



2026 EVENTS

ART & CULTURAL

Your guide to running events at
an Area and County Level





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Guide to Running Art and Cultural Events at Area and County Level

Participation in Cairn Community Games events at Area level is at the heart of what we do. While reaching the National Finals is a superb achievement, the real value lies in the running of Area events where children aged 6 to 16 can take part, learn new skills and have fun.

None of this would be possible without the dedication and commitment of adult and youth volunteers. Their involvement is critical in creating a safe and structured environment for these events.

We've put together this guide to give you some tips and support on how to run Art and Cultural Events in your local Areas and indeed Counties.

To ensure the success of these events and the safety of all participants, there are key steps that must be followed:

1. **Children First:** The safety of children is paramount. All events must follow Children First guidelines to ensure a safe, child-centred environment. Your Area/County/Province needs a Children's Officer, and this role is a mandated role. There is a dedicated team at Head Office to assist you in your role
2. **Recruitment of Volunteers:** Volunteers are the backbone of Cairn Community Games. Encourage parents, teachers, and community members to get involved. Ensure that volunteers are given induction opportunities at Area Level and are familiar with our [policies and procedures](#).
3. **Garda Vetting:** All volunteers must undergo [Garda vetting](#) to ensure the safety of the children. This is a non-negotiable requirement.
4. **Area Affiliation via the Online Registration System (ORS):** Areas must be affiliated on the [ORS](#) before running events.
5. **Setting of Dates:** National dates are set first, and counties can then set their own event dates accordingly.
6. **Insurance Requirements:** Events can only be insured if the area is affiliated. If specific indemnity is needed for a venue, please contact Head Office. No events should begin before insurance is confirmed by emailing [Head Office](#)
7. **Risk Assessment and Child Safeguarding Statement:** It is essential to complete a risk assessment and have a child safeguarding statement in place before any event. Please visit our [Safeguarding Page](#) to find out more.
8. **Code of Conduct:** All adults and parents must sign the [Code of Conduct](#) to ensure a safe and respectful environment.

9. **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:** Equality, diversity and inclusion are essential in Cairn Community Games, ensuring that every child, regardless of background or ability, feels welcome and valued as part of a supportive and enriching experience.
10. **Promotion of Events:** Counties have access to Canva Pro accounts, complete with preloaded templates and brand kits. Specific guides on Social Media and PR are available on this [page](#).
11. **GDPR and Consent:** Ensure [GDPR](#) regulations are followed, and consent is obtained for all children participating in events.
12. **Registration of Participants:** All children participating must be registered on the ORS to maintain accurate records and ensure they are insured.
13. **Fill your panels:** When registering team events, please ensure that you fill the panel so that the team will not have to withdraw in case children need to cancel their place.
14. **Residency and Age/Gender Requirements:** Children must reside in the area where they are participating in events. They must be of the correct age and gender for an event. We use the 31st July as our cut off date. Please visit our [Age Calculator](#).
15. **Event Rules:** Visit our website [Event Pages](#) for most up to date rules BEFORE organising an event
16. **Fundraising and Support:** Fundraise locally and seek support from local councillors and Local Sports Partnerships (LSPs) where possible.
17. **Training:** Keep an eye on our [Training](#) webpage where courses are advertised and can be registered for.
18. **Scheduling/Timetabling:** Be conscious when scheduling Area or County finals that you take into consideration other events happening that day or weekend – ie: local events, NGB events etc.

Always check www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events-calendar so that you can plan towards the National Finals!
19. **LSP/NGB's:** Contact your local NGB's and Local Sports Partnerships for advice in relation to venues and officials – they can be very helpful. Visit the end of this guide for a full contact list.



Relevant Event Webpages

Before deciding to organise a Community Games event, it's essential to visit the relevant webpage for the most up-to-date information. Each event page provides the latest details on rules, age categories, competition formats, scoring and other essential guidelines that could impact your planning.

Staying informed by regularly checking the webpage ensures that you are following current Cairn Community Games rules, helping you avoid any issues or confusion.

- **Art** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/art
- **Chess** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/chess
- **Choir** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/choir
- **Culture Corner** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/culture-corner
- **Debating** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/debating
- **Draughts** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/draughts
- **Group Dance (Disco)** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/group-dance---modern-and-disco
- **Group Dance (Irish)** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/group-dance---irish-contemporary
- **Group Drama** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/group-drama-comedy
- **Group Music** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/group-music
- **Group Singing** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/group-singing
- **Handwriting** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/handwriting
- **Model Making** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/model-making
- **Projects - U11/U13** www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/projects
U16 www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/projects-u16
- **Solo Dance** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/solo-dance
- **Solo Music** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/solo-music
- **Solo Recitation** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/solo-recitation
- **Solo Singing** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/solo-singing
- **Quiz** - www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/quiz

Art

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/art

Why Art?

1. Encourages Creativity for Life

Art gives children the chance to express themselves freely, using their imagination to create something unique. These skills can be valuable in future careers, from design to marketing and beyond.

2. Develops Fine Motor Skills

Drawing and painting help children refine their hand-eye coordination and precision, which are vital in careers like engineering, architecture, graphic design and more.

3. Teaches Focus and Patience

Working on an art project requires concentration and patience, qualities that will benefit children in school and future professions, especially in roles that need sustained effort.

4. Builds Confidence and Pride

Completing artwork and receiving positive feedback boosts children's self-esteem and confidence.

5. Promotes Relaxation and Emotional Well-being

Art is a calming, therapeutic activity that helps children manage stress and express emotions, a vital skill for maintaining well-being in the future.

6. Inspiration from Role Models

Four-time Oscar® nominee Saoirse Ronan once participated in the Cairn Community Games' Art competition. Events like these can inspire future creative success and even lead to artistic careers.

Getting Started

1. Recruit Participants

Reach out to local schools, youth groups and art clubs to find children who enjoy drawing, painting and other creative activities. Art competitions are divided into categories for boys and girls, with the top two participants from each County progressing to the National Finals.

2. Art Topics

Topics vary by age group:

- U8 & U10: Children can choose any Cairn Community Games activity for their artwork.
 - U12, U14 & U16: Children will focus on specific Cairn Community Games: these are available on our website.
3. **Engage Schools and Art Clubs**
Share flyers and posters in local schools, libraries and art clubs. Highlight how the competition provides a fun way for children to showcase their creativity.
 4. **Host a Creative Day**
Organise a community art day where children can draw, paint or sketch for fun. This will help build excitement and interest in the competition.
 5. **Use Digital Promotion**
Set up a social media event page and share updates about the Art competition. Include examples of past artwork and participant stories to inspire others to join.
 6. **Collaborate with Local Media**
Contact local newspapers or radio stations to promote the Art competition, focusing on how it nurtures creativity and artistic expression in young people.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**
Choose a date that gives children plenty of time to prepare. Publicise the event well in advance and ensure it is open to everyone in the community.
2. **Room Setup**
 - Arrange tables or desks for participants, giving them room for their materials and artwork.
 - Create a calm environment where children can focus on their artwork.
 - Ensure proper supervision to check that all materials comply with the rules (no prepared materials, photos or visual aids).
3. **Prepare Adjudicators**
Assign experienced artists or teachers as adjudicators. Brief them on scoring criteria:
 - Observation of Events (20 marks)
 - Creativity and Originality (30 marks)
 - Natural Ability (50 marks)
4. **Time Management**
The competition allows a maximum of 2 hours for completion for U8 & U10

and a maximum of 3 hours for completion for U12, U14 & U16. Ensure a timekeeper is present to keep participants informed of the remaining time.

5. Encourage Creativity and Respect

Encourage participants to take their time and focus on enjoying the creative process. Remind them that this is a chance to have fun and produce something they are proud of.

6. Scoring and Feedback

Provide score sheets for adjudicators. After the competition, offer constructive feedback, highlighting each child's strengths.

County-Level Events

1. Prepare the County Event

The County event should follow the same structure as the Area event. Group Art, Handwriting, Model Making and similar project-based competitions together for a County Final. 2 per county per age/gender will qualify to the national finals.

2. Celebrate Creativity and Effort

Display completed artwork, handwriting passages and models so families can appreciate the effort and skill of each child's work. This creates a sense of pride and accomplishment, ensuring participants feel celebrated for their achievements.

Chess

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/chess

Why Chess?

1. **Sharpens Strategic Thinking**

Chess teaches children to think ahead, plan their moves and anticipate their opponent's strategy. These problem-solving skills are essential in various careers, including business, law and technology.

2. **Improves Focus and Concentration**

The game of chess requires intense concentration, helping children develop the ability to focus on tasks for extended periods which is valuable for academic success and future professional roles.

