



Official Rules

****Amended 2009**** (Amendments are designated in bold type)

1. All contestants must be Washington residents who are members in good standing in the Washington Old Time Fiddlers Association of the contesting year. If you are not a member of the WOTFA, you can join at the contest prior to registering for the contest.
2. Accompanists may be from any state. Accompanists from Washington must be WOTFA members in good standing of the contesting year. Out of state accompanists are not eligible for any awards and do not have to pre-register. Proof of residence must be shown.
3. No entry fees will be charged; however, all fiddlers and accompanists must pre-register or pay a late fee. **A late fee of \$20.00 will be charged for pre-registrations postmarked after May 1st and for all registrations at the contest.** Contestants must sign in no later than 30 minutes prior to the beginning of their division. **Sign in means the contestant has registered, picked up their badge, tune sheet and signed the attendance roster.** The Contest Chairman will consider emergency situations on an individual basis.
4. Upon signing the contestant registration form, all commercial recording, photo and video rights are reserved and shall become the property of the Washington Old Time Fiddlers Association.
5. There will be eight divisions, each playing two rounds. Contestants may enter only one division. Initial order of appearance for the first round of play will be randomly selected by computer and posted as soon as possible, but not earlier than thirty minutes prior to the start of each division. Judges scores will be tabulated, and cuts will be made based on cumulative scores. A computerized play order will be posted as soon as possible before the second round. Contestants should remain in the practice room or close proximity and be ready to play when called. Any contestant who harasses or threatens a judge will be automatically eliminated for the current and following year's contest.
6. Contestants at each appearance must first play a hoedown; second a waltz; and third, a fiddle tune of choice; other than a hoedown or waltz. No contestant shall play a tune more than once during the contest. Four minute playing time will be strictly adhered to. Contestants going over the allowed time will lose 10 points per 30 seconds from the total score. A ten-second grace period will be allowed. Fiddlers may play without accompanists, or with not more than three.
7. If a string breaks, the *contestant* will have the option to continue or stop at that point. If the tune is completed, it will be judged as played. If the *contestant* stops play, they will be allowed to begin with that tune, and complete their program without penalty.



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8. Contact microphones and amplified instruments are not permitted.
9. No trick or fancy fiddling is allowed during the contesting appearances. No cross-tuning on stage.
10. No sheet music or tabulation shall be displayed in the contesting area.
11. Judging criteria on individual tunes will include but is not limited to Oldtime Fiddling Style, Danceability, Rhythm and Timing, and Tone Quality. 100 points are possible for each tune; each category above is scored equally.
12. In case of a tie, those involved will play one additional tune.
13. Any contestant who wins three consecutive years in the Open Division must sit out the following year's contest. Any contestant winning three consecutive years in the Senior-Senior, Senior, Adult, Young Adult, and Junior divisions will automatically move into the Open Division. Any Junior-Junior or Small Fry contestant winning three consecutive times in their division, will automatically move into the next age division.
14. Breaking these rules will result in deduction of points, or disqualification at the discretion of the contest committee.
15. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Contest Chairman, and signed by not less than three contestants of the Contest involved within three hours of protest occurrence.
16. All decisions of the Judges, and of the Contest Committee will be final.

Contestants may enter only one of the following contests:

Open:	Contestants, open to all regardless of age.	2 Rounds
Senior-Senior:	Contestants must be at least 70 years of age.	2 Rounds
Senior:	Contestants must be 60 to 69 years of age.	2 Rounds
Adult:	Contestants must be 37 to 59 years of age.	2 Rounds
Young Adult:	Contestants must be 18 to 36 years of age.	2 Rounds
Junior:	Contestants must be less than 18 years of age.	2 Rounds
Junior-Junior:	Contestants must be less than 13 years of age.	2 Rounds
Small Fry:	Contestants must be less than 9 years of age.	2 Rounds