

Fiddlers of Idaho
State Open Championship
2017 Contest Rules and Standards

New or modified rules are in red type. *Italicized text is for information only.*

1. The contest is open to musicians without discrimination of age, gender, race, ethnic background, nation of birth or religion. The contest is open to musicians regardless of state of residence.
2. Contestants are expected to demonstrate courteous, professional and respectful behavior toward other contestants, judges, contest staff and the audience. *Please dress appropriately for this public event.*
3. A contestant's application must be received at the registration table and entry fee paid before the start time of his/her competition event.
4. A pre-registered contestant, not able to participate, must notify Fiddlers Inc of their intent to withdraw. Refund of fees paid will be made to the contestant.
5. Contestants may check-in at the registration table starting 7:30 am Saturday April 15th. Check-in confirms that the contestant has submitted an application and all fees are paid.
6. Each person entering the contest will receive a Contestant's Badge. The contestant's badge must be worn while on stage. Replacement for a lost badge can be obtained from the registration table.
7. Contestants are requested to attend the Judges – Contestants meeting. If a contestant does not attend the meeting, they are solely responsible for not having received the information presented.
8. Accompanists are requested to sign-in at the registration table. There is no entry fee for Accompanists. Accompanists are invited to attend the Judges-Contestants meeting.
9. Age for the purpose of this contest is the contestant's age on the day of competition.
10. The certified divisions are; "Small Fry" (age 8 and under), "Junior Junior" (9 through 12), "Junior" (13 through 17), "Young Adult" (18 through 36), "Adult" (37 through 59), "Senior" (60 and above), and the "Open" (any age).
11. Novice competition will occur separate from certified competition in the "Small Fry", "Junior Junior", "Junior" and "Adult (18 and above) divisions. A fiddler is eligible to compete as a novice in the 2017 contest if they have not placed in the top five scoring positions of a certified contest or they did not place in the top three scoring positions of the 2016 Fiddlers of Idaho novice contest. Participation in a Novice division means that the contestant is not eligible for certification to the National Oldtime Fiddlers Contest.
12. **Intermediate competition will occur in the Junior-Junior and Junior age divisions only. Intermediate competition is part of the novice contest. The novice eligibility rules apply. The top five scoring intermediate contestants in this the 2017 contest must advance to certified competition in future Fiddlers of Idaho State Championship contests.**
13. Order of play will be randomly generated. Round one order of play for each division will be posted at specified locations after the Judges – Contestants meeting.
14. Each contestant will present their tune sheet(s) to the Announcer when they arrive on stage.
15. Awards will be presented to the top five contestants in the certified, novice and intermediate divisions.

16. Contestants in all fiddle divisions may play with up to three accompanists.
17. **Novice and Intermediate divisions will have one round of play. Each Novice contestant must play two songs; first a hoedown and second a waltz. Each Intermediate contestant must play three songs; first a hoedown, second a waltz and third a tune of their choice**
18. Each Certified division will consist of two rounds of performance. 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 entire competition.
19. Contestants placing in the top five scoring positions of round one of a certified division will advance to round two. Advancement to the second round of more than five contestants is the decision of the Contest Chairman.
20. Announcement of certified contestants advancing to the second round of competition will be made by posting the advancement report at specified locations. The report will contain only the names of those contestants advancing to the second round.
21. A four (4) minute play time is set for both rounds of certified competition and round one of novice and intermediate competition. The grace period is twenty seconds. A penalty of ten points will be assessed if the performance time exceeds the grace period.
22. **The judges are sequestered such that they cannot see the performing contestant and they do not hear the contestant's introduction to the audience. The contestant is introduced to the judges by division title, round of play and order of play. Judging criteria for each tune includes fiddling style, dance ability, rhythm, timing, and tone quality. A contestant's score for a round of play is the sum total of scores from the individual judges. Points may be deducted for rule violations. Final score for a contestant that advanced to round two of competition is the sum of scores from both rounds.**
23. **On completion of each contestant's performance, the Judges complete and sign their individual score sheets. The score sheets are immediately removed from the judges' room and delivered to the Score Keeping Team. The score sheets are tabulated manually and a paper tape of the tabulation is produced. The score sheets are then tabulated electronically using a spreadsheet program. The manual tabulation paper tape and the spreadsheet tabulation are validated by the Scoring Supervisor.**
24. The only persons permitted inside the Judges' room are the Judges, the Judge's Assistant the Contest Chairman, the Scoring Supervisor, persons specifically assigned to tabulate scores and those authorized by the Contest Chairman. Please no visitors in the Judges' room during the contest.
25. Contact microphones and amplified instruments are not permitted during any competition.
26. 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, due to a broken string, he/she will be allowed to begin with that tune and complete the intended program without penalty.
27. No sheet music will be displayed on stage.
28. No Trick or Fancy fiddling allowed during the contest.

29. The “Great Train Song” contest will consist of only one round of play. Contestants/groups will perform only one song or a continuous medley of songs. Performance time limit is set at five (5) minutes. The “Great Train Song” contest is a family entertainment event. Any performance deemed not suitable for family entertainment by the contest chairman will be terminated. The Judges may or may not be sequestered for the Great Train Song event.

30. **Integrity of the Judging Process.** Recruiting judges for the Fiddlers of Idaho State Championship contest is accomplished through a fair and equitable process involving one or more individuals that are not members of Fiddlers Inc and are not fiddling instructors in the State of Idaho. Final review of credentials and acceptance of an individual as a contest judge is the sole responsibility of Fiddlers Inc.

The challenge to each judge is to independently and fairly score the performance of each contestant without knowledge of who is performing. Once a Judge signs his or her score sheet for a specific contestant they have no opportunity to change the scores. Judges are not, at any time during the contest, informed of the tabulated scores. Judges are not aware of the final top five contestant standings in each division until they hear such information announced at the awards ceremonies. Judges are not allowed to discuss, with the public, the performance of any contestant at any time during the contest. For the purposes of this contest, the term “Public” includes contestants, instructors, accompanists, parents and all other members of the general audience.

We ask all members of the Public to refrain from any activity that would compromise the integrity of the judging process.