3. **Boosts Memory and Cognitive Skills**

Memorising chess moves and patterns improves memory and critical thinking. These skills help children in school and prepare them for careers in data analysis, research and more.

4. **Encourages Patience and Decision-Making**

Chess requires patience and discipline, as players must think carefully before making each move. This skillset is transferable to fields like project management and finance, where thoughtful decision-making is crucial.

5. **Builds Confidence and Persistence**

As children improve their chess abilities and win matches, they build confidence in their strategic thinking. Overcoming challenges on the chessboard encourages a mindset of persistence - beneficial in any career path.

Getting Started

1. **Recruit Participants**

Reach out to local schools, chess clubs and community centres to form teams. Emphasise that chess is a game of strategy, encouraging logical thinking and problem-solving. Teams are made up of five players, and children compete in age-appropriate categories.

2. **Age Categories**

The competition has the following categories:

- Under 11
- Under 13
- Under 16

Teams can be all-boys, all-girls or mixed, and each team consists of

five players with two substitutes. Children compete head-to-head using traditional chess rules.

3. **Engage Schools and Clubs**

Share flyers and posters with schools, libraries and chess clubs. Highlight the mental benefits of chess, such as improved concentration, memory and problem-solving skills.

4. **Host a Chess Workshop**

Organise a workshop where children can learn strategies, tactics and play against peers. This will help them feel confident and prepared for the competition.

5. **Digital Promotion**

Create a social media page for the competition. Share chess puzzles, strategy tips and feature experienced chess players to generate interest.

6. **Collaborate with Local Media**

Contact local newspapers and radio stations to promote the event. Emphasise how chess builds cognitive skills and teaches valuable life lessons.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that gives teams enough time to prepare. Publicise the event widely, encouraging families and the community to attend and support the participants.

2. **Room Setup**

- Space for Players: Arrange tables for teams, ensuring they can concentrate without distractions.
- Audience Seating: Provide seating for spectators, making sure they can observe quietly without disrupting the matches.

3. **Prepare Referees and Adjudicators**

Assign experienced chess referees to oversee the matches and ensure rules are followed.

- Use chess clocks to manage the time. Each player should have a set amount of time (e.g., 30 minutes) for their moves.
- Ensure referees are familiar with the competition rules, including checkmates, draws and time limits.

4. **Time Management**

Each game should be timed, and a timekeeper should manage the timing for fairness. Provide clear guidelines for managing time and resolving ties.

5. **Encourage Strategic Thinking and Patience**
Encourage participants to think carefully before making moves and remain calm under pressure. The competition is not just about winning but learning and improving.
6. **Scoring and Feedback**
After the matches, adjudicators should provide feedback, highlighting strengths and offering suggestions for improvement.

County-Level Events

1. **Host a Chess and Draughts Day**
Organise a County-level event that combines chess and draughts for a day of strategic fun. Consider local sponsorship to make the event bigger, with prizes and activities for the community. A Rubik's Cube challenge could add a fun twist!
2. **Event Preparation**
The County event should follow the same structure as the Area event. Ensure tables are set up for quiet concentration and provide ample seating for the audience. Proper timing, clear rules and an organised schedule will ensure the event runs smoothly.

Provincial Finals

1. **Qualification**
Chess is a Provincial event. Teams that qualify at the County level will advance to the Provincial Finals. Ensure teams are aware of the rules and prepared for the next level of competition.
2. **Panel Submission**
Once the panel is submitted, no changes can be made unless in exceptional circumstances. The County Secretary must submit valid reasons for replacements at least 48 hours before the event.

Choir

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/choir

Why Choir?

1. **Encourages Creativity and Musical Expression**

Choir provides a great opportunity for children to express themselves through singing. Singing together in a group helps young people discover the joy of harmony, melody, and rhythm, and can inspire a lifelong love of music.

2. **Builds Teamwork and Coordination**

Singing in a choir requires listening, cooperation and timing. Each member must blend their voice with others to create a unified sound, developing valuable teamwork skills that are useful in many areas of life.

3. **Improves Focus and Discipline**

Learning vocal parts and practising as a group teaches discipline, patience, and the importance of regular practice. These skills help children succeed in school and in future careers.

4. **Boosts Confidence and Stage Presence**

Performing in front of an audience helps children build self-confidence and overcome stage fright. The experience of singing together makes them feel more comfortable in group settings and performing under pressure.

5. **Promotes Emotional Expression and Connection**

Choir allows children to express emotions and connect with others through shared musical experiences. Whether singing traditional songs or modern pieces, children learn to communicate feelings through music.

Getting Started

1. **Recruit Participants**

Reach out to schools, youth clubs, and local choirs to form choir teams. Choir is open to teams of up to 20 participants for Under 13's and Under 16's.

2. **Engage Local Music Schools**

Collaborate with local music teachers, vocal coaches, and schools to promote the competition. Children who love to sing will enjoy the chance to perform in a group setting.

3. **Host a Vocal Workshop**

Organise a workshop where children can practise singing together, learning to blend their voices and coordinate timing. This helps them prepare for the competition and enhances their vocal skills.

4. **Digital Promotion**

Set up a social media page for your Area's Choir competition. Share rehearsal tips, practice videos, and stories about the joy of singing together to inspire others to join.

5. **Use Local Media**

Contact local newspapers, radio stations, and online platforms to promote the event. Highlight how choir builds confidence, teamwork, and artistic expression in young people.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that allows choirs time to rehearse and prepare their performances. Promote the event early to encourage participation from local schools and youth groups.

2. **Venue Setup**

Ensure the stage is large enough to accommodate the choir. Arrange seating for the audience and check that the sound system is working properly to project the voices clearly.

3. **Prepare Adjudicators**

Assign judges with a background in music or vocal performance. Brief them on the scoring criteria:

Clarity of pronunciation: 20 Marks

Tuning: 20 Marks

Accuracy of rhythm: 20 Marks

Phrasing and Breathing; 20 Marks

Stage Presence and Performance: 10 Marks

Programme content/entertainment: 10 Marks

4. **Time Management**

Each choir has up to 12 minutes to perform, which can include one or two pieces. Ensure a timekeeper is present to manage the performance schedule.

5. **Encourage Creativity and Teamwork**

Remind participants that their choir's success relies on working together and expressing themselves through song. Emphasise that creativity and collaboration are key to a memorable performance.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide adjudicators with score sheets. After the event, offer constructive feedback to help the children refine their vocal skills and teamwork for future competitions.

County-Level Events

- 1. Prepare the County Event**

Follow the same structure as the Area event. Consider grouping choir performances with other cultural events like group music or drama for a full day of creative expression.

- 2. Celebrate Musical Talent**

Recognise the hard work and talent of all participants. Promote the event in local media and online to showcase the children's achievements and highlight the importance of music in their personal and academic growth.

Culture Corner

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/culture-corner

Why Culture Corner?

- 1. Encourages Artistic Versatility**
Culture Corner allows children to combine talents in singing, music, dance, and drama, fostering creativity and performance skills.
- 2. Promotes Teamwork and Collaboration**
As a team-based event, participants learn to work together to create a cohesive performance.
- 3. Enhances Cultural Awareness**
Exploring themes like folklore or current issues broadens participants' perspectives and appreciation for different cultures.
- 4. Develops Storytelling Abilities**
Depicting themes through artistic mediums hones narrative and expressive skills.
- 5. Boosts Confidence and Creativity**
Performing on stage builds self-confidence while encouraging individuality and innovation.

Getting Started

- 1. Form Teams**
Recruit teams of 6 participants (minimum 3) aged under 15 and over 6 from schools, youth groups, or community centres.
- 2. Choose Themes**
Help teams select a theme, topic or story through a variety of talent mediums, including song, music, dance and drama. The performance can be based on an Irish folklore, folklore from throughout the world, a topical issue impacting today's world or a well-known story. The performance can be accompanied by live music performed on stage by the team members and by pre-recorded music (no vocals included on track).
- 3. Organise Workshops**
Host workshops to develop skills in singing, music, dance, and drama.
- 4. Provide Rehearsal Spaces**
Arrange suitable spaces with basic sound equipment for practice.
- 5. Promote the Event**
Use social media and local media to generate interest and attract participants.

Area-Level Events

- 1. Set a Date**
Choose a date that allows teams enough time to rehearse and publicise it early.
- 2. Venue Setup**
Ensure the performance space has good acoustics and proper sound equipment.
- 3. Prepare Adjudicators**
Select judges with experience in music, dance, or drama. Judging criteria include:
 - Use of Song (10 marks)
 - Use of Instruments (10 marks)
 - Use of Drama (10 marks)
 - Use of Dance (10 marks)
 - Interpretation of Theme (40 marks)
 - Overall Entertainment (20 marks)
- 4. Time Management**
Performances are limited to 10 minutes; appoint a timekeeper to ensure compliance.
- 5. Encourage Creativity**
Emphasise individuality and fun while creating a supportive atmosphere.

