

# 161st ANTIGONISH HIGHLAND GAMES

Highland Dancing Events Saturday, July 11 & Sunday, July 12, 2026

REGISTRATION # C-NS-CO-26-1017, 1018

JUDGES Kelly Biduke, Whitby, ON / Steven MacRae, Kentucky, USA / Barb Yorke, Kensington, PEI  
PIPERS Jamie Douglas, ON / Mike Reid, ON



## Saturday, July 11, 2026

*Pre-Premier Competition: Novice & Intermediate*

*New Scotland Open Championship & Special Event Mary Dundas Sword*

Times	Categories / Dance Events	DANCE # 1	DANCE # 2	DANCE # 3	DANCE # 4
Registration 8:00 AM Dancing 8:30 AM	<b>NOVICE Pre-Premier Competition</b>	Fling (4)	Sword (2&1)	Seann Truibhas (3&1)	Lilt (4)
	<b>INTERMEDIATE Pre-Premier Competition</b>	Fling (4)	Sword (2&1)	Seann Truibhas (3&1)	Lilt (4)
Registration 10:00 AM Dancing 10:30 AM	<b>PREMIER New Scotland Open Championship</b> 14 & Under 16, 16 & Under 18, 18 & Under 21, 21 & Over <i>*CALL BACKS WILL BE ANNOUNCED BEFORE LUNCH*</i>	Fling	Sword	Seann Truibhas	Strathspey & Reel of Tulloch
		2026 Championship Steps			
Registration 1:30 PM Dancing 2:00 PM	<b>PREMIER New Scotland Open Championship</b> 7 & Under 10, 10 & Under 12, 12 & Under 14	Fling	Sword	Seann Truibhas	Strathspey & Reel of Tulloch
		2026 Championship Steps			
Immediately following New Scotland Open Championship	<b>PREMIER DANCERS UNDER 16 YRS</b> <b>Special Event Mary Dundas Sword (2&amp;1)</b> To follow the championship-before awards	Does not count for Championship. Entries will be divided into 3 age groups, and the 1st place winners of each age group will dance off a 2&1 Sword Dance for the Mary Dundas Memorial Trophy.			

## Sunday, July 12, 2026

*Pre-Premier Competition: Primary & Beginner*

*Special Event Florence MacMillan Flora & Highland Heart Open Premiership*

Times	Categories / Dance Events	DANCE # 1	DANCE # 2	DANCE # 3	DANCE # 4
Registration 8:00 AM Dancing 8:30 AM	<b>PRIMARY Pre-Premier Competition</b>	16 Pas de Bas	Pas de Bas & High Cuts	Fling (4)	Sword (2&1)
	<b>BEGINNER Pre-Premier Competition</b>	Fling (4)	Sword (2&1)	Seann Truibhas (3&1)	Lilt (4)
Registration 9:30 AM Dancing 10:00 AM	<b>PREMIER DANCERS MARITIME PROVINCES ONLY</b> <b>Special Event Florence MacMillan Flora (4 step)</b> Immediately following Primary & Beginner	Does not count for Premiership. 1st and 2nd place winners in each age group will dance-off a 4 step Flora for the Florence MacMillan Trophy.			
Registration 10:00 AM Dancing 11:00 AM	<b>PREMIER Highland Heart Open Premiership</b> 7 & Under 10, 10 & Under 12, 12 & Under 14, 14 & Under 16, 16 & Under 18, 18 & Under 21, 21 & Over	Blue Bonnets	Earl of Errol	Scottish Lilt	Sailor's Hornpipe
		2026 Premiership Steps			

*Start times and age groups are dependent on entries. You will be notified by e-mail if there is any change of start times.*

## Awards Presentations

The presentations of pre-premier awards will take place immediately following the morning competitions on a separate awards stage. The presentations of championship and premiership awards for all age groups will take place at the end of each day on the main competition stage, along with the awards for the special events.

## Registration Fees – No Refunds

Primary	\$25/\$40
Beginner	\$40
Novice	\$40
Intermediate	\$40
Premier New Scotland Open Championship	\$65
Premier Under 16 Yrs Special Event Mary Dundas Sword	\$10
Premier Highland Heart Open Premiership	\$65
Premier Maritime Dancers Special Event Florence MacMillan Flora	\$10
All dancers must pay a mandatory SDNS Levy	\$5

## Registration

Registration opens Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 7 pm Atlantic  
Registration closes Friday, June 26, 2026 at 7pm Atlantic  
Payment may be made by PayPal, Visa, MasterCard or American Express

ONLINE REGISTRATION ONLY [Click Here to Register](#)

Confirmation of registration will be received in an email. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organizer. Changes in categories must be made on or before July 9, 2026, by emailing [antigonishhighlandgamesdancing@gmail.com](mailto:antigonishhighlandgamesdancing@gmail.com). All inquiries email [antigonishhighlandgamesdancing@gmail.com](mailto:antigonishhighlandgamesdancing@gmail.com)

