

Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association Official State Fiddle Contest Rules

As set forth in the Standing Rules of the Organization Bylaws

(Standing rules may be amended by a simple majority vote of the eligible voting members present at the bi-annual membership meetings)

Article III. Official State Fiddle Contest Rules

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. The first Place winners of the regular divisions of a Certified Contest (or in this case the highest placing Oregon residents) receive paid entry to the National Contest, an evening showcase performance at the National Contest, and year-long recognition in the National Fiddlers Hall of Fame. The Oregon State Fiddle Contest is a certified contest.

2. The Oregon State Fiddle Contest has ten divisions:

- A. Championship (Open) – no age limit
- B. Senior-Senior – seventy years of age or older
- C. Senior – age sixty through age sixty-nine
- D. Adult – age thirty seven through age fifty-nine
- E. Young Adult – age eighteen through age thirty-six
- F. Junior – age thirteen through age seventeen
- G. Junior-Junior – age nine through age twelve
- H. Small Fry – age eight and under
- I. Twin – no age limit
- J. Anything Goes – no age limit

3. Championship Division

A. Anyone who is a current member of the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association and feels qualified may be a Championship Division contestant. The organization can be joined at the contest.

B. Any Championship Division winner who wins three (3) consecutive years shall not be eligible to enter a fourth year. He/she may choose to sit out the fourth year or may be asked to serve as a contest judge before competing again.

4. All Divisions

A. Being the highest placing Oregon contestant in any division (except the Twin and/or Anything Goes Divisions) entitles the contestant to participate in the certified contest at the National Old Time Fiddlers Contest held in Weiser, Idaho the third full week in June.

B. OOTFA will pay the registration fee for the highest placing Oregon contestants entering the national contest at Weiser. Contestants must still submit registration forms to Weiser – one to compete in the regular contest and one to perform in the certified show.

5. General Oregon State Fiddle Contest Rules

A. A contestant in the Oregon State Fiddle Contest shall:

1) Be a current member of the Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association. The organization can be joined at the contest.

2) Qualify for competition by payment of the entry fee as established by the contest committee.

3) Be eligible to enter one division only, in addition to the Twin Fiddling Division and/or the Anything Goes Division.

B. Drawing for the order of play will be done by the registration desk for round 1 and by 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 a 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 the Twin Fiddling and Anything Goes Divisions (see specific rules pertaining to these divisions), 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 the 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 & 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 Twin and Anything Goes will be scored for fiddling ability, danceability, timing, and intonation. All scores will be cumulative, and points will be deducted for violations of the 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 the 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 fiddler's string or an 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 after 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 1 or round 2, with a two (2) minute time limit. In the event of a tie in the top 5 of the Twin or Anything Goes Division, another tune not previously played by those contestants in those divisions will be played, with a three (3) minute time limit.

6. Specific Oregon State Fiddle Contest Rules

A. Twin Fiddling – these rules are specific to the Twin Fiddling Division only:

- 1) This is one division open to Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association members of all ages, whether or not they have entered other divisions.
- 2) Contestants in this division may enter this division only once during each State Contest.
- 3) Tunes: This division is limited to one tune (or a medley with no stopping between tunes) by each team. This division will have one round. In the event of a tie, a different tune than previously played must be played by each team involved.
- 4) Time: Three (3) minute playing time. Ten (10) points will be deducted from the total score for every thirty (30) seconds, or portion thereof, which exceeds three (3) minutes. 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 time period (from 4 minutes through 4 minutes & 30 seconds).
- 5) Accompanists: Each team may have up to three (3) accompanists, and accompanists cannot take breaks or play the melody.
- 6) Judging: A different score sheet will be used. The judging will be done by the regular contest judges, from the audience. Judging will be based on the following categories:
 - a) Rhythm – solid, accurate, and in the “groove”
 - b) Timing – proper and consistent tempo with melody and harmony moving together
 - c) Difficulty and Arrangement of the tune – an intricate tune requiring greater technique will score higher if it is executed well than a simple tune.
 - d) Appropriateness of the harmony and the manner in which the fiddlers work together with similar presentation, dynamics, and phrasing, as well as a similar concept of the tune. Harmony and melody

should be note for note, tasteful, and appropriate to the underlying chords of the tune. Solos, unison notes, counter melodies, trading back and forth, and octaves should be avoided

e) Intonation and Tone – notes should be clear and in tune

B. Anything Goes – These rules are specific for the Anything Goes Division only:

- 1) This division is open to Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers Association members of all ages, whether or not they have entered other divisions.
- 2) This division is one round consisting of one 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 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.
- 3) Up to three (3) accompanists are allowed; accompanists cannot take breaks or play the melody.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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” tune, a swing tune with improvisation, etc.