



# Western Open Fiddle Championships General Contest Rules

1. A contestant may only enter one regular fiddle division. Entry blank must be completed and entry fee paid before participation. A division is closed when the first contestant in that division goes on stage. Extenuating circumstances may be presented to the Contest Chairman for consideration. ***The Western Open supports the philosophy that we encourage contestants to learn, perform, and compete with many different tunes, and therefore we ask that a contestant age 18 or over does not play any tune more than once in any competition on stage at the Western Open.***
2. Fiddle Committee officials will randomly select numbers for all contestants for order of appearance. Contestant order will be posted one half hour before the division begins and the 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 that division and incur a 10 point penalty.
3. During each contest round, contestants must first play a hoedown, then a waltz, then a tune of choice other than a hoedown or waltz. All three tunes will be judged. Any danceable folk tune played in old time fiddle style is acceptable. The top five contestants in each fiddle category will play in the finals. ***Total playing time for three tunes is four minutes fifteen seconds. There is no grace period. Timing will start when the contestant or any accompanist plays any note on stage.*** Two points will be deducted for every ten seconds or portion thereof over four minutes fifteen seconds.
4. If there is a tie for 5<sup>th</sup> place after the preliminary round, the contestants in the top four positions and the contestants in the tie will all compete in the final round. ***In the event of a tie after the final round involving prize money, the high scores for the tied contestants will be compared and the contestant with the higher score in the second round will be deemed to have won the tie. If the scores are still tied, the contestants will be deemed to have tied for the placement and will split the prize money for that place and the one below it.***
5. Contestants may play without accompaniment or with a maximum of three accompanists, no more than two of which may be standard guitars. ***Having more than two standard guitars as accompaniment will incur a 5 point penalty.*** If an accompanist is not listed on the tune sheet, his/her time on stage will not be counted toward the Accompanist award.
6. Contact microphones and amplified instruments are not permitted on stage.
7. No trick or fancy fiddling is allowed during regular contest appearances. There may be no cross-tuned instruments on stage.
8. If a string breaks or there is other "equipment failure", ***the contestant may choose to stop or to continue and complete the round. If the contestant chooses to stop playing, he/she will move to the end of the Order of Play for that round and play a complete round, regardless of whether or not any tunes were completed before the incident.***
9. A contestant must play without assistance other than accompaniment. No sheet music may be displayed while competing.
10. Any contestant winning three consecutive years in the Open division may not compete in any regular fiddle division for one year. Any contestant winning three consecutive years in the Senior Senior, Senior, Adult, or Junior Divisions automatically moves into the Open division the following year. Any contestant winning three consecutive years in the Junior Junior or Peewee divisions may choose to move into the next higher age division or play in the Open division the next year.
11. Judging will be based on the following, for a total of 100 points possible for each tune:

Danceability and Rhythm	25 points
Production of Tone	25 points
Intonation of Notes	25 points
Difficulty	25 points
12. All scores are cumulative from the preliminary round into the finals. Points will be deducted or disqualification may occur for violation of the Contest rules.
13. Any contestant appearing intoxicated on stage may be disqualified from competition.
14. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Contest Chairman and be signed by not less than three contestants involved within three hours of the incident being protested. All decisions of the Contest Chairman are final.



**A California non-profit and U.S. IRS 501(c)(3) charitable corporation, formed to educate and perpetuate the art and cultural heritage of Fiddle Music**