

ARTICLE III. Official State Fiddle Contest Rules

Section 1. National Fiddlers' Certification and Advisory Council certifies qualified local, regional and state contests.

Through certification, contests are recognized for their adherence to National Rules, standards for judging and desire to produce a quality fiddling event. First Place winners from a Certified Contest receive paid entry to National Contest, an evening showcase performance at the National Contest and year-long recognition in the National Fiddlers' Hall of Fame. Oregon State Fiddle Contest is a certified contest.

Section 2. Oregon State Fiddle Contest has nine (9) divisions:

- A. Championship (Open) - No age limit.
- B. Senior-Senior - Seventy (70) years of age or older.
- C. Senior - Sixty (60) through sixty-nine (69) years of age.
- D. Adult - Thirty seven (37) through fifty-nine (59) years of age.
- E. Young Adult - Eighteen (18) through thirty-six (36) years of age.
- F. Junior - Thirteen (13) through seventeen (17) years of age.
- G. Junior-Junior - Nine (9) through twelve (12) years of age.
- H. Small Fry - Under nine (9) years of age.
- I. Entertainment Showcase (no age limit)

Section 3. Championship Division:

- A. Anyone who is a current member of OOTFA and feels qualified may be a Championship Division contestant. The contestant may join OOTFA at the contest.
- B. Any Championship Division winner who wins three (3) consecutive years shall not be eligible to enter a fourth (4th) year. He/she may choose to sit out the fourth (4th) year or may be asked to serve as a contest judge before competing again.

Section 4. All Divisions:

- A. Being the highest placing Oregon contestant in any division (except Entertainment Showcase) entitles the contestant to participate in the certified contest at the National Old Time Fiddlers' Contest held in Weiser, Idaho the third full week of June.
- B. OOTFA will pay the registration fee for the highest placing Oregon contestants entering the national contest in Weiser. Contestants must still submit registration forms to Weiser – one to compete in the regular contest and one to perform in the certified show.

Section 5. General Oregon State Fiddle Contest Rules:

- A. A contestant in the Oregon State Fiddle Contest shall:
 - 1) Be a current member of OOTFA. The contestant may join OOTFA at the contest.
 - 2) Qualify for competition by payment of entry fee as established by the contest committee.
 - 3) Be eligible to enter one (1) division only, in addition to Entertainment Showcase Division.
- B. A drawing for order of play will be done by the registration desk for round one (1) and the tabulators for subsequent rounds.
- C. Contestants at each appearance in a regular round must play: first, a hoedown; second a waltz; third a tune of their choice other than a hoedown or waltz. No tune shall be played more than once by a contestant during appearances in regular rounds. Total playing time shall be limited to no more than four (4) minutes for each round, except for Entertainment Showcase Division (see specific rules pertaining to this division), and except for the Championship Division rounds which shall be limited to five (5) minutes. Ten (10) points will be deducted from the total score for every thirty (30) seconds (or portion thereof) which exceeds four (4) minutes for all regular division rounds, except Championship Division, and which exceeds five (5) minutes for the Championship Division. There is a ten (10) second grace period. Once eleven (11) seconds over time is reached, ten (10) points will be deducted for that thirty (30) second period (the period running from 4:00 (or 5:00) minutes to 4 (or 5) minutes and 30 seconds).
- D. Contestants may choose to play without accompanists, or with no more than three (3) accompanists.
- E. Any danceable tunes played in the Old Time Fiddle style are acceptable.
- F. Contact microphones and/or amplified instruments are not permitted.
- G. No printed music or tablature of any kind will be allowed on stage during a contest.
- H. No "trick" or "fancy" fiddling is permitted during contestants' appearances in regular contest divisions. Hokum Bowing will be allowed if it is a normal part of the tune.
- I. Judging of all divisions except Entertainment Showcase will be scored for fiddling ability, dance ability, timing and intonation. All scores will be cumulative, and points will be deducted for violations of above rules.

- J. Any protest must be submitted to the Contest Director within three (3) hours of a protest occurrence.
- K. Up to five (5) judges will be selected by a Contest Committee appointed by the OOTFA President.
- L. All committee and judges' decisions are final.
- M. OOTFA Board of Directors shall make all other decisions pertaining to Oregon State Fiddle Contest.
- N Any first place winner for two (2) consecutive years in the Small Fry Division shall move up to the Junior-Junior Division for the next year; any first place winner for two (2) consecutive years in the Junior-Junior Division shall move up to the Junior Division for the next year; and any first place winner for two (2) consecutive years in the Junior, Young Adult, Adult, Senior or Senior-Senior Divisions shall move up to the Championship Division for the next year.
- O. If a string breaks or becomes unwound while a contestant is competing (either a fiddle string or accompanist's string), the contestant has the option to continue playing or stop playing immediately. Any completed tunes will be judged. If the contestant stops due to a broken string, it should be replaced immediately or another instrument should be played and the contestant should complete the round, beginning with the interrupted tune.
- P. In the event of a tie in the second round (top 5) of a regular division, there will be a play-off of one hoedown not previously played by the contestant in round one (1) or round two (2), with a two (2) minute time limit. In the event of a tie in the top five (5) in the Entertainment Showcase division, another tune not previously played by those contestants in this division will be played, with a three {3} minute time limit.

Section 6. Specific Oregon State Fiddle Contest Rules for Entertainment Showcase Division only.

- A. The division is open to OOTFA members of all ages, whether or not they have entered other divisions.
- B. The division is one round consisting of one (1) tune (or a medley with no stopping between tunes) played within three (3) minutes – fiddling only, no singing and no other instruments taking breaks. In the event of a tie, a different tune will be played. Ten (10) points will be deducted from the total score for every thirty (30) seconds over time. There is ten (10) second grace period. Once eleven (11) seconds over time is reached, then (10) points will be deducted for that thirty (30) second period.
- C. Up to three (3) accompanists are allowed; accompanist cannot take breaks or play the melody.
- D. Judging will be done by the regular contest judges, from the audience, using the regular judging criteria and also giving consideration to entertainment value, personality, creativity, technical ability, stage presence and originality. A different score sheet will be used.
- E. The purpose of this division is to have fun entertaining and playing a tune which might not normally be played in a regular contest round – such as a “show” tune, a “trick & fancy” tune, a “hot” fiddle tune, a swing tune with improvisations etc.
- F. A fiddler may elect to have one other fiddler join him/her on stage. They may elect to play a “twin fiddle” tune. However, regular “twin fiddle” rules will not apply. The fiddlers may trade back & forth, play in unison, play note for note melody and harmony, or play melody and counter melody. The two fiddlers will share any trophy and money which may be awarded to them.