County-Level Events

- 1. Prepare the County Event**
Follow the same structure as the Area event for consistency.
- 2. Celebrate Individual Talent**
Highlight participants' creativity through local media and social platforms to inspire others in the community.

Debating

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/debating

Why Debating?

1. **Develops Public Speaking Skills**

Debating helps children improve their public speaking skills, preparing them for careers in law, politics, media or any profession where clear communication is essential.

2. **Enhances Critical Thinking**

Debating teaches children to think critically and form logical arguments, skills that are highly valuable in professions such as journalism, business and education.

3. **Encourages Confidence and Persuasion**

By standing up in front of an audience and presenting their points, children learn to be confident and persuasive. These skills are useful in future career settings, from presentations to negotiations.

4. **Builds Research and Analytical Skills**

Debaters need to research their topics thoroughly, improving their ability to analyse information, which is crucial in fields like academia, science and law.

5. **Promotes Teamwork and Respectful Discourse**

Debating encourages collaboration and teaches children the importance of respectful dialogue, even when they disagree. This ability to work with others and engage in constructive conversation is critical in any career.

Getting Started

1. **Recruit Participants**

Reach out to local schools, youth groups and debating clubs to recruit participants. Highlight how debating builds public speaking, research and analytical skills that can benefit future careers. This is a representative event meaning several Areas in a County can form a team.

2. **Age Categories**

Under 16/Over 6. Teams consist of four members, with three debaters participating in each debate. Ensure that participants understand the structure and rules of the debates.

3. **Engage Schools and Debate Clubs**

Work with schools and clubs to promote debating as a fun and valuable skill. Share posters and flyers, highlighting how it helps children become confident speakers and critical thinkers.

4. **Host a Debate Workshop**

Organise a workshop where participants can practice debating techniques, learn how to structure arguments and work on their public speaking skills. This will help build confidence ahead of the competition.

5. **Digital Promotion**

Use social media to promote the event, sharing debate tips and success stories from former debaters. This can help generate excitement and interest among potential participants.

6. **Collaborate with Local Media**

Contact local newspapers and radio stations to promote the debating competition. Highlight how it encourages children to develop skills that are useful in many future careers.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that allows teams time to prepare. Promote the event early, encouraging families and the community to come and support the participants.

2. **Room Setup**

- Arrange tables or podiums for the debaters, ensuring the setup is professional and conducive to a formal debate.
- Provide seating for the audience, ensuring they can clearly hear the speakers without interrupting the debate.

3. **Prepare Adjudicators**

Assign experienced debaters or teachers as adjudicators. They should be familiar with the scoring criteria, focusing on the strength of arguments, clarity, delivery, teamwork and rebuttal.

4. **Time Management**

Each speaker should have a set amount of time to deliver their arguments. Ensure a timekeeper is present to manage the debate flow and enforce time limits.

5. **Encourage Respectful Debate**

Remind participants that debating is about respectful dialogue and not personal attacks. Encourage them to listen carefully to their opponents and respond thoughtfully.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

After the debate, provide feedback to the teams, highlighting their strengths and areas for improvement. Adjudicators should score based on argument quality, delivery and teamwork.

County-Level Events

- 1. Host a Debate Festival**

Consider grouping the debating competition with other intellectual competitions such as quiz or chess. This will create a dynamic event where participants can showcase their mental agility.

- 2. Event Preparation**

The County event should follow the same structure as the Area-level event, with proper room setups, time management and experienced adjudicators. Ensure the competition atmosphere is professional and supportive.

Draughts

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/draughts

Why Draughts?

1. **Sharpens Strategic Thinking**

Draughts (or checkers) is a game of strategy, teaching children to think ahead and anticipate their opponent's moves. This skill is crucial in fields like business, technology, and law.

2. **Boosts Problem-Solving Skills**

By playing draughts, children learn to approach problems methodically and find solutions under pressure. These are valuable traits for careers in engineering, mathematics and project management.

3. **Improves Focus and Concentration**

Draughts requires sustained attention and concentration, helping children develop the ability to focus for extended periods, an important skill for any academic or professional setting.

4. **Encourages Patience and Resilience**

The game of draughts requires patience and resilience, as players must wait for the right opportunities to advance. These traits are key to success in both personal and professional life.

5. **Builds Confidence**

As children improve their skills and win games, they gain confidence in their decision-making abilities and feel proud of their strategic thinking.

Getting Started

1. **Recruit Participants**

Reach out to schools, youth groups, and chess clubs to recruit participants. Emphasise how playing draughts enhances concentration, strategic thinking, and patience—skills that benefit children both academically and in future careers.

2. **Age Categories**

Draughts is open to children in the following categories:

- Under 10
- Under 12
- Under 14
- Under 16

Teams are made up of five players, with two substitutes allowed.

Encourage children to practice regularly and understand the game's structure and rules.

3. Engage Schools and Clubs

Collaborate with schools and clubs to introduce draughts as part of their activity programmes. Highlight the game's intellectual benefits and offer to run lunchtime or after-school sessions.

4. Host a Draughts Workshop

Organise a workshop where participants can practice their skills, learn strategies, and engage in friendly matches. This will help build their confidence before the competition.

5. Digital Promotion

Use social media to generate excitement for the competition. Share strategy tips, player profiles, and success stories to attract participants and engage the community.

6. Local Media Promotion

Contact local newspapers and radio stations to promote the event. Highlight how draughts teaches valuable life skills such as patience, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

Area-Level Events

1. Set a Date

Choose a date that gives teams ample time to prepare and practice their skills. Promote the event early to maximise participation.

2. Room Setup

- Arrange tables with enough space for participants to focus without distractions.
- Ensure the venue is quiet and conducive to concentration, with clear signage for spectators.

3. Prepare Referees

Assign experienced draughts players or coaches as referees. Brief them on the rules and ensure they know how to handle disputes and timing issues fairly.

4. Time Management

Use timers or chess clocks to ensure each player has a set time to make their moves. A timekeeper should oversee the matches to ensure the event runs smoothly.

5. **Encourage Focus and Respect**

Remind participants that the game requires patience and focus. Encourage them to think carefully about their moves and respect their opponents.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide score sheets for adjudicators. After the matches, offer constructive feedback to help participants improve their strategies for future competitions.

County-Level Events

1. **Prepare the County Event**

Follow the same structure as the Area event, grouping draughts with other intellectual competitions like chess or quiz to create an exciting competition day. Ensure the venue is suitable for focused gameplay and promote the event to the wider community.

2. **Encourage Community Support**

Encourage local schools, families, and youth clubs to come and support the participants. Highlight the importance of mental agility and strategic thinking in the competition.

Provincial Finals

1. **Qualification**

Draughts is a Provincial event. Teams that qualify at the County level will advance to the Provincial Finals. Ensure teams are aware of the rules and prepared for the next level of competition.

2. **Panel Submission**

Once the panel is submitted, no changes can be made unless in exceptional circumstances. The County Secretary must submit valid reasons for replacements at least 48 hours before the event.

Group Dance (Disco)

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/group-dance---modern-and-disco

Why Group Dance (Disco)?

- 1. Builds Physical Fitness and Confidence**
Group disco dance promotes fitness, helping children stay active while enjoying an expressive art form. It also boosts confidence by allowing them to perform in front of an audience and develop their stage presence.
- 2. Enhances Teamwork and Coordination**
Group dance requires participants to work together, synchronise their movements, and communicate effectively. These skills may prove useful in many future careers, including performing arts, sports, and team-based professions.
- 3. Improves Creativity and Expression**
Disco dance offers children a platform to express themselves through music and movement. It encourages them to be creative with their choreography, exploring rhythm and style.
- 4. Promotes Focus and Discipline**
Dance routines involve learning choreography and refining skills, helping children develop focus and discipline—attributes that are valuable in all areas of life.
- 5. Encourages a Sense of Community and Fun**
Being part of a group dance team creates a sense of belonging and camaraderie, making the experience enjoyable and memorable for participants.

Getting Started

- 1. Recruit Participants**
Reach out to local dance schools, youth groups, and schools to find children who love dancing and performing. Group Disco Dance is open to mixed teams of two to six dancers, and children can compete in two categories: Under 13 and Under 16.
- 2. Engage Local Dance Schools**
Partner with local dance studios to promote the competition. Encourage children who are already involved in dance to join the event and work on their choreography.
- 3. Host a Dance Workshop**
Organise a disco dance workshop to teach children basic moves and help

them develop their own routines. This is a great way to introduce the competition and build excitement among potential participants.

