

**General Contest Rules** (This is not a certified contest. Judges will not be sequestered.)

1. Registration form must be completed by December 31, 2015 to receive two free admissions. Free admission covers contestants only. Tickets may not be issued for family members or guitar players not registered for the contest. Money will be refunded to anyone who paid entry fee and cannot attend, if they inform the committee of withdrawal prior to the contest's beginning. All refunds will be issued by check. Discount rates can only be given to members of COTFA whose dues are current. Those who have received discounted entry fees in the past will be asked to bring their membership dues current. **Please have proof of paid membership.**
2. Fiddle contestants may compete in ONE individual Fiddle Division (Age, Open OR Novice). Novice shall play two tunes of their choice. They can also compete in the Twin Fiddle division. See #3.
3. Registration for the Twin Fiddle division will be on Sunday morning, January 10, 2016, only. There will be a maximum of 5 pairs, on a first come, first served basis.
4. Contestants must confirm pre-registration by checking in at the registration desk. Non pre-registrants must register at least 1 hour before the beginning of their division, provided that the division is not full. Contestants registering playing order has been chosen will play first.
5. All commercial recording, photo and video rights are reserved and shall become the property of the Colorado Oldtime Fiddlers' Association, the nonprofit and legal entity for the Colorado Fiddle Championships. Signing of the contest registration form shall waive such rights.
6. Order of appearance for all rounds shall be randomly drawn by a committee member and posted. Contestants must be ready to play when notified.
7. Pre-registration will be accepted for those entering the accompanist division. CFC staff guitarists will judge the accompanist division. Accompanist contestants must register at least 1 hour prior to the start of this division. Accompanist will select a fiddle player to play with them during their round. They will play two contrasting tunes in round 1 and round 2. They cannot repeat the same songs. The top three from the first round will progress to day two for the second round and championship.
8. Fiddle contestants may play with or without accompanist. There are no restrictions on the number of accompanists.
9. If a string breaks, the contestant will have the option to continue or stop at that point. If the tune is completed it will be judged as played. If the contestant chooses to stop, due to a broken string, he or she will be allowed to begin with that tune and complete the round without penalty.
10. Contestants must play a hoedown, a waltz and a tune of choice, which is designated as anything other than a waltz or a breakdown. Tunes may be played in any order. No contestant shall play a tune more than once during the contest. In the first round there is a five-minute playing time limit for all divisions, except for the Open Championship division. There will be a 10-point deduction for each 30 seconds over the 5-minute time limit. **THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT IN ROUND 2 OF ANY AGE DIVISION. There is no time limit for the Open Championship division in any round.**
11. Contact microphones and amplified instruments will not be permitted during any competition.
12. No trick fiddling allowed during contest appearances. No cross-tuning onstage.
13. Judging criteria on individual tunes will include but is not limited to: Difficulty, Musical Expression, Rhythm and Timing and Tone & Intonation. Points will be deducted for any violation of the above rules 9-12(inclusive).
14. Audience participation IS allowed and encouraged. Time consideration will be given to contestants for excessive audience response.
15. Any contestant winning three consecutive years in the Championship division must either judge the following year's contest or sit out the contest that year. Any contestant winning three consecutive years in any age division (except small fry and Junior-Junior) will automatically move into the championship division. Small Fry and Junior Junior contestants winning three consecutive years will

automatically move up to the next age division.

16. No sheet music shall be displayed in the contesting area.
17. Tune sheets must be filled out before the contestant enters the on-deck area.
18. In the event of a tie, contestants will play off according to the stipulations of the judges. Playoffs will only be for ties in the top five places. All others will split the difference in prize money.
19. All decisions of the judges and the contest committee will be final.

### **Twin**

1. Two fiddle players per Division entry – any age
2. No pre-registration. Entries will be taken on Sunday only, the second day of the contest.
3. Contestants may play two tunes of their choice NOTE: *Entries are limited to 5 pairs. Entry's taken at registration table on a first come, first served basis.*
4. Congruent performances will be most desirable. Twin style is defined by - two fiddlers' playing in each other's shadow, melody and harmony moves together. Orchestrated performances do not fit the definition of "twin" fiddling.
5. *Qualities* – Technical difficulty Intonation with regard to relative pitch. Blending of tone and feel, Interesting intervals.

### **Novice Divisions – Jeff Hertz Memorial: Youth – 17 & Under – Adult 18 & Older**

Beginner players may enter and continue participating in Novice until they have placed first in this division.

1. Contestant may play two tunes of any kind note: (if time becomes an issue due to large number of contestant entries, contest board reserves the right to reduce number of tunes played to one).
2. No time limit.
3. Contestants winning first place must move on to their age division the next year.
4. All other general rules apply except those noted in these alternative rules.
5. Have fun.... And welcome to the contest world!

### **Texas Style – Open Division**

Anyone may enter but please realize this is a higher skill level competition.

1. The contest committee will choose playing order. There will be a total of 3 rounds.
2. There are no time limits but points will be deducted for repetitive playing. Contestants are asked to present a performance demonstrating Texas Style. Please present your tunes in the traditional manner and build within the context of the tune and the style.
3. In round 1 contestant will play a breakdown, waltz and tune of choice. The number of contestants will determine how many will progress to round 2.
4. In round 2 contestants will play a breakdown, waltz and tune of choice.
5. In the third round the top 5 contestants will play to determine the top 5 places. In round 3 judges may decide to limit number of tunes to play and choose the type of tune(s): a breakdown, waltz or tune of choice.
6. Contestants must be available for all callbacks and have five minutes to report to the contest director once they are notified.

