

Western Open Fiddle Championships



Specialty Picking Rules

In addition to the General Contest Rules, the following rules apply specifically to the Picking Divisions:

1. A contestant may enter only one of the following divisions, which are limited to the first ten entrants in each division:
 - JUNIOR—age 17 and under
 - OPEN—any age
2. The contestant may compete with only one instrument: guitar, mandolin, *ukulele*, or banjo.
3. **Order of Play will be posted 30 minutes before the division begins. 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 the division and incur a 10 point penalty.**
4. Each contestant must play two tunes in each round, a fast tune and a slow tune in any order.
5. In each round, **four minute fifteen second** playing time will be strictly adhered to. Two points will be deducted from the total score for each ten second interval or portion thereof over **four minutes fifteen seconds. Timing will start when the contestant or any accompanist plays any note on stage.**
6. Contestants may play with or without accompaniment. Not more than three accompanists may be used, and no more than two of those may be standard guitars. **Having more than two standard guitars as accompaniment will incur a 5 point penalty.** Accompanists may not play the melody of the tune(s).
7. After the preliminary round, scores will be tabulated. The top three scores will move into the finals, regardless of the instrument played.
8. In the event of a tie, each contestant will play one tune of his/her selection that he/she has not played in any picking contest round (See General Contest Rule #4)
9. Scores will be cumulative from the preliminary rounds into the finals.
10. Judging will be by three judges and the decision of the judges is final. There will be a maximum of 60 points possible for each tune from each judge. Judging will be based on the following:

Intonation and clarity of tone	20 points
Rhythm and timing	20 points
Style and difficulty	30 points
11. Any contestant winning a Specialty Picking Division three years in a row may not compete in a Specialty Picking Division for at least one year.



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