

2024 Western Canada Region Oireachtas (WCRO)

Description of Wristband Policy / Facility Usage Fee

A daily wristband policy will be in effect for the 2024 WCRO. In order to access the WCRO, everyone (dancers, spectators, and teachers) will need a wristband.

Wristbands will be provided for **FREE** to those who are booked within the official hotel room block. The amount of wristbands provided will match your hotel reservation. Wristbands will be collected at your hotel when checking-in.

Anyone who books accommodations outside of the official hotel block will **NOT** be provided a wristband (even if booked in the same hotel - you **MUST** book a room within the official hotel room block in order to receive wristbands). Booking outside the Official WCRO Hotel Block, booking with points/miles or booking through a travel agent will not meet the requirement to obtain wristbands.

A **\$130 CAD facility fee** for a daily wristband will be available to purchase for those who want to access the competition ballrooms, but who are not booked within the official hotel room block. These wristbands can be purchased and collected at the competition venue.

Exempt from the Facility Fee:

- Children under the age of 6
- Residents of the City of Calgary and the Greater Calgary Area (meaning anywhere within 50 kilometres of the city's limits) will be exempted from the Facility Usage Fee by showing valid I.D. at the door.

Strict security will be in place to enforce this policy.

The following are regularly asked questions and answers regarding the Facility Usage Fee. Please review carefully as further information is provided:

Why is there a Room Block and why are there Official Hotels?

Top conference sites across North America are in high demand. Hosting committees typically contract their venues and hotels four to six years in advance to ensure that a large enough facility and enough accommodation can be secured. Negotiations for preferred room rates include agreeing to a minimum guarantee of inventory sales, so an official hotel room block is established to help identify event patrons as part of a specific conference to offset those quotas. With other conferences occurring before, during and after our event, an official hotel room block is vital to secure enough accommodation for all patrons of the WCRO.

What is the Facility Usage Fee?

The CAD\$130 per person per day Facility Usage Fee was established to ensure that patrons of these events fill the official hotel room block and therefore not put the event at risk by way of monumental attrition fees.

What initiated the Facility Usage Fee?

The Facility Usage Fee was introduced following a North American Irish Dance Championships where the official hotel room block was substantially under booked, and the hosting region suffered immense financial penalty by way of hotel attrition fees. Through consultation with experts in the convention services industry and conversations with organizers of similar events outside the Irish dancing world, it was determined that adopting this policy for Irish dancing events is the best way forward to protect the interests of the volunteer organizing entities.

What are hotel attrition fees and why are they necessary?

Attrition fees are applied when a conference group cannot fill at least 80% of the contracted number of rooms in a hotel. Attrition fees are compensation to the hotel for the rooms that might have been sold to other patrons, had they not been held in reserve for an event.

How does the organizing committee decide how many hotels rooms to block?

Estimates are based upon past registration figures and best projections for attendance. Contractual flexibility is built into the contract to allow for adjustments to be made as the Championships approach, however, that flexibility is limited.

Will the Facility Usage Fee apply at future Oireachtashi?

Yes. This is a standard policy for Irish dancing events held in North America, regardless of the location or the hosting committee. Otherwise, registration and admission fees would escalate significantly, and the volunteer organization risks financial ruin.

What if I find a less expensive hotel, or what if I want to stay with family/friends instead?

No one is obligated to book within the Official WCRO Hotel Block in order to attend the WCRO. Patrons have the option to stay wherever they wish, knowing that the Facility Usage Fee will be charged to each person (including parents, dancers and teachers) to access the competition area each day.

What if I live in the WCRO host city?

Patrons showing I.D. with their name, photo and address on each day that they attend the WCRO will be exempted from the Facility Usage Fee.

How do I prove that I have booked within the Official WCRO Hotel Block?

Reservations will be flagged at each host hotel, and patrons who have successfully booked within the Official WCRO Hotel Block will be prompted to submit a registration form to obtain event wristbands upon check-in. It will be necessary to wear and show these wristbands to staff at the venue to access the event. Patrons who do not acquire wristbands by way of booking within the Official WCRO Hotel Block must purchase them for CAD\$130, per person, per day.

How many wristbands will we receive and when will we receive them?

Wristbands will be issued at check-in relative to the number of people booked to stay in the room. Please be sure to check your reservation carefully. Booking a room for two to sleep four people will garner only two wristbands. Please note: if you arrive to the hotel several hours prior to check-in, it may not be possible to receive your wristbands at that time. It will be at the discretion of the hotel team managing distribution.

Will I require a wristband to the Vendor Room or the Practice Room?

Yes. Wristbands will be required to access all areas of the event space. The competition rooms, vendor rooms and practice rooms are interconnected and there is no way to differentiate who is entering the event space for which purpose. If you want to visit the venue before you are checked-in, you will have to have your wristbands from the hotel in order to gain access.

Further questions should be directed to your dance teacher.

**Crediting C.L.R.G. and IDTANA-Southern Region for the basic descriptions above. The information has been modified to fit the WCIDTA and WCRO.*