



The Royal Scottish County Dance Society

New Zealand Branch Inc.



Junior Associate Membership (JAM)

JAM Medal Tests - General information for CANDIDATES

Medal tests are available to candidates from 8 years of age.

Candidates must be registered New Zealand Branch Junior Associate Members. Junior Associate Membership is available to all New Zealand dancers up to, and including, 19 years of age.

Candidates must sit New Zealand Branch medal tests in order, but experienced dancers may enter at an appropriate level (*your teacher will advise you about which medal test you are ready to sit*):

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Bronze | 2. Bronze Bar |
| 3. Silver | 4. Silver Bar |
| 5. Gold | 6. Gold Bar |

It is expected that dancers will wait at least 6 months, and ideally a year, between medal tests. This allows time for you to improve your dancing between levels and enables you to experience other aspects of Scottish Country Dancing, such as socials and ceilidhs.

Only in exceptional circumstances will dancers be permitted to sit more than one grade at the same testing session. Your teacher will need to ask for permission for this to happen.

If you have started the Medal Test process, but will not be able to complete all the levels before you turn 20, you can continue with the Medal Tests if you:

- are a current member of the RSCDS,
- are under the age of 25,
- have completed the Silver Bar by age 18.

Your teachers will select, from the syllabus, the dances you will dance at each test.

You must come fully prepared for the Medal Test – this means knowing all the steps, formations, and dances. Dances will be briefed, and there is usually a walk-through well before you enter the testing room.

SYLLABUS

Medal tests include five sections: steps, formations, music, exercises, and dances.

You must display an appropriate level of technique in all dancing sections as prescribed by the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. This includes:

- teamwork - showing consideration for other dancers and helping them where possible.
- accurate footwork,
- use of hands,
- phrasing,
- covering,
- use of the correct steps for specific movements.

You must also display:

- rhythmic dancing,
- good deportment,
- some knowledge of Scottish Country Dance music. You may be asked to demonstrate this by clapping and counting to music appropriate for the level being tested.

You will also be evaluated on your:

- bow and curtsey,
- dance etiquette,
- understanding of progression.

STANDARD OF DRESS:

You are expected to dress appropriately for the Medal test.

- Dancers must wear dancing pumps/ghillies
- Girls: Skirts or dresses no longer than calf length and full enough to allow free movement. Trousers will not be permitted.
- Boys: Shorts or kilt worn in a tidy fashion. Long trousers will not be permitted

For further information please contact: RSCDS NZ Branch Youth Coordinator
youth@dancescottish.org.nz