

BEGINNING FIDDLER CONTEST RULES  
(Ages 10 & Under)

44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION  
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama  
October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the **BEGINNING FIDDLER (Age 10 & under)** category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

**A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judge's decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

**B. CATEGORY RULES:**

- .....1. This category is for fiddlers ten (10) years of age and under. A fiddler ten (10) years and under may enter the Junior Fiddler category <sixteen (16) through fifty-nine (59) years>, but not both.. Any Beginner Fiddler who has won first (1st) place three (3) times will be required to enter the Junior Fiddler category after the third (3rd) win regardless of age. Once a Beginner Fiddler has entered the Junior Fiddler category, he/she may not re-enter the Beginning Fiddler category in subsequent years. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this category is to promote **BEGINNING** fiddlers.
- .....2. **Contestant will play one tune, a tune of his/her choice.** First through fifth place winners will be selected.
- .....3. The contestant may have a maximum of 2 accompanists, to include any combination of a guitar, a banjo, or a bass fiddle.
- .....4. No tuning other than standard tuning is allowed in any category other than Classic Old Time Fiddle.

**C. JUDGING CRITERIA:**

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing----- (20 points)  
..... The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in the tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Danceability----- (20 points)  
..... The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style----- (20 points)  
..... Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression----- (20 points)  
..... The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution----- (20 points)  
..... The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

**D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scores will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

BEGINNING FIDDLER CONTEST RULES  
(Ages 11-15)  
44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION  
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama  
October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the **BEGINNING FIDDLER (Ages 11-15)** category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

**A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judge's decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

**B. CATEGORY RULES:**

- .....1. This category is for fiddlers ages eleven through fifteen (11-15) years. A fiddler fifteen (15) years and under may enter the Junior Fiddler category <sixteen (16) through fifty-nine (59) years>, but not both. Any Beginner Fiddler who has won first (1st) place three (3) times will be required to enter the Junior Fiddler category after the third (3rd) win regardless of age. Once a Beginner Fiddler has entered the Junior Fiddler category, he/she may not re-enter the Beginning Fiddler category in subsequent years. Please keep in mind that the purpose of this category is to promote **BEGINNING** fiddlers.
- .....2. Contestant will play one tune, a tune of his/her choice, in the eliminations. Two tunes, time permitting, a breakdown and a waltz will be played during the finals. Contest officials will make the decision to determine if one or two tunes will be played. Five (5) finalists will be selected from the eliminations. First through fifth place winners will be selected during the finals.
- .....3. The contestant may have a maximum of 2 accompanists, to include any combination of a guitar, a banjo, or a bass fiddle.
- .....4. Tunes performed in the eliminations may not be repeated by the same contestant in the finals.
- .....5. No tuning other than standard tuning is allowed in any category other than Classic Old Time Fiddle.

**C. JUDGING CRITERIA:**

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing------(20 points)  
..... The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in the tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Danceability------(20 points)  
..... The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style------(20 points)  
..... Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression------(20 points)  
..... The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution------(20 points)  
..... The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

**D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scores will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

BLUEGRASS BAND CONTEST RULES

44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the BLUEGRASS BAND category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

**A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judge's decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 4 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

**B. CATEGORY RULES:**

- .....1. Bands will perform one tune in the eliminations and two tunes in the finals. The tunes may be either vocal or instrumental, however, it is recommended that a vocal be included with instrument. This will demonstrate band versatility. Five (5) finalists will be selected from the eliminations. First through fifth place winners will be selected during the finals.
- .....2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....3. Tunes performed in the eliminations may not be repeated by the same contestant (or contestants, in the case of the Bands) in the finals.
- .....4. The band shall consist of at least three (3) members but not more than six (6). Minimum instruments shall be a fiddle, a banjo, and a guitar. Band members can participate in ONE band only in this category. The use of Scruggs' type tuners on the banjo is not allowed during the performance. Please avoid the over played tunes such as Foggy Mountain Breakdown, John Hardy, etc. All band members **MUST demonstrate an ability to play the instrument they are holding.**

**C. JUDGING CRITERIA:**

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing------(20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity------(20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style------(20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression------(20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution------(20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

**C. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

D.