4. **Digital Promotion**

Create a social media page for your Area's Group Dance competition. Share practice videos, tips on choreography, and participant stories to generate interest and inspire others to join.

5. **Use Local Media**

Reach out to local newspapers, radio stations, and community websites to promote the event. Highlight how disco dance builds fitness, confidence, and creativity while offering a fun group experience.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that provides enough time for teams to rehearse and prepare their routines. Promote the event early to maximise participation.

2. **Venue Setup**

Ensure the performance space is suitable for dance, with enough room for teams to move freely. Arrange audience seating to create a lively, supportive atmosphere. Make sure the sound system is of high quality to showcase the music.

3. **Prepare Adjudicators**

Assign judges experienced in dance, performance, or choreography. Brief them on the scoring criteria:

- Carriage and Interpretation (20 marks)
- Timing and Rhythm (20 marks)
- Originality (20 marks)
- Overall Entertainment (40 marks)

4. **Time Management**

Each team has up to 4 minutes to perform. Ensure a timekeeper is present to track the performance length and prevent teams from exceeding their time limit.

5. **Encourage Expression and Fun**

Remind teams to enjoy the experience, be creative, and work together. Encourage them to focus on their choreography and performance quality, making the event fun for both participants and spectators.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide adjudicators with score sheets. After the event, offer feedback to help

teams improve their routines and build their confidence for future competitions.

County-Level Events

1. **Prepare the County Event**

Follow a similar format as the Area event. Group Dance (Disco) can be part of a larger "Talent Day" or weekend that includes performances in singing, music, and drama. Ensure the venue accommodates large audiences and promote the event widely to encourage participation and support.

2. **Celebrate Creativity and Effort**

Highlight the talent and creativity of participants by featuring them in local media and promoting their performances online. Encourage the community to come together to celebrate the children's hard work and enthusiasm.

Group Dance (Irish Contemporary)

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/group-dance---irish-contemporary

Why Group Dance (Irish Contemporary)?

1. Preserves Irish Culture and Tradition

Irish group dance is a celebration of Ireland's rich cultural heritage, promoting traditional Irish music and dance forms like céilí and step dancing. It gives children an opportunity to connect with their roots and take pride in their national identity.

2. Enhances Coordination and Teamwork

Irish dance requires precise movements and synchronisation, encouraging children to work together as a team. These skills help develop discipline and focus, which can be useful in many future careers, including performing arts, teaching, and project management. Riverdance, anyone?

3. Builds Confidence and Stage Presence

Performing in front of an audience helps children develop confidence and stage presence. These experiences are invaluable for building self-esteem and public speaking skills.

4. Promotes Physical Fitness

Irish dance is a great way for children to stay active, promoting fitness, flexibility, and stamina. It encourages healthy competition and helps children develop physical coordination in a fun and engaging way.

Getting Started

1. Recruit Participants

Contact local Irish dance schools, schools, and youth groups to encourage participation. Group Irish Dance is open to teams of two to six dancers, with age categories of Under 13 and Under 16. Children work together to choreograph and perform a routine that showcases their talent and teamwork.

2. Engage Local Dance Schools

Work with local Irish dance schools to promote the competition. Many children already learning traditional Irish dance will love the opportunity to showcase their skills in this fun and competitive environment.

3. Host an Irish Dance Workshop

Organise a workshop where children can learn basic Irish dance steps and start working on group choreography. This is a great way to introduce the competition to newcomers and get them excited about participating.

4. Digital Promotion

Create a social media page for your Area's Group Irish Dance competition.

Share videos of dance practices, interviews with participants, and fun facts about Irish dance to generate excitement and build community interest.

5. **Use Local Media**

Contact local newspapers, radio stations, and online platforms to promote the event.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that gives teams time to prepare their routines and promote the event early to maximise participation.

2. **Venue Setup**

Ensure the performance space is large enough for group dancing, with room for the dancers to move freely. Arrange seating for the audience to create a supportive and lively atmosphere. Ensure the sound system is capable of showcasing traditional Irish music clearly.

3. **Prepare Adjudicators**

Assign judges who are experienced in Irish dance or have a background in performance. Brief them on the scoring criteria:

- Carriage and Interpretation (20 marks)
- Timing and Rhythm (20 marks)
- Originality (20 marks)
- Overall Entertainment (40 marks)

4. **Time Management**

Each team has up to 4 minutes to perform. Ensure a timekeeper is present to monitor the time and encourage teams to make the most of their performance.

5. **Encourage Expression and Enjoyment**

Remind teams to enjoy the experience, embrace the cultural aspect of the dance, and focus on their teamwork and synchronisation. Encourage a fun and supportive environment for everyone involved.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide adjudicators with score sheets. After the event, offer feedback to the teams, focusing on areas they excelled in and ways to improve.

County-Level Events

1. **Prepare the County Event**

Follow the same structure as the Area event and consider grouping Irish dance with other cultural performances like music or drama. This will create a larger cultural celebration and showcase a variety of talents.

2. **Celebrate Tradition and Talent**

Highlight the importance of preserving Irish culture through dance and recognise the talent of all participants. Promote the event in local media and online, showcasing the children's hard work and achievements.

Group Drama and Comedy

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/group-drama-comedy

Why Group Drama and Comedy?

1. Encourages Creative Expression

Drama allows children to explore their imaginations and express themselves in unique ways. Whether through acting, storytelling, or improvisation, drama helps them develop important communication and public speaking skills that are beneficial in future careers like media, teaching, and even leadership roles. Did you know that some of our most famous actors such as Colin Farrell, Jessie Buckley and Saoirse Ronan all took part in Community Games?

2. Develops Teamwork and Collaboration

Group drama requires participants to work closely together, supporting each other on stage to create a cohesive performance. These teamwork skills are transferable to many aspects of life and future careers, helping children learn how to collaborate effectively.

3. Builds Confidence and Public Speaking Skills

Performing in front of an audience can be daunting, but drama helps children overcome stage fright and develop the confidence to speak and perform in public. These skills are invaluable for future success in various professions that require public presentations.

4. Encourages Problem-Solving and Improvisation

Drama teaches children to think on their feet, adapt to unexpected situations, and solve problems creatively. These improvisation skills are useful for life and work, where flexibility and quick thinking are essential.

5. Promotes Emotional Intelligence

Through role-playing and character exploration, children learn to understand emotions and empathise with others. This emotional intelligence can enhance their social skills and relationships.

Getting Started

1. Recruit Participants

Reach out to schools, youth groups, and local theatre groups to find children interested in acting and performing. Group Drama is open to teams of two to six participants, with age categories of Under 13 and Under 16.

2. Engage Local Drama Schools

Collaborate with local drama schools and theatre groups to promote the competition. Many children already involved in drama will love the opportunity to showcase their talent.

3. **Host a Drama Workshop**

Organise a workshop where children can practice acting techniques, voice projection, and improvisation skills. This helps them prepare for the competition while having fun.

4. **Digital Promotion**

Set up a social media page for your Area's Group Drama competition. Share videos of rehearsals, tips on acting, and stories about drama's benefits to inspire others to join.

5. **Use Local Media**

Contact local newspapers, radio stations, and online platforms to promote the event. Highlight the importance of drama in building communication skills and self-confidence in young people.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that allows participants time to rehearse. Promote the event early to encourage maximum participation.

2. **Venue Setup**

Ensure the stage is large enough for the performance, with a clear space for acting. Arrange seating for the audience, ensuring they have a good view of the stage. Make sure any sound or lighting equipment is ready to enhance the performances.

3. **Prepare Adjudicators**

Assign judges with a background in drama or performance. Brief them on the scoring criteria:

- Suitability (20 marks)
- Delivery (20 marks)
- Acting Skills (20 marks)
- Overall Entertainment (40 marks)

4. **Time Management**

Each team has up to 5 minutes to perform. Ensure a timekeeper is present, and remind participants to respect the time limit.

5. **Encourage Creativity and Collaboration**

Encourage teams to experiment with their acting and storytelling, making the most of their group's talents. Emphasise that collaboration and teamwork are key to a successful performance.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide adjudicators with score sheets. After the event, offer constructive

feedback to help the children improve their acting skills and teamwork for future competitions.

County-Level Events

1. **Prepare the County Event**

Follow the same structure as the Area event. Consider grouping drama with other cultural performances like group singing or music to create a full day of performing arts.

2. **Celebrate the Art of Performance**

Recognise the hard work and creativity of all participants. Promote the event in local media and online to showcase the children's achievements and highlight the importance of the performing arts in their development.

Group Music

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/group-music

Why Group Music?

1. **Encourages Creativity and Musical Expression**

Group music offers children the opportunity to express themselves musically, whether through instruments or singing. Playing music as part of a group helps them develop a deeper understanding of rhythm, melody and harmony, which can lead to future opportunities in music production, performance, or teaching.

