

## **Florida State Fiddlers Association General Contest Guidelines**

1. The judges decisions will be final.
2. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any category.
3. Entry position at registration will be assigned on a first come first served basis.
4. Participants SHOULD BE PRESENT and in PROPER DRAWN POSITION for entry on the stage when names are called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no shows WILL BE ELIMINATED from the contest. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings assessed to be beyond the control of theregistered participant.
5. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, each fiddler's presentation is limited to four minutes TOTAL performance time. Participants in the beginner category may be limited to a two minute total performance time, if necessary to meet contest schedule requirements.
6. Contestants are expected to perform two fiddle tunes of choice. Depending on time restrictions, only two pieces may be performed. A third tune should be considered performance ready in the event of a category tie score judgment.
7. Participants may select to have a maximum of two accompanists. Only string instruments are allowed. NO ELECTRIC INSTRUMENTS will be permitted.
8. Contestants should introduce the tunes for the judges and the audience prior to its performance.
9. Tie breaker performances will be judged on their own merit by the standard judging criteria.
10. Any contestant who has won first place for two consecutive years will not be judged in the competition of that category the following year. The fiddler may perform but may not enter the competition until they have sat out for one year.
11. All contestants should consider the placement of microphones and efforts of the sound system technicians working to ensure that each performance is clearly heard by the judges and the audience. Positioning is important. Judges will score on what they hear!!
12. The contest guidelines, rules and activities may be modified or amended depending on events and situations during the competition. Changes and decisions will be made by the contest committee.
13. There are five (5) categories in the Fiddle Contest, as follows. Only one category allowed per contestant, except any contestant may also enter Twin Fiddle as a second category. **Please note that the entry fee is *per division*, so if entering Twin *and* another division you must pay twice.**
  - Junior (through age 12)
  - Youth (age 13 through 18)
  - Twin (two fiddlers)
  - Contemporary
  - Old-Time (formerly Rustic)