



The Royal Scottish County Dance Society

New Zealand Branch Inc.



Junior Associate Membership (JAM)

JAM Medal Tests - General information for TEACHERS

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:

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| 1. <i>Bronze</i> | 2. <i>Bronze Bar</i> |
| 3. <i>Silver</i> | 4. <i>Silver Bar</i> |
| 5. <i>Gold</i> | 6. <i>Gold Bar</i> |

It is expected that teachers will leave a minimum interval of 6 months, preferably 1 year, before entering candidates for successive tests. This will allow dancers time to develop between levels and enable them to experience other aspects of Scottish country dancing, such as social dances and ceilidhs.

Only in exceptional circumstances will teachers be permitted to enter candidates for more than one grade at the same testing session. Permission for this must be sought before or submitted with the application form. Requests, in writing, giving reasons for the requested exception, should be sent to the Youth Coordinator youth@dancescottish.org.nz

Candidates who have started the Medal Test process, but due to the age restriction of JAM membership, will not otherwise be able to complete them, can do so if they:

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

Teachers are responsible for selecting, from the syllabus, the dances on which their candidates will be assessed. Where dancers from several different groups are being assessed at one time e.g., JAM Camp; teachers should liaise with the Medal Test Organiser over their choice of dances.

Candidates must come fully prepared for the Medal Test. Dances will be briefed.

A CD containing a selection of the music used in the Medal Tests is available from the Medal Test Co-ordinator for teachers who are preparing candidates for Medal Tests. This is funded by the Branch and is provided at no cost.

SYLLABUS:

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

Candidates must display:

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

Candidates will also be evaluated on their:

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

STANDARD OF DRESS:

Candidates are expected to dress appropriately for the Medal test.

- Candidates 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