2. **Builds Teamwork and Coordination**

Playing music in a group requires careful listening, collaboration, and timing. Children must work together to create a cohesive performance, skills that are valuable in many career paths that require coordination and teamwork.

3. **Improves Focus and Discipline**

Learning and practising music teaches discipline, patience, and the importance of practice. These traits are beneficial in academic settings and future careers where attention to detail and perseverance are essential.

4. **Boosts Confidence and Stage Presence**

Performing music in front of an audience helps children build confidence and overcome stage fright. The experience of playing music together helps them feel more comfortable in group settings and performing under pressure.

5. **Promotes Emotional Expression and Connection**

Music allows children to express emotions and connect with others through shared experiences. Whether performing traditional tunes or contemporary music, they learn to communicate emotionally through their instruments.

Getting Started

1. **Recruit Participants**

Reach out to schools, music schools, and youth organisations to form group music teams. Group music is open to teams of two to six participants, with age categories of Under 13 and Under 16. Teams can use any combination of instruments and voices.

2. **Engage Local Music Schools**

Collaborate with local music teachers and schools to promote the competition. Many children learning instruments will enjoy the opportunity to showcase their talents in a group setting.

3. **Host a Music Workshop**

Organise a workshop where children can practice playing as part of a group,

learning to coordinate timing and blend sounds. This helps them prepare for the competition while enhancing their musical abilities.

4. **Digital Promotion**

Set up a social media page for your Area's Group Music competition. Share rehearsal tips, practice videos, and stories about the joy of playing music together to inspire others to join.

5. **Use Local Media**

Contact local newspapers, radio stations, and online platforms to promote the event. Highlight how music builds confidence, teamwork, and artistic expression in young people.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that allows teams time to rehearse and prepare their performances. Promote the event early to encourage participation from local schools and music groups.

2. **Venue Setup**

Ensure the stage is large enough to accommodate the group's instruments and equipment. Arrange seating for the audience and ensure the sound system is working properly to project the music clearly.

3. **Prepare Adjudicators**

Assign judges with a background in music or performance. Brief them on the scoring criteria:

- Interpretation (20 marks)
- Rhythm (20 marks)
- Tone (20 marks)
- Overall Entertainment (40 marks)

4. **Time Management**

Each group has up to 5 minutes to perform. Can be one or two pieces. Ensure a timekeeper is present to manage the performance schedule.

5. **Encourage Creativity and Teamwork**

Remind participants that their group's success relies on working together and expressing themselves through music. Emphasise that creativity and collaboration are key to a memorable performance.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide adjudicators with score sheets. After the event, offer constructive feedback to help the children refine their musical skills and teamwork for future competitions.

County-Level Events

- 1. Prepare the County Event**

Follow the same structure as the Area event. Consider grouping music performances with other cultural events like drama or choir for a full day of creative expression.

- 2. Celebrate Musical Talent**

Recognise the hard work and talent of all participants. Promote the event in local media and online to showcase the children's achievements and highlight the importance of music in their personal and academic growth.

Group Singing

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/group-singing

Why Group Singing?

1. **Enhances Vocal Skills and Expression**

Group singing provides children with the opportunity to develop their vocal abilities, learning harmony and melody, which can help build a strong foundation for future opportunities in music, performance, or broadcasting.

2. **Builds Teamwork and Cooperation**

Singing in a group requires each participant to listen closely to others, ensuring their voices blend harmoniously. This skill is valuable in any career or situation that involves teamwork and collaboration. Did you know that Westlife took part in Community Games?

3. **Improves Confidence and Public Speaking**

Singing in front of an audience helps children overcome stage fright and gain confidence, which can carry over into other areas like public speaking, acting, or leadership roles.

4. **Promotes Emotional Expression and Creativity**

Group singing allows children to express emotions through music, helping them develop a deeper connection to their performances. This can be beneficial in careers where emotional intelligence and creative problem-solving are essential.

5. **Creates a Sense of Community and Belonging**

Being part of a choir creates a strong sense of unity and belonging as children work together to create something beautiful. These social bonds can improve their ability to collaborate in other settings.

Getting Started

1. **Recruit Participants**

Reach out to schools, music academies, and youth groups to form choirs. Group singing is maximum of 6 and minimum of 2 and the age categories are Under 13 and Under 16.

2. **Partner with Music Teachers**

Collaborate with music teachers to help children prepare for the competition. Offer workshops or taster sessions to inspire more participation.

3. **Host a Choir Workshop**

Organise a workshop where children can learn harmonising, breath control, and vocal techniques. This will help them feel more confident and prepared for the competition.

4. **Digital Promotion**

Set up a social media page to promote your Area's Group Singing competition. Share behind-the-scenes rehearsal footage, singing tips, and profiles of the participating choirs.

5. **Use Local Media**

Contact local newspapers and radio stations to promote the event. Highlight the benefits of group singing, such as improved confidence, emotional expression, and teamwork.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that provides enough time for choirs to rehearse. Promote the event early to encourage participation and build excitement within the community.

2. **Venue Setup**

Arrange a suitable venue with good acoustics and plenty of seating for the audience. Ensure a proper sound system is in place for a smooth and enjoyable experience.

3. **Prepare Adjudicators**

Assign judges with experience in choral music or vocal performance. Brief them on the scoring criteria:

- Clarity of pronunciation (20 marks)
- Tuning (20 marks)
- Accuracy of Rhythm (20 marks)
- Phrasing and Breathing (20 marks)
- Stage Presence and Performance (10 marks)
- Programme Content/Entertainment (10 marks)

4. **Time Management**

Each group has a maximum of 5 minutes to perform. Ensure a timekeeper is present to manage the performances and keep the event on schedule.

5. **Encourage Creativity and Cohesion**

Remind participants to focus on working together and expressing the song's emotion and meaning. Encourage them to support one another throughout the process.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide judges with score sheets. After the event, offer constructive feedback

to help choirs improve their vocal technique and stage presence for future competitions.

County-Level Events

1. **Prepare the County Event**

Follow the same format as the Area event. Group choir performances with other cultural activities like group music or drama for a vibrant day of community celebration.

2. **Celebrate Musical Expression**

Promote the event in local media and online to showcase the talents of the children. Create an inclusive atmosphere where their efforts are celebrated, and they feel supported by the community.

Handwriting

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/handwriting

Why Handwriting?

1. Improves Fine Motor Skills

Handwriting helps children improve their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination as they carefully form letters and words. These skills are essential not only for writing but also for other activities requiring precision.

2. Encourages Patience and Focus

Writing neatly and accurately requires patience and concentration.

Handwriting allows children to develop their focus and attention to detail, skills that are beneficial in all aspects of life.

3. Builds Confidence in Written Expression

As children improve their handwriting, they also gain confidence in their ability to express themselves through writing. This confidence can enhance their academic performance and communication skills.

4. Promotes Relaxation and Mindfulness

Handwriting can be a calming activity, helping children slow down and focus on the task at hand. The process of writing neatly encourages mindfulness and relaxation.

5. Supports Academic Success

Good handwriting is still important in today's digital world. It helps children in their academic work, particularly in exams where clear writing is essential for conveying ideas effectively.

Getting Started

1. Recruit Participants

Reach out to local schools and encourage participation in the Handwriting competition. Children are divided into age categories (Under 10, Under 12 and Under 14), and they must produce a passage of text which is given to them within a set time limit of one hour.

2. Partner with Teachers

Work with teachers to identify students with strong handwriting skills and encourage them to participate. Offer guidance on practice techniques to improve their penmanship.

3. Host a Handwriting Workshop

Organise a workshop where participants can practise their handwriting, receive tips on improving legibility, and learn how to manage their time during the competition.

4. **Digital Promotion**

Promote the Handwriting competition on social media, sharing tips on neatness and encouraging participation from schools and local communities.

5. **Use Local Media**

Contact local newspapers or radio stations to promote the competition. Emphasise how Handwriting can improve academic performance and patience.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that allows participants time to practise and prepare. Publicise the event to attract support from families and schools.

2. **Room Setup**

Set up tables and chairs where participants can comfortably write their passages. Ensure the environment is calm and conducive to concentration.

3. **Prepare Adjudicators**

Assign experienced teachers or calligraphy experts as adjudicators and remember that the handwriting must be supervised throughout. Brief them on the judging criteria which is based on:

- Correct Letter Formation
- Neatness
- Legibility
- Fluency (style and flair)
- Completion of Piece
- Punctuation

4. **Time Management**

Each participant has one hour to complete their piece. Ensure a timekeeper is present to track the time and inform participants of how much time remains.