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

## BLUEGRASS BANJO CONTEST RULES

### 44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the BLUEGRASS BANJO category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

#### B. CATEGORY RULES:

- .....1. Contestant will perform one tune. First through fifth place winners will be selected.
- .....2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....3. Contestant may perform unaccompanied or with one or two accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not over power the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.
- .....4. Bluegrass Banjo: Five (5) stringed only. The use of Scruggs' type tuners is prohibited. Performers should avoid the standard "show" tunes such as Foggy Mountain Breakdown, Earl's Breakdown, John Hardy, etc.

#### C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing----- (20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style----- (20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

#### D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

## BUCKDANCING CONTEST RULES

### 44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the BUCKDANCING category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 45 seconds is allowed.

#### B. CATEGORY RULES:

- .....1. This event should consist of authentic old time dancing in true flat-footing style. The arms should not be flounced, but should be held loosely at the sides of the body. The feet should be kept parallel to the floor and as close to the floor as possible (kicks, Charleston steps, crossovers, clogging steps, exaggerated backward or side steps are prohibited). The contestant should keep the head and shoulders as level as possible. No taps will be allowed. This is not a "no hold barred" type of contest, but a contest that stresses the traditional "buck" or "flat-footing" style. Five (5) finalists will be selected from the eliminations. First through fifth place winners will be selected during the finals.
- .....2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.

#### C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing------(20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity------(20 points):  
The judges will watch for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic dance (see category rules above) which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style------(20 points):  
Use of modern dance steps which change the traditional buckdance form or the addition of inappropriate steps will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression------(20 points):  
The judges will look for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution------(20 points):  
The judges will look for the overall manner in which the contestant presents the dance, to include the execution of the start and finish.

#### D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each dance will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per dance. Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.

## CLASSIC OLD TIME FIDDLER

### 44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the CLASSIC OLD TIME FIDDLER category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

#### B. CATEGORY RULES:

- .....1. This category is for fiddlers 16 and over. The purpose is to promote pure old time fiddling, and to eliminate the characteristics of the more modern, progressive style that is commonly heard today. Winners in the finals of this category will not compete for the Tennessee Valley Fiddle King title. A fiddler in this category may be asked to perform in the Junior/Senior category if, in the opinion of the judges he/she consistently performs in the more modern, progressive style.
- .....2. Contestant will play two tunes, a breakdown and tune of their choice. Five (5) finalists will be selected from the eliminations. First through fifth place winners will be selected during the finals.
- .....3. The contestant may have a maximum of 2 accompanists, to include any combination of a guitar, a banjo, or a bass fiddle.
- .....4. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....5. Tunes performed in the eliminations may not be repeated by the same contestant in the finals.
- .....6. Cross tuning is permitted in the Classic Old Time Fiddle category **ONLY!** It is not permitted in the other fiddle categories.

#### C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing------(20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Danceability------(20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style------(20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression------(20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution------(20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

#### D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

DOBRO CONTEST RULES  
44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION  
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama  
October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the DOBRO category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

**A. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judge's decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exception will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 ½ minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

**B. CATEGORY RULES:**

- .....1. Contestant will perform one tune. First through fifth place winners will be selected.
- .....2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1<sup>st</sup>) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....3. Contestant may perform unaccompanied or with one or two accompanist. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not over power the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.
- .....4. Use of Capos are permitted.

**C. JUDGING CRITERIA:**

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing------(20 points)  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity------(20 points)  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style------(20 points)  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression------(20 points)  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution------(20 points)  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

**D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scores in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instrument is "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

## DULCIMER CONTEST RULES

### 44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the DULCIMER category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

#### B. CATEGORY RULES:

- .....1. Contestant will perform one tune. First through fifth place winners will be selected.
- .....2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....3. Contestant may perform unaccompanied or with one or two accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not over power the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.
- .....4. Dulcimer: Only strummed, picked or plucked Appalachian or mountain style dulcimers with 3 or 4 strings will be judged. Other types may enter but will not be judged. Metal or plastic types of finger or thumb picks, i.e., banjo or Dobro style, may not be used. Traditional old time tunes and traditional style playing are encouraged. Modern tunes and progressive styles will result in a loss of points.

