

Fiddle Contest

Superintendent Dan Bush 724-599-7457

Pennsylvania State Fiddle Contest Rules

1. Contestants must register before the contest.
2. All contestants will draw for their order of appearance. The number one fiddler in the junior division will be permitted to replay after the last contestant in their division. The best of both scores will be counted as their final score.
3. Contestants may play alone or with one accompanist.
4. Any contestant that breaks a string or has an instrument malfunction during the competition will have the option to stop playing if the tune is not completed and make any needed changes. They may return to the competition and finish the tune or tunes as needed.
5. Fiddle contestants must play a hoedown first followed by the waltz and end with the tune of choice. The tune of choice should be a tune other than a hoedown or waltz. Guitar, banjo and mandolin contestants must play two tunes. A medley is more than one tune and is not permitted. Each contestant has five minutes to perform their tunes. Ten points per judge will be deducted from the total score for each 30 seconds that the player goes over the time limit.
6. All tunes should be played in an old time style at a danceable tempo. Show tunes such as; Listen to the Mockingbird, Black Mountain Rag and the Orange Blossom Special will not be permitted as competition tunes.
7. Contact microphones and amplified instruments will not be permitted.
8. Trick fiddling is not allowed during the contest. Fiddles are to be in standard GDAE tuning.
9. Judges will score contestants in the following areas ; intonation, rhythmic accuracy, tone quality and creativity. The decision of the judges is final. Score sheets will be available to the contestants after the contest.
10. No sheet music or music stands shall be displayed in the judging area.
11. Any contestant winning three consecutive years in the PA State Championship division must sit out the next year and return to judge. Any teen or senior division champion winning three consecutive years will move up to the championship division the following year. A junior champion winning three connective times will move up to the teen division the following year. Local contests will follow this rule if the fiddler has won 3 times in their division the year before. Local contest championship winners do not need to sit out for a year from the local contests if they are a state champion.
12. Contestants must play in the order of the drawing. Audience applause will not influence the judge's score. The contest is a blind judging event so fiddlers should not be near the judging area during the competition.
13. Contestants must appear on stage to accept their trophy or prize money.
14. Contestants are not permitted to speak into or near the microphone.

Revised September 30, 2017