5. **Encourage Patience and Precision**

Remind participants to focus on neatness and take their time. The goal is to produce a clean, legible piece of writing, not to rush.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide adjudicators with score sheets. After the event, offer feedback on how participants can further improve their handwriting.

County-Level Events

- 1. Prepare the County Event**

Follow the same structure as the Area event. Group Handwriting with other project-based competitions, such as Art and Model Making, for a day focused on creativity and precision. 2 per county per age/gender will qualify to the national finals.

- 2. Celebrate Handwriting Skills**

Promote the event through local media to highlight the importance of good handwriting and precision. Create a supportive environment that recognises the hard work of participants.

Model Making

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/model-making

Why Model Making?

1. Encourages Creativity and Imagination

Model Making allows children to bring their ideas to life in three-dimensional forms, encouraging imagination and creative problem-solving. They get to design and build something entirely unique and can develop skills relevant to careers in architecture, engineering, and design.

2. Develops Fine Motor Skills and Hand-Eye Coordination

The detailed work required in Model Making helps children refine their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. These skills are essential in various fields, such as technology and craftsmanship.

3. Teaches Patience and Attention to Detail

Model Making requires children to work carefully and methodically, paying close attention to small details. This encourages patience and precision, qualities that are beneficial in many aspects of life.

4. Boosts Problem-Solving Skills

As children construct their models, they often need to solve challenges related to structure, balance, and design. This encourages critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, which are vital for academic and personal success.

5. Promotes Pride in Accomplishment

Completing a model from start to finish instils a sense of pride and achievement. Children can see the tangible results of their hard work, building confidence in their abilities.

Getting Started

1. Recruit Participants

Reach out to local schools, youth groups, and art clubs to encourage participation in Model Making. Children compete in separate age categories for boys and girls – U10, U12, U14 and U16 and each County sends two participants to the National Finals.

2. Partner with Art and Craft Groups

Work with local art and craft groups or educators to identify children who enjoy hands-on activities and encourage them to take part in Model Making. Offer to organise a model-making workshop to inspire creativity and provide tips.

3. Host a Workshop

Organise a workshop where participants can learn about different materials

and techniques used in model making. Provide examples of successful models and offer guidance on creativity, structure, and balance.

4. Digital Promotion

Create an online event page for your Area's Model Making competition. Share examples of past models, participant stories, and creative ideas to inspire others to join.

5. Use Local Media

Contact local newspapers or radio stations to promote the event. Emphasise how Model Making encourages creativity, patience and practical problem-solving skills.

Area-Level Events

1. Set a Date

Choose a date that allows participants time to prepare and design their models. Ensure the event is publicised to attract support from the community.

2. Room Setup

Set up tables with plenty of space for participants to work on their models. Ensure that materials are pre-approved and provided according to the rules, and that participants have a clear workspace. Maximum size of an exhibit is 60cm by 60cm by 60cm (H, W, L)

3. Prepare Adjudicators

Assign experienced artists, craft experts, or teachers as adjudicators. Brief them on the judging criteria:

- Observation of Events (20 marks)
- Creativity and Originality (30 marks)
- Natural Ability (50 marks)

4. Time Management

The competition typically allows 3 hours for participants to complete their models. Ensure there is a timekeeper to track the event and inform participants of how much time remains.

5. Encourage Creativity and Focus

Remind participants to focus on their unique designs and take their time to build something they're proud of. Encourage them to embrace the creative process.

6. Scoring and Feedback

Provide adjudicators with score sheets. After the event, offer constructive feedback, helping participants improve their skills for future competitions.

County-Level Events

- 1. Prepare the County Event**

The County event should follow the same structure as the Area event. Consider grouping Model Making with other project-based competitions, such as Art and Handwriting, for a day celebrating creativity and precision. 2 per county per age/gender will qualify to the national finals.

- 2. Celebrate Creative Talent**

Promote the event through local media, emphasising the creativity and skill demonstrated in Model Making. Showcase the models to celebrate participants' hard work and achievements.

Solo Dance

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/solo-dance

Why Solo Dance?

1. **Develops Dance Technique and Performance Skills**

Solo Dance allows children to express themselves through movement, helping them develop grace, coordination, and dance technique. These skills can lead to future opportunities in dance, theatre, or performance arts.

2. **Builds Confidence and Stage Presence**

Dancing solo in front of an audience builds confidence, helping children develop poise and presence. This can translate into other areas of life, such as public speaking, acting, or leadership roles. Children often use TikTok or other social media platforms to share their dance moves, Community Games offers them the chance to bring their talents to a stage with a real audience!

3. **Encourages Creativity and Emotional Expression**

Dance is a powerful form of self-expression, allowing children to communicate their emotions and tell stories through movement. This creativity can be valuable in careers requiring innovation and emotional intelligence.

4. **Improves Fitness and Coordination**

Solo dance requires stamina, flexibility, and coordination, making it a great way for children to stay active while having fun. The fitness benefits extend beyond the competition, promoting a healthy lifestyle.

5. **Offers Modern Relevance**

Many children enjoy practicing dance moves from platforms like TikTok. Solo Dance competitions offer them a chance to showcase those skills in a live performance, helping them turn a fun hobby into a rewarding in-person experience.

Getting Started

1. **Recruit Participants**

Reach out to schools, dance academies, and community centres to find children who enjoy dancing. The competition is open to boys and girls in two age categories: Under 13 and Under 16.

2. **Partner with Dance Teachers**

Collaborate with local dance instructors to encourage their students to take part in the competition. Offer workshops or taster sessions to inspire participation.

3. **Host a Dance Workshop**

Organise a workshop where participants can practice their routines and

receive feedback from peers or dance professionals. This will help them feel more prepared and confident for the competition.

4. **Digital Promotion**

Set up a social media page to promote your Area's Solo Dance competition. Share rehearsal footage, dance tips, and stories from participants as they prepare their routines.

5. **Use Local Media**

Contact local newspapers, radio stations, and online platforms to promote the event. Emphasise the physical and creative benefits of dance, as well as the opportunity to showcase TikTok-inspired moves in a live setting.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that allows participants enough time to perfect their routines. Publicise the event early and encourage friends and family to attend.

2. **Venue Setup**

Ensure the performance area is large enough for participants to move freely and safely. Arrange seating for the audience to create a supportive atmosphere.

3. **Prepare Adjudicators**

Assign experienced dance judges to score the performances. Brief them on the judging criteria:

- Carriage and Interpretation (20 marks)
- Timing and Rhythm (20 marks)
- Originality (20 marks)
- Overall Entertainment (40 marks)

4. **Time Management**

Each participant has up to 4 minutes to perform. Ensure that a timekeeper is present to manage the schedule and keep the event running smoothly.

5. **Encourage Confidence and Creativity**

Remind participants to focus on expressing their creativity and enjoying the performance. Encourage them to feel proud of their skills and achievements.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide adjudicators with score sheets. After the event, offer feedback to help participants improve their dance technique and stage presence for future performances.

County-Level Events

- 1. Prepare the County Event**

Follow the same structure as the Area event. Group Solo Dance with other solo performances like Solo Music and Solo Recitation to create a day of artistic celebration.

- 2. Celebrate Dance Talent**

Promote the event through local media and social platforms to highlight the creativity and talent of the participants. Create a supportive environment where their dance achievements are celebrated.

Solo Music

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/solo-music

Why Solo Music?

- 1. Develops Musical Talent and Technique**
Playing an instrument in front of an audience helps children refine their musical skills, allowing them to develop a deeper understanding of music, technique, and performance.
- 2. Builds Confidence and Performance Skills**
Performing solo in a musical competition requires courage and poise, helping children build confidence that can translate into other areas of life, such as public speaking or leadership.
- 3. Encourages Discipline and Practice**
Learning an instrument takes dedication and discipline. Solo Music competitions motivate children to practice regularly, helping them develop a strong work ethic and time-management skills that will serve them in the future.
- 4. Enhances Creativity and Emotional Expression**
Music is an expressive art form that allows children to channel their creativity and emotions through their instrument. This ability to communicate through music can be valuable in careers that require innovation and emotional intelligence.
- 5. Boosts Focus and Memory**
Solo musicians must learn to focus intensely on their performance and memorise their pieces, improving cognitive skills such as concentration and memory.

Getting Started

- 1. Recruit Participants**
Reach out to schools, music academies, and youth clubs to find children who play instruments. The competition is open to boys and girls in two age categories: Under 13 and Under 16.
- 2. Partner with Music Teachers/Groups**
Collaborate with local music teachers to encourage their students to take part in the competition. Offer workshops or taster sessions to inspire participation. Contact your local Music Generation and Comhaltas.
- 3. Host a Music Workshop**
Organise a workshop where children can practice their solo performances and

receive feedback from peers or music professionals. This will help them feel more prepared and confident for the competition.

