

Western Open Fiddle Championships



General Contest Rules

1. A contestant may only enter one regular fiddle division. Entry blank must be completed and entry fee paid before participation. A division is closed when the first contestant in that division goes on stage. Extenuating circumstances may be presented to the Contest Chairman for consideration.
2. Fiddle Committee officials will randomly select numbers for all contestants for order of appearance. Contestant order will be posted one half hour before the division begins and the contestant must be ready to play when called. **If a contestant is not ready to play when called, he/she will be dropped to the end of that division and incur a 5 point penalty.**
3. During each contest round, contestants must first play a hoedown, then a waltz, then a tune of choice other than a hoedown or waltz. All three tunes will be judged. Any danceable folk tune played in old time fiddle style is acceptable. No tune shall be played more than once during all appearances of a contestant. The same tune played in different keys will not be considered two separate tunes. The top five contestants in each fiddle category will play in the finals. Total playing time for three tunes is four minutes and for one tune is two minutes. There is no grace period. Two points will be deducted for every ten seconds or portion thereof over four minutes and two minutes respectively.
4. If there is a tie for 5th place after the preliminary round, the contestants in the top four positions and the contestants in the tie will all compete in the final round. In the event of a tie involving prize money, the tied contestants shall play a hoedown. If there is a tie and a tied contestant is not immediately available for a playoff, the contestant ready to play shall be declared the winner of the tie. Only ties which involve prize money will be played off.
5. Contestants may play without accompaniment or with a maximum of three accompanists, no more than two of which may be standard guitars. If an accompanist is not listed on the tune sheet, his/her time on stage will not be counted toward the Accompanist award.
6. Contact microphones and amplified instruments are not permitted on stage.
7. No trick or fancy fiddling is allowed during regular contest appearances. There may be no cross-tuned instruments on stage.
8. If a string breaks, the *contestant* will have the option to continue or stop at that point. If the tune is completed, it will be judged as played. If a contestant stops playing, he/she will be allowed to begin with that tune and complete the round.
9. A contestant must play without assistance other than accompaniment. No sheet music may be displayed while competing.
10. Any contestant winning three consecutive years in the Open division may not compete in any regular fiddle division for one year. Any contestant winning three consecutive years in the Senior Senior, Senior, Adult, Young Adult, or Junior Divisions automatically moves into the Open division the following year. Any contestant winning three consecutive years in the Junior Junior or Peewee divisions may choose to move into the next higher age division or play in the Open division the next year.
11. Judging will be based on the following, for a total of 100 points possible for each tune:

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| Danceability and Rhythm | 25 points |
| Production of Tone | 25 points |
| Intonation of Notes | 25 points |
| Difficulty | 25 points |
12. All scores are cumulative from the preliminary round into the finals. Points will be deducted or disqualification may occur for violation of the Contest rules.
13. Any contestant appearing intoxicated on stage may be disqualified from competition.
14. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Contest Chairman and be signed by not less than three contestants involved within three hours of the incident being protested. All decisions of the Contest Chairman are final.



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