#### C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing----- (20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style----- (20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

#### D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

GUITAR CONTEST RULES  
"Finger-Picking"  
44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION  
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama  
October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the FINGER-PICKING GUITAR category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

**GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

- ....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- ....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- ....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- ....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- ....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- ....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- ....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 ½ minutes per tune is allowed.
- ....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- ....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

**A. CATEGORY RULES:**

- ....1. Contestant will perform one tune. First through fifth place winners will be selected.
- ....2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1<sup>st</sup>) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- ....3. Contestant may perform unaccompanied or with one or two accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanists to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not over power the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.
- ....4. Shall be six (6) string acoustic guitar. "Dobro" type guitars not permitted.
- ....5. This category could be referred to as "Thumb/Finger Style", "Drop Thumb", "Finger Picking", or possibly other names, the method remains the same, (i.e. Merle Travis, Chet Atkins). Rhythm is played with the thumb and the melody of tune is played with fingers, thus, thumb/finger style.

**B. JUDGING CRITERIA:**

- ....1. Rhythm and Timing.....(20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in loss of points.
- ....2. Creativity.....(20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- ....3. Authentic Performance Style.....(20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- ....4. Expression.....(20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- ....5. Execution.....(20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

**C. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

- ....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- ....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- ....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

GUITAR CONTEST RULES  
"Flat Picking"  
44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION  
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama  
October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the FLAT PICKING GUITAR category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

**A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

**B. CATEGORY RULES:**

- .....1. Contestant will perform one tune. First through fifth place winners will be selected.
- .....2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....3. Contestant may perform unaccompanied or with one or two accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not over power the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.
- .....4. Shall be six (6) string acoustic guitar. "Dobro" type guitars not permitted.
- .....5. This category will consist of "flat picking" guitar style (i.e. Doc Watson) even though use of right hand style may vary slightly, the end result will be single notes to bring together the tune selection.

**C. JUDGING CRITERIA:**

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing----- (20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style----(20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

**D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

## HARMONICA CONTEST RULES

### 44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the HARMONICA category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Accompanists must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

#### B. CATEGORY RULES:

- .....1. Contestant will perform one tune. First through fifth place winners will be selected.
- .....2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....3. Contestant may perform unaccompanied or with one or two accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not over power the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.
- .....4. The use of chromatic or double reed harmonicas will not be permitted. Only ten (10 hole), twenty (20) note harmonicas will be allowed. Only one (1) harmonica may be used per tune. Old style tunes are preferred.

#### C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing----- (20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style----- (20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

#### D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

## JUNIOR FIDDLER CONTEST RULES

### 44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the JUNIOR FIDDLER category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

#### B. CATEGORY RULES:

- .....1. Junior fiddlers are fiddlers age sixteen (16) through fifty-nine (59) years.
- .....2. Contestant will play two tunes, a waltz and either a breakdown, or another traditional fiddle piece such as a reel, a hornpipe, a jig, or a schottische during the eliminations, finals, and fiddle-off. Five (5) finalists will be selected from the eliminations. First through fifth place winners will be selected during the finals. First place finalists will fiddle against the first place finalists of the SENIOR FIDDLER category in the FIDDLE-OFF.
- .....3. The contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform but will not be judged.
- .....4. The contestant may have a maximum of 2 accompanists, to include any combination of a guitar, a banjo, or a bass fiddle.
- .....5. Tunes performed in the eliminations may not be repeated by the same contestant in the finals.
- .....6. No tuning other than standard tuning is allowed in any category other than Classic Old Time Fiddle.

#### C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing----- (20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style----- (20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

#### D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

## JUNIOR/SENIOR FIDDLE-OFF CONTEST RULES

### 44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the JUNIOR/SENIOR FIDDLE-OFF category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

#### B. CATEGORY RULES:

- .....1. JUNIOR/SENIOR FIDDLER category rules apply.
- .....2. Contestant will play a waltz and either a breakdown, or another traditional fiddle piece such as a reel, a hornpipe, a jig, or a schottische.
- .....3. The contestant may have a maximum of 2 accompanists, to include any combination of a guitar, a banjo, or a bass fiddle.
- .....4. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....5. Tunes performed in the eliminations or finals may not be repeated by the same contestant in the FIDDLE-OFF.
- .....6. No tuning other than standard tuning is allowed in any category other than Classic Old Time Fiddle.

#### C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing----- (20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style----- (20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

#### D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

## MANDOLIN CONTEST RULES

### 44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the MANDOLIN category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

#### B. CATEGORY RULES:

- .....1. Contestant will perform one tune. First through fifth place winners will be selected.
- .....2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....3. Contestant may perform unaccompanied or with one or two accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not over power the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.
- .....4. Only eight (8) stringed standard fingerboard is allowed.
- .....5. No cross tuning of instrument permitted during performance of tune.