4. **Digital Promotion**

Set up a social media page to promote your Area's Solo Music competition. Share practice tips, videos of participants rehearsing, and stories of children preparing their musical pieces.

5. **Use Local Media**

Reach out to newspapers, radio stations, and online platforms to promote the event. Highlight the benefits of learning an instrument, such as improved concentration, creativity, and confidence.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that allows participants plenty of time to rehearse their pieces. Publicise the event early and encourage the community to support the young musicians.

2. **Venue Setup**

Ensure the performance area is equipped with any necessary instruments (e.g., piano) or sound equipment. Arrange seating for the audience to create an intimate yet supportive atmosphere.

3. **Prepare Adjudicators**

Assign judges with experience in musical performance or teaching. Brief them on the judging criteria:

- Interpretation (20 marks)
- Rhythm (20 marks)
- Tone (20 marks)
- Overall Entertainment (40 marks)

4. **Time Management**

Each participant has up to 5 minutes to perform and a maximum of 2 pieces. Ensure a timekeeper is present to manage the schedule and keep the event running smoothly.

5. **Encourage Focus and Passion**

Remind participants to focus on their performance and enjoy expressing themselves through music. Encourage them to feel proud of their musical achievements.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide judges with score sheets. After the event, offer feedback to help

participants improve their musical technique and stage presence for future competitions.

County-Level Events

1. **Prepare the County Event**

Follow the same format as the Area event. Group Solo Music with other individual performances like Solo Singing and Solo Dance to create a day of artistic celebration.

2. **Celebrate Musical Talent**

Promote the event through local media and social platforms to highlight the talents of the participants. Create a supportive environment where their musical achievements are acknowledged and celebrated.

Solo Recitation

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/solo-recitation

Why Solo Recitation?

1. **Develops Public Speaking Skills**

Solo Recitation is an excellent way for children to practice public speaking, boosting their confidence in front of an audience. The ability to communicate clearly and effectively is a valuable skill that can benefit children in their future careers, especially in leadership, teaching, or performing arts.

2. **Encourages Emotional Expression and Interpretation**

Reciting poetry or prose allows children to explore different emotions and characters, helping them develop their interpretive and expressive abilities. This creativity can lead to future opportunities in acting, presenting, or storytelling.

3. **Builds Confidence and Stage Presence**

Standing on stage and delivering a piece of writing helps children build confidence and stage presence, giving them a sense of achievement that can carry over into other areas of life, such as drama, debates, or presentations.

4. **Promotes Memory and Concentration**

Memorising and performing a recitation strengthens memory and concentration. It also requires focus and attention to detail, helping children improve their cognitive abilities.

5. **Injects Fun and Humour**

One of the highlights of Solo Recitation is seeing children embrace humour in their performances. There are often laugh-out-loud moments during these events, which not only entertain the audience but also allow participants to enjoy the fun side of public speaking.

Getting Started

1. **Recruit Participants**

Reach out to schools, youth groups, and drama clubs to find children who enjoy reading aloud and performing. The competition is open to boys and girls in two age categories: Under 13 and Under 16.

2. **Partner with Teachers**

Collaborate with local teachers to encourage their students to take part in the competition. Offer workshops or taster sessions to inspire participation and help children prepare their recitations.

3. **Host a Recitation Workshop**

Organise a workshop where participants can practice their recitations and

receive feedback on tone, expression, and delivery. This will help them feel more confident and prepared for the competition.

4. **Digital Promotion**

Create a social media page to promote your Area's Solo Recitation competition. Share rehearsal tips, videos of participants practicing, and stories of children preparing their pieces.

5. **Use Local Media**

Reach out to newspapers, radio stations, and online platforms to promote the event. Emphasise how recitation helps develop public speaking skills and creative expression while also showcasing the fun, humorous side of the competition.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that gives participants time to prepare and memorise their pieces. Publicise the event early and encourage family and friends to come and enjoy the performances.

2. **Venue Setup**

Ensure the performance area has good acoustics and is quiet enough for participants to be heard clearly. Arrange seating for the audience to create a welcoming and supportive atmosphere.

3. **Prepare Adjudicators**

Assign experienced judges to evaluate the performances. Brief them on the judging criteria:

- Diction (20 marks)
- Phrasing (20 marks)
- Suitability (20 marks)
- Overall Entertainment (40 marks)

4. **Time Management**

Each participant has up to 4 minutes to perform. Ensure a timekeeper is present to keep the event running smoothly and on schedule.

5. **Encourage Humour and Expression**

Remind participants that Solo Recitation is a chance to show both their expressive abilities and their sense of humour. Encourage them to enjoy the process and connect with their audience.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide judges with score sheets. After the event, offer feedback to help participants improve their delivery and interpretation for future competitions.

County-Level Events

- 1. Prepare the County Event**

Follow the same format as the Area event. Showcase Solo Recitation with other solo performances like Solo Singing and Solo Music to create a day of artistic and expressive talent.

- 2. Celebrate Recitation Talent**

Promote the event through local media and social platforms to highlight the public speaking and performance talents of the participants. Create a supportive environment where their hard work and humour are celebrated.

Solo Singing

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/solo-singing

Why Solo Singing?

1. **Enhances Vocal Skills**

Solo Singing gives children the opportunity to develop their vocal technique, including pitch control, breathing, and projection. These skills can lead to future opportunities in music, theatre, or even public speaking roles that require confident voice control.

2. **Builds Confidence on Stage**

Singing solo in front of an audience is an excellent way for children to build self-confidence and overcome stage fright. This valuable experience helps children feel more comfortable in front of others, which can benefit them in future performances or presentations. Did you know Una Healy was in Community Games?

3. **Promotes Emotional Expression**

Solo Singing allows children to express emotions through music, helping them connect with their audience on a deeper level. Learning to convey emotion through performance can be a skill that serves them well in many aspects of life, from performing arts to personal communication.

4. **Develops Focus and Discipline**

Learning a song and preparing for a solo performance takes focus, dedication, and discipline. Children must work hard to memorise lyrics, perfect their technique, and control their nerves, which are essential life skills that apply beyond music.

5. **Encourages Creativity and Fun**

Solo Singing is not only about technical skills but also about creativity. Children get to choose songs that resonate with them, allowing them to showcase their individuality and have fun while doing so.

Getting Started

1. **Recruit Participants**

Contact local schools, music schools, your local Music Generation and community centres to encourage participation. Solo Singing is open to boys and girls across two age categories: Under 13 and Under 16.

2. **Partner with Music Teachers**

Work with music teachers to identify students who would enjoy performing in the Solo Singing competition. Offer to provide rehearsal tips or host a practice session to help children prepare for their performances.

3. **Host a Singing Workshop**

Organise a workshop where children can practice their vocal technique, get feedback on their song choices, and learn how to manage stage presence. This will give them the confidence they need for the competition.

4. **Digital Promotion**

Create a social media event to generate excitement for your Area's Solo Singing competition. Share videos of local participants practicing or highlight past performances to inspire others to join in.

5. **Use Local Media**

Contact local newspapers, radio stations, and online platforms to cover the event. Emphasise the importance of Solo Singing in developing confidence, emotional expression, and vocal skills.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**

Choose a date that allows participants enough time to rehearse. Publicise the event early to attract families and friends to support the singers.

2. **Venue Setup**

Ensure the performance space has good acoustics and clear sound equipment. Arrange the seating to create a welcoming environment for the audience, making sure everyone can hear the performances clearly.

3. **Prepare Adjudicators**

Assign adjudicators with experience in vocal performance or music education. Brief them on the judging criteria:

- Clarity of Pronunciation (20 marks)
- Tuning (20 marks)
- Accuracy and Rhythm (20 marks)
- Phrasing and Breathing (20 marks)
- Stage Presence and Performance (10 marks)
- Programme Content/Overall Entertainment (10 marks)

4. **Time Management**

Each participant has up to 5 minutes to perform. A timekeeper should be present to ensure the event runs smoothly and stays on schedule.

5. **Encourage Individuality and Fun**

Encourage participants to express their unique style and have fun with their performances. Solo Singing is about showcasing their talent, but also about enjoying the experience.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide judges with score sheets to evaluate performances. After the event, offer constructive feedback to help participants refine their technique and gain confidence for future competitions.

County-Level Events

1. **Prepare the County Event**

Follow the same structure as the Area event. Group Solo Singing with other solo categories such as Solo Music or Solo Recitation for a day celebrating individual talent and expression.

2. **Celebrate Individual Talent**

Promote the event through local media and social platforms to highlight the vocal skills and creativity of the participants. Create a supportive and encouraging atmosphere where their hard work is celebrated.