## Pre-Premier Competition Rules

- All dancers must have a current (2026) registration card. Any dancer unable to show a valid card will pay a \$10.00 fee to the organizer. If the card is not produced within 10 days, their name will be passed on to all organizers who will be advised not to accept entries from the dancer or allow them to compete until such matters are satisfactorily resolved.
- All dancing events will be governed by the rules and regulations of the RSOBHD.
- Judges' decision is final. No access to judges' sheets.
- First to enter, last to dance.
- Dancers must report promptly to the dance area when called or risk missing that dance.
- Age will be as of July 11, 2026 for Novice & Intermediate, and age will be as of July 12, 2026 for Primary & Beginner
- Age categories for Pre-Premier will be based on the number of registrants in each classification.
- In the event of a protest being lodged, a \$35.00 fee must accompany the written complaint and must be postmarked and forwarded within a period of 7 days.
- Competitors must be in full dress, including ghillies, to receive awards.
- Medals will be awarded in all categories based on the number of competitors.
- Trophies will be awarded in all classes except Primary.
- No coaching by teachers or parents while dancers are on stage.
- Teachers and parents are not to be in the line-up area unless volunteering there.
- Dancers and parents must respect the ScotDance Canada Risk Management guidelines, local health authority directives, and RSOBHD Code of Ethics.

## ***New Scotland Open Championship Rules***

- Sanctioned and conducted under the rules and regulations of the Royal Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing.
- Age will be as of July 11, 2026.
- Championship groups must have a minimum of 6 dancers competing to be eligible for Championship status. In the event of there being insufficient entries in stated age groups prior to or on the day, the event organizer reserves the option to combine age groups to meet the minimum number required.
- First to enter, last to dance. There will be no number draw for the order of dances.
- Dancers will be asked to fill in for Reels as required.
- Judges' decision is final. No access to judges' sheets. Only championship results will be posted.
- Championship medals will be awarded to 6 places in each category, except for the oldest group who will receive cash awards. Keeper awards will be awarded to the Champion and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Runners-Up. There are no perpetual trophies.

## ***Highland Heart Open Premiership Rules***

- Sanctioned and conducted under the rules and regulations of the Royal Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing.
- Age will be as of July 12, 2026.
- The 2026 RSOBHD Premiership steps must be danced.
- Premiership groups must have a minimum of 6 dancers competing to be eligible for Premiership status.
- In the event of there being insufficient entries in stated age groups, prior to or on the day, the event organizer reserves the option to combine age groups to meet the minimum numbers required. All dancers aged 12 & over will be required to dance long steps (where applicable) regardless of the championship status of their group.
- First to enter, last to dance. There will be no number draw for the number of dances.
- Judges' decision is final. No access to judges' sheets. Only premiership results will be posted.
- Medals will be awarded to 6 places in each category, except for the oldest group who will receive cash awards. Keeper awards will be awarded to the Premiership Winner and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Runners Up. There are no perpetual trophies.

## ***Premier Cash Prizes***

Oldest Premier Group in the New Scotland Open Championship and the Highland Heart Open Premiership will receive cash Prizes: 1st \$50, 2nd \$40, 3rd \$35, 4th \$30, 5th \$25, 6th \$20.

## ***Special Antigonish Town & County Trophies***

**Gerarda MacDonald/Janice Macquarrie Trophy** is awarded to the top Premier dancer of the weekend who accumulates the most points in the Championship and Premiership.

**Wilena MacInnis Penny Trophy** is awarded to the Antigonish Premier Dancer with the most points accumulated in the Championship, Premiership and Flora.

**New Zealand Pre-Premier Trophy** is awarded to the Antigonish Beginner, Novice, or Intermediate dancer deemed most promising by the judges.

## ***Gate Passes***

Dancers do not require a day pass for entrance. Please show your dancer registration card at the ticket gate for entrance. Each dancer will be permitted to purchase one discounted day pass for one chaperone on the day(s) they dance.

The discounted day pass rates and instructions for online purchasing will be communicated in your confirmation of registration email. Please note that these discounts are available for pre-purchase only and will not be available on site.

## ***Staying Safe***

Our goal is to allow our dancers to compete in a safe, inclusive, and positive environment. We appreciate unexpected situations will arise on the day that may require action to protect our dancers, judges, volunteers, and other participants. Remember to be kind and respectful.

## **ScotDance Canada Assumption of Risk & Liability Waiver**

The ScotDance Canada Assumption of Risk & Liability waiver must be acknowledged and selected as read during the time of registering online.

