

General Contest Rules

1. We will follow a closed registration process – the number of contestants in a division will NOT be revealed until the play order is posted.
2. Registrations for ALL divisions must be completed by 12:00 pm on Saturday. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Certification Rules

1. In the first round contestants must first play a hoedown; second, a waltz; and third, a tune of choice (other than a hoedown or waltz). No tune shall be played more than once during all appearances of a contestant. Four-minute playing time will be strictly adhered to. Ten points will be deducted from total score for each 30-second interval (or portion thereof) over 4 minutes.
2. Small Fry and Jr. Jr. Novice divisions ONLY will play 1 song (hoedown) for the final round.
3. If a string breaks, the FIDDLER will have the option to continue or stop at that point. If the tune is completed, it will be judged as played. If the fiddler stops playing due to a broken string, he or she will be allowed to begin with that tune and complete his or her program.
4. Contact microphones and amplified instruments will not be permitted.
5. No trick fiddling allowed during the contesting appearances. No cross tuning on stage.
6. No sheet music shall be used in the contesting area.
7. Judging will be scored on Fiddling Style, Dance Ability, Rhythm or Timing, and Tone Quality. Scores will be accumulative commencing with round one. Points will be deducted for any violation of the above rules.
8. Judging will be done by three qualified judges. Judging will be done by remote and no judge can see any contestant or hear an introduction or commentary. Contestant is identified only by number.
9. A stopwatch will be used to enable strict enforcement of the four-minute rule.
10. The Junior, Young Adult, Adult, Senior & Championship Divisions will have a 5 Minute time limit for the **FINAL ROUND ONLY**. After 5:09 deductions will begin: 10 points per every 30 seconds over time limit.
11. Contestant may play without accompanist. All divisions are allowed up to three accompanists. If an unwanted accompanist comes on stage, the contestant may stop and ask the person to leave. The contestant may start over with no penalty on time or from the judges.
12. The Junior division will have three (3) rounds.

Novice Eligibility

IF YOU HAVE PLACED IN THE TOP 5 OF ANY CERTIFIED CONTEST IN ANY DIVISION THIS DISQUALIFIES YOU FOR ANY NOVICE DIVISION EVEN IF YOU MOVE UP IN AN AGE DIVISION! YOU MUST COMPETE IN THE CERTIFIED DIVISION FOR YOUR AGE. THERE WILL BE NO EXEPTIONS.

1. The contestant must be a beginner, with no experience.
2. Once a contestant has placed in ANY novice division, ANY placing they are no longer considered a novice fiddler and must move up to the Intermediate division.
3. Novice players must play a simple two-part tune with no double stops except at the beginning and end of a song. Song must have limited variations (variations will be judges call)

Judges have the authority to deem a contestant too advanced to play in the Novice Division and place the contestant in the intermediate immediately.

Judges have the final say!

Intermediate Eligibility

IF YOU HAVE PLACED IN THE TOP 5 OF ANY CERTIFIED CONTEST IN ANY DIVISION THIS DISSQUALIFIES YOU FOR ANY INTERMEDIATE DIVISION EVEN IF YOU MOVE UP IN AN AGE DIVISION! YOU MUST COMPETE IN THE CERTIFIED DIVISION FOR YOUR AGE. THERE WILL BE NO EXEPTIONS.

1. The Contestant must be an intermediate player to compete in this division.
2. All 1st place winners of the intermediate junior division must move up to the certified division the next year.
3. You cannot place first in any intermediate division twice. If you win first place one year and stay in the same age group, you must compete in the certified division the next year. If you win first place in intermediate and MOVE UP and age group you may compete in the intermediate division of your new age group the next year.

Judges have the authority to deem a contestant too advanced to play in the Intermediate Division and place the contestant in regular division immediately.

Judges have the final say!

Twin Fiddling

1. Twin Fiddling will consist of TWO (2) fiddlers.
2. Twin Fiddling tunes should be instrumental only, NO vocals.
3. For Round 1 the contestants must play both a slow and fast tune. For Round 2 the contestants may play a tune of their choice.
4. There is a 4 minute time limit for round 1 and a 3 minute time limit for round 2
5. Judging will be over Difficulty, Timing, Harmony and Tone Quality
6. The judges will have the option to sit in the audience to judge.
7. A contestant may only enter one (1) twin fiddle division.

Judges have the final say!