



NAIDC 2022 Final Newsletter
June 2022

Introduction

After six-months of non-stop planning, we are just about done with the finishing touches on everything to be able to welcome you to Montréal, Canada, and among those final tasks is this newsletter.

Hopefully, you've discovered the official website at www.naidc2022.com and found it to be useful. I tried to think of everything you could possibly need to know, and keep it updated as often as possible. Check it out in these final few days if you haven't discovered it already. In the meantime, here are a few last-minute tips before you travel.

Before you Travel

Anyone arriving into Canada will have to register their visit using the **ArriveCan** app, and depending on where you are traveling from, you may need an **eTa** travel VISA, too. You might want to screen-shot your **ArriveCan** receipt to find it quickly when asked to show proof of completion either when checking in for your flight, boarding your flight or arriving in Canada. You also might want to consider purchasing *Trip Delay/Baggage* insurance because the travel industry has been a bit *up-in-the-air* recently (see what I did there!) and it could prove to be a good investment. So many people are traveling at the moment and many airlines/airports are experiencing staffing issues, causing flights to be delayed, and this is particularly problematic when having to connect flights with checked-in baggage. I don't want to alarm you but rather advise you to be more prepared than usual – especially if you haven't traveled much since 2020. If your credit card has this sort of protection, have the details handy in case you need them to save some stress; photograph your suitcases to make them easier to describe if you have to file a claim; and DON'T pack anything in your checked luggage that will be needed for the competition that can't be replaced – costume, shoes, lucky teddy bear etc.

You will need proof of vaccination to enter Canada, you will be required to wear a mask when flying into the country, and you may also need a letter for Immigration from a non-accompanying parent granting permission for bringing a minor into the country (rarely asked for, but something to consider bringing just in case), even if it's for your own child.

Arriving in Montreal

As mentioned above, travel is a bit hectic these days, so expect long lines upon your arrival for immigration, taxis and possible long waits for baggage. There are the usual options to get downtown, such as public transit (**Bus/747** is the best option), taxis, or ride-sharing apps like **Uber** or **Eva**. Be sure to be at the designated pick-up location before ordering an **Uber/Eva**, as it may take you longer to walk there than it takes for the vehicle to drive there, and it might drive away and charge you for not showing up.

Checking into your Hotel

If you booked in the *Official Hotel Room Block* at an official hotel, you will have already paid two nights' deposit and you will be eligible for event wristbands to give you access to the competition floors. You will need to submit a completed registration form (see the "*Hotels*" page or the "*Daily Admissions*" page of the website to download a copy in advance to save time) and can only collect wristbands based on the number of people registered on the hotel booking. If four of you are staying in a room that is registered for only one person, you need to amend the reservation to include four people to get four sets of wristbands.

Check-in is typically in the late afternoon, but some hotels may allow early check-in if space is available, or let you check-in without a room assignment so you can get your wristbands earlier, then come back later to access your room. It's up to each hotel to decide to do this, although we have asked for them to be as accommodating (bad dad pun #2) as possible. Lastly, bring some old towels if tanning legs, and be mindful of other hotel guests by not dancing in corridors or by elevators. Most hotels will have practice rooms available (look for the signage), and information is on our website under "*Practice Areas*".

Entry Summary

There are 3,728 dancers registered this year (which is up about 12% from 2019 in solo and team events), from 357 different schools (including 2 dancers from Argentina and 59 dancers who will be dancing on their birthday). We were overwhelmed with the response, and are very excited that our event is so popular.

Since the daily schedule had to go out in February in order to open the *Official Hotel Room Block*, and the entries didn't close until mid-May, the schedule is very tight on the first two days, and quite light on the third and fifth day. Not wanting to change the daily schedule after people booked hotels and flights, we kept it as is, and made the best schedule possible for these two very packed days. As such, we need your patience and cooperation by checking in on time, turning up side-stage on time and understanding if we run late that it's not due to poor planning but that we did our best.

The Competition Venue

See "*The Venue*" page on the website for the name, address, floor map and explanation about the various access doors, which is especially important for anyone arriving very early for appointments with vendors for hair/makeup/tanning. Regardless of the time/method of entry, everyone will need to make their way to Viger Hall in Level 2, where you will find the Admissions desk and the escalators to the competition floors (5th and 7th). The escalators will be closed until the venue staff are in place to welcome you.

Wristbands will be required as of July 1 on each competition day (but only until 4pm) to access the competitions, vendors, practice areas etc., so patrons who don't acquire wristbands via an eligible hotel stay will have to purchase them at the Admissions desk. Opening hours and pricing can be found on the "*Daily Admissions*" page of the website. Cash is the only method of payment, with US dollars being accepted at par.