### **Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability Relating to Participation in a ScotDance Canada Sanctioned Event (competition / workshop), including Covid-19 / other contagions of concern as identified by the World Health Organization / local / provincial / federal government authorities.**

*The Antigonish Highland Society and its members commit themselves to comply with the requirements and recommendations of National, Provincial and local Public Health and other governmental authorities, and to put in place and adopt all necessary measures to that effect. However, Antigonish Highland Society cannot guarantee that you (or your child, if participant is a minor / or the person you are the legal guardian of) will not become infected with COVID-19 / other contagions. Further, attending the Event could increase your (or your child, if participant is a minor / or the person you are the legal guardian of) risk of contracting COVID-19 / other contagions, despite all preventative measures put in place.*

**By signing this document**, I declare that I (or my child, if participant is a minor / or the person I am the legal guardian of) am participating voluntarily in the 161st Antigonish Highland Games.

I am aware that participating in the 161st Antigonish Highland Games (the “Event”) involves the potential for risks, dangers and hazards, including but not limited to:

- (a) Covid 19 / other contagions
- (b) Injury to myself / my child as a result of the physical nature of dance competition / workshop and performance
- (c) The taking and / or release of unauthorized photographs, video, and / or other recordings of myself and / or my child, notwithstanding efforts to enforce Event policies

I declare that neither I (or my child, if participant is a minor / or the person I am the legal guardian of) nor anyone in my household, have experienced in the last 48 hours prior to the date of the 161st Antigonish Highland Games, Covid-19 / other contagions symptoms (as identified by public health authorities).

I declare that neither I (or my child, if participant is a minor / or the person I am the legal guardian of) have tested positive for COVID-19 / other contagions, and have not yet been cleared to discontinue isolation in accordance with applicable criteria communicated by public health officials (awaiting results); have been in close contact with a person who, to my knowledge, had symptoms of COVID-19 / other contagions or has tested positive for COVID-19 / other contagions, and have not yet been cleared to discontinue isolation in accordance with applicable criteria communicated by public health officials; or am currently subject to a quarantine or self-isolation order for any reason, including travel.

I (or my child, if participant is a minor / or the person I am the legal guardian of) declare that I have not been required to self-isolate under timelines set out by public health authorities (except for essential school or work activities).

If I (or my child, if participant is a minor / or the person I am the legal guardian of) experience, or if anyone in my household experiences any Covid 19 / other contagions symptoms after submitting this declaration, I (or my child, if guardian of) will not attend any of 161st Antigonish Highland Games programs or services until no longer required to self-isolate or for 48 hours after symptoms resolve or as directed by public health authorities.

I (or my child, if participant is a minor / or the person I am the legal guardian of) agree to the requirements and recommendations of National, Provincial and local Public health and other governmental authorities and to those special safety regulations put in place by Antigonish Highland Society / Antigonish Highland Games as it pertains the Covid-19 / other contagions and to adopt all necessary measures to those effects.

I (or my child, if participant is a minor / or the person I am the legal guardian of) agree that, by filling out and signing this waiver and agreeing to the terms and conditions set out in it, I am giving up my legal rights to sue Antigonish Highland Society / Antigonish Highland Games and its officers and directors, in the event that I (or my child, if participant is a minor / or the person I am the legal guardian of), contracts Covid-19 / other contagions.

This document will remain in effect until Antigonish Highland Society / Antigonish Highland Games as per the direction of the National, Provincial, and local Public health and other governmental authorities, determines that the aforesaid acknowledgments pertaining to Covid 19 / other contagions in this declaration are no longer required.

In consideration of my / my child's participation in the Event and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is acknowledged, I hereby WAIVE ANY AND ALL CLAIMS against ScotDance Canada, its directors, agents, employees, executive members, volunteers and organizers of the Event (the "Releasees"), which I now have, or hereafter may have against the Releasees. In particular, but without limiting the foregoing, I agree to release the Releasees from ANY AND ALL LIABILITY for any loss, damage, injury, or expense I / my child may incur as a result of my / my child's participation in or attendance at the Event. I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from ANY LOSS, DAMAGE, INJURY OR EXPENSE, including legal costs, that the Releasees may incur due to my / my child's participation in or attendance at the Event, whether caused by the negligence of the Releasees or otherwise, and whether caused to my child or otherwise. I understand that the Releasees will photograph and otherwise record the Event, its participants and attendees. I consent to and authorize such recording. I further consent to and authorize the Releasees to publish my / my child's image, likeness and information in any medium, including but not limited to photographs, videos, DVDs, and web-casts. I understand that this publication will take place in the public domain, including in printed materials, public announcements, and on the internet.

**I specifically consent to the public release of the following information:**

1. Name
2. City, Province, Country of Residence
3. Tartan
4. Age
5. Results

This document is in addition to and does not replace all other Antigonish Highland Society / Antigonish Highland Games waivers.

I acknowledge that by signing and submitting this entry, electronically or otherwise, that I have read this agreement carefully and fully understand it, and agree to all the above terms and conditions. \*

**Parent / Guardian electronic signature for dancers who are under 18 years of age OR signature of those dancers who are over 18 years of age. By typing my name in this online form, I am acknowledging I have read the ScotDance Canada Rules. I will comply to all rules set by ScotDance Canada and the event organizers.\***