#### C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing----- (20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style----- (20 points)  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

#### D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

OLD TIME BANJO CONTEST RULES

44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the OLE TIME BANJO category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

**A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

**B. CATEGORY RULES:**

- .....1. Contestant will perform one tune. First through fifth place winners will be selected.
- .....2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....3. Contestant may perform unaccompanied or with one or two accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not over power the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.
- .....4. Five (5) stringed only. Scruggs' type tuners not allowed to be used in performance of contest tune. Fretless fingerboard is permitted

**C. JUDGING CRITERIA:**

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing----- (20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style----- (20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

**D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

## OLD TIME SINGING CONTEST RULES

### 44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the OLD TIME SINGING category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 4 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

#### B. CATEGORY RULES:

- .....1. Contestant will perform one song. First through fifth place winners will be selected.
- .....2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....3. Old time singing is limited to a maximum of two (2) performers. One performer must sing. However, each performer may sing and play an instrument.

#### C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing----- (20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the song which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style----- (20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the voice.

#### D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

OLD TIME STRING BAND CONTEST RULES  
44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION  
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama  
October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the OLD TIME STRING BAND category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

**A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 4 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

**B. CATEGORY RULES:**

- .....1. Bands will perform one tune in the eliminations and two tunes in the finals. The tunes may be either vocal or instrumental. However, it is recommended that a vocal be included with instruments. This demonstrates band's versatility. Five (5) finalists will be selected from the eliminations. First through fifth place winners will be selected during the finals.
- .....2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....3. Tunes performed in the eliminations may not be repeated by the same contestant (or contestants, in the case of the Bands) in the finals.
- .....4. The band shall consist of at least three (3) members but not more than six (6). Minimum instruments shall be a fiddle, a banjo, and a guitar. Band members can participate in ONE band only in this category. Bluegrass style banjo not allowed. Lead instrument not limited to the fiddle. All band members **MUST demonstrate an ability to play the instrument they are holding.**

**C. JUDGING CRITERIA:**

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing----- (20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style----- (20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

**D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.

## SENIOR FIDDLER CONTEST RULES

### 44th ANNUAL OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

October 1 & 2, 2010

This is a summary of the rules and regulations that apply to the SENIOR FIDDLER category only. This summary does not add to or take from the contest rules and regulations published and made available to all contestants and judges. It simply consolidates the rules and regulations applicable to this one category, for the convenience of the contestants and judges alike.

#### A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:

- .....1. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
- .....2. The judges decisions will be final.
- .....3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
- .....4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
- .....5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registering and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position at the staging area behind Founders Hall. NO exceptions will be made!
- .....6. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
- .....7. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 2 1/2 minutes per tune is allowed.
- .....8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage. Tuning on stage may result in loss of points.
- .....9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.

#### B. CATEGORY RULES:

- .....1. Senior fiddlers are fiddlers age sixty (60) years and over.
- .....2. Contestant will play two tunes, a waltz and either a breakdown, or another traditional fiddle piece such as a reel, a hornpipe, a jig, or a schottische during the eliminations, finals and fiddle-off. Five (5) finalists will be selected from the eliminations. First through fifth place winners will be selected during the finals. First place finalists will fiddle against the first place finalists of the JUNIOR FIDDLER category in the FIDDLE-OFF.
- .....3. The contestant may have a maximum of 2 accompanists, to include any combination of a guitar, a banjo, or a bass fiddle.
- .....4. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. They may perform, but will not be judged.
- .....5. Tunes performed in the eliminations may not be repeated by the same contestant in the finals.
- .....6. No tuning other than standard tuning is allowed in any category other than Classic Old Time Fiddle.

#### C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

- .....1. Rhythm and Timing----- (20 points):  
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
- .....2. Creativity----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune which will result in a loss of points.
- .....3. Authentic Performance Style----- (20 points):  
Excessive and indiscriminate changes in a tune, which makes the performance unclear or unrecognizable, will result in a loss of points.
- .....4. Expression----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
- .....5. Execution----- (20 points):  
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

#### D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

- .....1. Non-traditional performances will not be scored under the "Authentic Performance Style" judging criterion. Each tune will be judged independently.
- .....2. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes permitted in that category. High/low scores will NOT be thrown out (ALL points scored will be counted). Points scored in the eliminations will not be carried over into the finals.
- .....3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. Both are there to help the contestant/performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. Please make sure your instruments are "miked" properly prior to starting your performance.