

## **POLICY FOR ALTERNATIVE DANCES (sometimes called “Lesser Known Dances”)**

Rationale:

Many centres and affiliated societies need further guidance in regard to including dances on programmes that do not come within the ambit of the Piping and Dancing Association Bylaws.

Examples of the types of dances that may fit within the alternative dances category:

- “Medal Tests”
- “Hebridean Dances”
- Those that could be classified as “fun’ dances for the audience or parents to encourage participation and give parents an opportunity to empathise with their competing children e.g Parents Irish Dance
- Waltz Clog

In order to give these societies assistance it is hoped the following policy may help:

1. Do not give these dances the same name as those listed in Rule 41 of the P & D Bylaws e.g. call the parents dance a “Parents Irish Dance” (not a “Parents Irish Jig”).
2. Advise in programme that the dance is “NOT under P & D Rules.”
3. Rule 41(f) of the P & D Bylaws states that “The number of steps for dances OTHER THAN those specified above shall be as stated in the programme”. The number of steps to be danced for these alternative dances must be stated on the programme (only a commonsense rule for dancers and piper).
4. There would be no particular rule in regard to dress. As in the waltz clog competitors may chose a traditional type of costume. Therefore as there are no rules here then the judges can not judge specifically on costume, only in what it added / or not to the overall performance.
5. When deciding to add these dances to the programme the committee should look at the “balance” this adds to the competitive day. The following should be considered
  - These dances, for example, may not attract sufficient entries to add to the financial success of the day.
  - A reasonable number of dancers will need to know the dances to again help with the financial success.

- Too many of these dances within one day may make some dancers decide to not compete as the length of the day may effect decisions and the length of time between age events may also effect the number of entries.
6. It is suggested that these dances be called “ALTERNATIVE DANCES” to ensure that they are differentiated from the traditional Highland and National dances referred to in the P & D Bylaws (which dances have a specific number of steps).