Projects

U11/U13 www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/projects

U16 www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/projects-u16

Why Projects?

1. **Develops Research and Analytical Skills**

Working on a project encourages children to dive deep into a subject, researching facts, analysing information, and presenting their findings. These skills are critical for future academic and professional success in areas such as science, journalism, and business.

2. **Enhances Teamwork and Collaboration**

Projects often involve group work, where children learn to collaborate, share responsibilities, and bring together their ideas to create something meaningful. These are valuable skills in any career that involves working within a team.

3. **Improves Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking**

Project work stimulates critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. As children navigate the challenges of their project, they learn to think creatively and strategically.

4. **Boosts Time Management and Organisation**

Managing a project requires planning and organisation, as children must allocate time for research, design and presentation. These skills are beneficial for managing academic workloads and future career tasks.

5. **Builds Confidence and Public Speaking Skills**

Presenting their projects helps children gain confidence in public speaking, teaching them how to articulate their ideas and findings effectively in front of an audience. This is an essential skill for leadership and professional communication.

Getting Started

1. **Recruit Participants**

Encourage participation by reaching out to local schools and youth groups. Highlight how working on a project helps children develop valuable research, organisational, and presentation skills that can benefit them academically and in their future careers.

2. **Project Categories**

The project titles will be available on our website for all Projects – please keep an eye out!

- **Area Event:** Participants must all be from the same area – ages U11 and U13
 - **Representative Event:** Participants can come from different areas within the county. Ages U16
3. **Host a Workshop**
Organise a workshop to help children brainstorm and plan their projects. Offer guidance on how to research, structure their findings, and present their work creatively.
 4. **Use Digital Promotion**
Create an online platform to share tips on research and project creation. Showcase examples of successful past projects to inspire others to participate.
 5. **Contact Local Media**
Reach out to newspapers, radio stations, and community websites to promote the competition. Highlight the benefits of project work in developing research and presentation skills.

Area-Level Events

1. **Set a Date**
Choose a date that gives participants enough time to research and complete their projects. Ensure the event is publicised to maximise participation.
2. **Room Setup**
Set up tables or presentation boards for participants to display their projects. Ensure there is enough space for the public and adjudicators to view the work. Maximum exhibition size is 2m height and 2m high (or as available).
3. **Prepare Adjudicators**
Assign experienced professionals or educators to adjudicate. Brief them on the judging criteria:
 - Research (30 marks)
 - Originality (20 marks)
 - Presentation (20 marks)
 - Knowledge of Topic (30 marks)
4. **Time Management**
Give each participant a set amount of time to present their project. Ensure that there is a timekeeper to keep the event running smoothly.

5. **Encourage Collaboration and Engagement**

Remind participants to work as a team (if applicable) and engage with the audience while presenting their work.

6. **Scoring and Feedback**

Provide adjudicators with score sheets. After the event, offer constructive feedback on their research, presentation, and teamwork.

County-Level Events

1. **Prepare the County Event**

Follow the same format as the Area event. Consider hosting Projects alongside other competitions, such as Quiz or Art, to create a comprehensive day of learning and creativity. 2 teams per county per category will qualify to the national finals.

2. **Celebrate Knowledge and Creativity**

Encourage the community to attend and celebrate the hard work of the participants. Showcase the projects to inspire others and acknowledge the skills developed through the competition.

Quiz

www.cairncommunitygames.ie/events/quiz

Why Quiz?

- 1. Promotes General Knowledge and Learning**
The Quiz competition encourages children to expand their knowledge across a wide range of subjects, including history, geography, sports, and current events. It nurtures a love for learning and staying informed.
- 2. Sharpens Memory and Recall Skills**
Quiz competitions help children improve their memory and recall abilities as they need to remember facts quickly and accurately under pressure. These skills are invaluable in both academic settings and daily life.
- 3. Improves Teamwork and Communication**
Quiz is a team-based competition where participants must work together, pooling their knowledge to answer questions. It requires children to debate and figure out answers to questions in groups.
- 4. Boosts Confidence and Quick Thinking**
Children gain confidence as they participate in quizzes, learning to think on their feet and answer quickly. This can improve their ability to handle pressure and perform under time constraints.
- 5. Encourages Friendly Competition and Fun**
Quiz competitions are a fun way for children to engage in healthy competition, testing their knowledge in a supportive environment. The excitement of competing and winning builds their enthusiasm for learning.

Getting Started

- 1. Recruit Participants**
Reach out to local schools, youth groups, and quiz clubs to form teams. Highlight how the Quiz competition is a great way for children to learn new things while enjoying a fun and engaging team activity. Look at our webpage for past Quiz questions!
- 2. Form Teams**
Teams consist of four members, and children can compete in different age groups. Quiz covers various subjects, providing a comprehensive test of knowledge. Age Group is under 14 over 6.
- 3. Host a Practice Quiz**
Organise a practice quiz where teams can get used to the format and types of questions asked. Offer guidance on teamwork and strategy to help them

prepare. There are usually 80 questions in total with picture/logo round and at least 9 Community Games related questions.

4. Use Digital Promotion

Create an online page to share quiz tips, sample questions, and stories from past winners. Build excitement and encourage participation.

5. Contact Local Media

Reach out to local newspapers or radio stations to promote the competition. Emphasise the benefits of building general knowledge and teamwork through participation in the Quiz.

Area-Level Events

1. Set a Date

Choose a date that allows teams to practice and prepare. Ensure the event is well-publicised to encourage community support.

2. Room Setup

Set up tables for each team, with enough space between them to avoid distractions. Ensure there is a microphone and a clear system for asking and answering questions.

3. Prepare the Quizmaster and Adjudicators

Assign an experienced quizmaster to ask the questions. Ensure the adjudicators are familiar with the rules and scoring system, and that they keep the event moving smoothly.

4. Time Management

Ensure that each round runs on time and that breaks are scheduled between rounds. A timekeeper should be present to ensure the event runs efficiently.

5. Encourage Participation and Fun

Remind participants that the Quiz is a friendly competition designed to make learning fun. Encourage them to enjoy the challenge and support one another as a team.

6. Scoring and Feedback

Provide adjudicators with score sheets and ensure scores are tallied accurately. After the event, offer feedback on teamwork and performance.

County-Level Events

1. Prepare the County Event

Follow the same structure as the Area event. Group Quiz with other intellectually challenging competitions, such as Chess or Debating, to create a day focused on learning and mental agility. 2 Teams go forward to the National Final from each County.

2. **Celebrate Knowledge**

Promote the event through local media, emphasising the importance of knowledge and learning in shaping children's futures. Celebrate the winners and participants, acknowledging their hard work and achievements.

Additional Resources and Websites

For further information and support regarding the Arts and Cultural competitions in Cairn Community Games, you may wish to explore the following organisations, which offer valuable resources, training, and opportunities in various artistic disciplines. These websites may provide additional information and contact details specific to arts, music, drama, and cultural activities. However, please remember that all official rules and guidelines for the Community Games competitions are available on the **Cairn Community Games website**.

- **CoisCéim Dance Theatre** (www.coisceim.com) : Promotes dance as an art form and offers resources for schools and young dancers.
- **Music Generation** (www.musicgeneration.ie): Ireland's national music education programme, supporting access to performance music education for children and young people.
- **Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann** (www.comhaltas.ie): The leading organisation for the promotion of Irish traditional music, offering resources for young musicians and performers.
- **National Gallery of Ireland** (www.nationalgallery.ie) : Provides educational resources and programmes related to visual arts.
- **The Arts Council Ireland** (www.artscouncil.ie): Offers support for arts initiatives across Ireland, promoting involvement in music, drama, dance, and visual arts.
- **Creative Ireland Programme** (www.creativeireland.gov.ie) : Encourages creativity in communities and cultural expression throughout Ireland.

For diversity, mental health and inclusivity information, these organisations may provide additional insights:

- **Irish Centre for Diversity** (www.irishcentrefordiversity.ie): Works to promote equality, diversity, and inclusion in Ireland.
- **LGBT Ireland** (www.lgbt.ie): A support organisation providing resources for LGBT youth and promoting inclusivity in schools and communities.
- **Active Disability Ireland** (www.activedisability.ie): Advocates for inclusive participation in cultural and physical activities for people with disabilities.
- **Jigsaw** (www.jigsaw.ie): Ireland's national centre for youth mental health, providing resources and support for young people.
- **Foróige** (www.foroige.ie): Empowers young people through a range of programmes, clubs, and projects that enable leadership, confidence and social development.

- **SpunOut** (www.spunout.ie) : A youth information website providing advice on mental health, education, employment, and social issues.
- **National Youth Council of Ireland** (www.youth.ie) : Supports youth organisations and advocates for youth development in areas such as arts, mental health, and leadership.



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