

Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association
501(c)(3) Nonprofit Association Incorporated in the State of Texas

STANDARD CONTEST RULES

version 1.1
revised 12 SEP 2021

1. There shall be no entry fee for members. Non-members may also compete upon paying an entry fee in accordance with the Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association Bylaws.
2. Contests will start at the advertised time. Failure to do so shall make the contest subject to review by Board of Directors before approval is granted the following year. A report stating the reason for the delay shall be filed by Judges of said contest.
3. There shall be no "break" in any contest division for other types of entertainment.
4. Musician members or non-members paying an entry fee specified by the Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association Bylaws shall be allowed to compete in an approved fiddlers contest. Exception: The Annual Fiddlers' Reunion Contest has no membership requirement.
5. A drawing will be held for order of play prior to contest division.
6. A contestant shall be allowed to register until the drawing in his division has begun.
7. When a contestant is called to play he shall have three minutes to report to the stage with fiddle in tune and ready to play. Failure to do so, with accompanists ready, shall constitute automatic disqualification.
8. No tune shall be prohibited.
9. No contestant shall play the same tune twice during any contest, including playoffs, championships, etc. Exception: When winner is challenging a current champion who does not have to compete in preliminaries.
10. A fiddler will be allowed up to four accompanists. Any stringed instrument is acceptable as backup. One (1) accompanist may be an Electronic keyboard playing traditional rhythm accompaniment, subject to the rules on Electrical instruments.
11. A fiddler breaking any rule of the contest shall be disqualified.
12. Amplified instruments shall be regulated by the judges. The use of Electrical instruments will not be allowed except in the case of an electrified keyboard used for traditional rhythm accompaniment. Only one such instrument is permitted per fiddler and no pre-recorded beats or synthesized music may be used. The volume of the instrument will be at the discretion of the director of the contest and/or the judges.
13. Judges shall have complete control of contest results.
14. Judges shall sign each score sheet. Judges shall score each tune 70 to 100 points The Head Judge shall tally the score sheets and be approved by the other Judges. Judges must agree by a majority on the winners; any judge may call for a play-off.
15. The Head Judge may select a replacement Judge in an emergency.
16. Judges shall approve all recording equipment. No recording made during any contest by any party shall be offered for sale in any form without the written permission of the Association and the contestant involved.

17. A contestant's scores from a contest shall be available from the Association for a fee of \$ 1.00 and a period of one year. Contestant scores will be posted for viewing at contest immediately following each division. Scores will remain posted for at least thirty minutes except for the last division played which will remain posted for a minimum of fifteen minutes. Score sheets for one entire division are available for \$5.00.
18. Any complaints by a contestant on the outcome of a contest shall be written, signed, and directed to the Association and not to the contest sponsors.
19. A contestant may not enter both the fiddle and accompanist contest.
20. A contestant must play all tunes unassisted to qualify for Youngest Fiddler Award.
21. The Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association supports furthering preservation of fiddling and may have optional rules available to contests with the goal to further this knowledge. If a contest decides to following those rules, they must: a) specify which rules will be followed; and b) provide a ninety (90) day prior notice of the intent to do so with the notice being published in the contest website or social media (if applicable) AND either in the TOTFA newsletter or on the TOTFA website (if possible).
22. OPTIONAL RULES TO BE IMPLEMENTED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CONTEST ORGANIZER OR DIRECTOR:
 - a. In Each Contest Category, a tune may be played only One (1) time and not repeated by any other contestant in that category for any further rounds, including playoffs, for that contest. The contestant is SOLELY responsible for making sure they do not repeat a tune in that category. The Judges will be responsible for tracking the tunes played. In the event a contestant tries to repeats a tune already played, the judges will immediately stop and ask the contestant to play a different tune. They must play a different tune and may not leave the stage. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. In the event the judges do not notice the repeated tune, the contestant will be allowed to proceed unless another contestant in the same category objects before the category ends.
 - b. If a contest opts to limit a tune to be played once within a category, at the contest's discretion a list of tunes may be published. TOTFA will have a list made available that can be used.
 - c. If a contest opts to limit a tune to be played once within a category, at the contest's discretion a contestant may be permitted to "reserve" a tune for their performance at the time they draw for playing order either from their own repertory or from a list of tunes provided by the contest or the Texas Old Time Fiddlers Association.
 - d. At the discretion of the contest, these optional rules may be relaxed or not enforced in young or beginner categories while being enforced in the other categories.

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Revision History

Version	Author	Revision Date	Change Description
1.1	Ed Carnes	Sep 12, 2021	Updated version 1.1 (which was listed as "1.0" in the text), along with the following cosmetic changes to create this version 1.1; added Revision History; Rule 1 and 4- added non-member rules from bylaws; Rule 10 updated for electric keyboard; Rule12 added verbiage to cover electrical instruments; Added Rule 21 for optional rules and Rule 22 for tune lists
1.0	Ed Carnes	Nov 9, 2014	Created new Microsoft Word version from original rules
Original	Unknown	1973?	Original version of rules