In case of a health and safety emergency at any time, the protocol at this venue is to notify a member of the Security team so they can call an ambulance and direct them to the closest access door.

Programs/Journals

The Admissions desk is also where pre-ordered programs will be distributed. The pick-up list will be generated based on the **PayPal** user name/e-mail used to make the purchase, not necessarily the name of the person who placed the order. Bring a copy of your receipt with you and/or check which account you used to save time and stress.

Teachers attending the *IDTANA Convention* on Thursday June 30 will be able to collect their program only at the start of the lunch break; otherwise, teachers will be able to collect them at the Admissions desk at the competition venue after 2pm that day (there will be a dedicated line for teachers for the first two-three days for your convenience) and during regular opening hours on subsequent days. Teachers who did not RSVP will not get a program, and there will not be any for sale.

Day of Competition

Access to the competition floor is scheduled to commence ninety minutes ahead of the published start time of that day's competitions, and the competition rooms will open for check-in sixty minutes prior. It is at this time when dancers can begin to collect their number card, receive their participation patch and confirm their set dance. Set dances will be printed on the reverse of the number card. It is not a problem to change set dance names/speeds, but this must be done in the morning at the initial check-in so the database can be updated. NOTE: it will not be possible for dancers in the Adult championship to change their choice of soft shoe for any reason. Once recalls are announced, we will NOT be checking-in again to confirm sets and speeds. We will be asking dancers to get dressed and head side-stage right away, so we can start. This should save up to 30 minutes on the daily schedule, which you will appreciate later in the evening.

Any number cards not collected once the competition starts will be destroyed and those dancers may not participate in that round or any subsequent rounds if they turn up late. Dancers who have their number card but miss the first dance **may still do the second dance** but cannot recall, regardless of scores earned in that round. Dancers who recall but do not do the set round cannot appear in the final result on stage.

Dancers, please show up side-stage in plenty of time, as there could be a lot of no-shows which would mean dancing earlier than anticipated. Also, the other dancers sharing the stage with you may want to plan the first few bars of the dance to avoid traffic issues, and the Stage Managers don't want to have to tell someone they have missed their turn. It's an awful feeling, trust me.

Number Checks will coincide with the start numbers shown in the program (or as close as possible). Please don't disappear and miss it. There is no disqualification but it is important for the adjudicators to see each dancer one more time to ensure their marks are accurate. Only at this time are photographs permitted, but please stay back from the adjudicators' tables, as they are still working and need to concentrate.

Recalls/Results

Recalls will be announced in the hall where the sets will occur. Please do not ask the announcers when they will be called. They will be called as soon as they are ready and handed to the announcer (the announcers do not get advanced notice of when they will receive the paperwork). Check our Instagram account and download the QuickFeis app for updates on recalls and other news. Results will be posted shortly after being announced on stage. Results scores/grids will not be printed and distributed, so you will need to go to www.quickfeis.com to find them. Be sure to bring your password with you so you can access the app and the website with ease, and if you are a history buff with some free time, check out the "Looking Back/Previous Results" page of the *NAIDC 2022* website for results going back as far as the very first event

held in 1969.

Awards

For many dancers, this is their first international competition since the summer of 2019, or quite possibly their first one ever. The organizing committee was so thrilled for everyone who persevered through “the Covid-19 years” that they elected to increase the minimum number of trophies being awarded from 25% to 33%. As usual, all recalled dancers will receive the commemorative NAIDC recall medal, and the top five dancers will receive a custom sash/cummerbund and other neat stuff.

Awards will be presented each night on Stage A and Stage C in an alternating manner. The running order will be posted to Instagram. During setup, enjoy video footage on our jumbo screens of FeisTV interviews and footage, our amazing opening night ceremony on July 1, and a presentation of IDTANA scholarship winners on July 2.

Volunteering

One of the best ways to get a feel for how these events come together is to volunteer. We need your help at the admissions desk, the costume re-sale room, and other areas (especially if you are a TCRG).

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040c44a8a72fa3fd0-naidc>

And on the topic of volunteering, I couldn't have done any of this without the amazing volunteer work and support from my two co-chairpersons Rose Johnson TCRG and Marie Short ADCRG, our treasurer Joanne Kingsbury ADCRG, our other Executive Board members Debbie MacVoy ADCRG and Becky Chapman TCRG, and so many more people who undertook roles big and small.

So that's it.

Enjoy a fantastic week of Irish dancing (both live, and on FeisTV), get out to enjoy the city, and safe travels.

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