



Oregon Oldtime Fiddlers' Association

Oregon State Open Fiddle Contest Rules and Procedures

Updated December 5, 2022

- Section 1. The 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.
- Oregon State Open Fiddle Contest is a certified contest and is held annually in Oregon on the third Saturday of March and is open to a resident of any state or country.
 - The National Old Time Fiddlers' Contest is held in Weiser, Idaho during the third full week of June.
 - OOTFA will prepay the registration fee to the National Contest for the highest placing Oregon resident contestant in each division (except Entertainment Showcase) from the Oregon contest. There is no fee to enter the national certified showcase.
 - Contestants must still submit registration forms to the National Contest for each event they wish to enter, i.e., the certified showcase and/or the regular contest.

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

- Championship (Open) - No age limit.
- Senior-Senior - Seventy (70) years of age or older.
- Senior - Sixty (60) through sixty-nine (69) years of age.
- Adult – Thirty-seven (37) through fifty-nine (59) years of age.
- Young Adult - Eighteen (18) through thirty-six (36) years of age.
- Junior - Thirteen (13) through seventeen (17) years of age.
- Junior-Junior - Nine (9) through twelve (12) years of age.
- Small Fry - Eight (8) years of age and under.
- Entertainment Showcase (no age limit)

Section 3 - Contestant's Entry Fee & Registration (Payment of cash/check due at the contest.)

- Small Fry, Junior-Junior and Entertainment Showcase - \$10 (\$5 if registered by March 6, 2023)
- Junior, Young Adult, Adult, Senior and Senior-Senior - \$15 (\$10 if registered by March 6, 2023)
- Championship (Open)- \$20 (\$15 if registered by March 6, 2023)

Section 4. Audience Admission

Audience Admission will be by donation at the door.

Section 5. General Oregon State Fiddle Contest Rules:

- A contestant in the Oregon State Open Fiddle Contest shall be eligible to enter one (1) division only, in addition to the Entertainment Showcase Division.
- Contestants at each appearance in a regular round must play: first, a hoedown; second, a waltz; and 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.
- The total playing time for each division:
 - The Small Fry Division has one (1) round which shall be limited to no more than four (4) minutes.
 - The Junior-Junior Division shall be limited to no more than four (4) minutes for each round.
 - The Junior, Young Adult, Adult, Senior, Senior-Senior and Championship Divisions shall be limited to no more than five (5) minutes for each round.



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- 4) The Entertainment Showcase has one (1) round and shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes. (See Section 6 on specific rules pertaining to the Entertainment Showcase Division).
- E. Ten (10) points will be deducted from the total score for every thirty (30) seconds (or portion thereof) which exceeds five (5) minutes or four (4) minutes depending on the 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. Additionally, ten (10) points will be deducted for every subsequent thirty (30) second period or portion thereof.
- F. Contestants may choose to play without accompanists, or with no more than three (3) accompanists.
- G. Any danceable tunes played in any old-time fiddle style are acceptable.
- H. Contact microphones and/or amplified instruments are not permitted.
- I. No printed music or tablature of any kind will be allowed on stage during a contest.
- J. No "trick" or "fancy" fiddling is permitted during contestants' appearances in regular contest divisions. Hokum Bowing and Harmonics will be allowed if they are a normal part of the tune.
- K. Judging of all divisions (except Entertainment Showcase Division) will be scored for rhythm, timing, intonation, tone, musicality, and fiddling ability.
- L. All scores will be cumulative, and points will be deducted for violations of the above rules.
- M. Up to five (5) judges will be selected by a Contest Committee appointed by the OOTFA President.
- N. All committee and judges' decisions are final.
- O. A first-place winner for two (2) consecutive years in the:
 - 1) Small Fry Division shall move up to the Junior-Junior Division for the next year.
 - 2) Junior-Junior Division shall move up to the Junior Division for the next year.
 - 3) Junior, Young Adult, Adult, Senior or Senior-Senior Divisions shall move up to the Championship Division for the next year.
 - 4) Any Championship Division winner who wins three (3) consecutive years shall not be eligible to enter a fourth year. The winner may choose to sit out the fourth year or may be asked to serve as a contest judge before competing again.
- P. 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.
- Q. In the event of a tie among the second-round top five (5) contestants 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 among the top five (5) in the Entertainment Showcase Division, another tune not previously played by those contestants in those division will be played, with a three (3) minute time limit. (See Section 5 E for overtime point deductions.)

Section 6. Special Rules for the Entertainment Showcase:

- A. This division is open to all ages, even if 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.



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- C. 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 ten (10) points will be deducted for that thirty (30) second period. Additionally, ten (10) points will be deducted for every subsequent thirty (30) second period or portion thereof.
- D. Up to three (3) accompanists are allowed; accompanists cannot take breaks or play the melody.
- E. 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.
- F. 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.
- G. A fiddler may be joined by another fiddler 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.
- H. A fiddler may only appear on stage one time in this division at each state contest. (This does not include accompanying other fiddlers with instruments other than a fiddle).