's groups is restricted to parents and accredited group leaders. They may only photograph and video the group in which their own children are participating. With respect to child protection all participants and spectators are also asked to report anything suspicious immediately.

All communications should be addressed to info@thenewcastlefestival.co.uk