



COTFA SANCTIONED

Official Fiddle Competition Rules – 2016 Montrose County Fair Fiddle Contest

1. All contestants will register for the competition and pay the designated fee prior to the beginning of the division they plan to play in. No person may register in an age division in which they do not meet the qualifications. Entry is \$12 for all divisions including back up. Contest is sanctioned by COTFA and as such offers COTFA members FREE entry! Contest registration will keep an updated list of all current paid COTFA members. **Contestants name must appear on list to receive discount.** Membership forms will be available for those who wish to join COTFA.
2. Only acoustic stringed instruments amplified through our public address system will be permitted in the contest including accompanists.
3. Contestants may play with or without accompanists. Contestants will **not be limited** to number of accompanists. Accompanists may not carry the melody or otherwise obscure the playing of the contestant. If the contestant is comfortable with back up, playing with accompanists is always more enjoyable for the audience.
4. Back up awards are given according to number of times accompanists appear on stage during the contest. A tally will be kept throughout the competition. Accompanists must register and pay entry fee to be eligible for prize money.
5. 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. Those winning 3 consecutive years in an age division must move up to the next age group or the championship division.
6. Depending on number of contestants the contest committee may choose to allow contestants registered for age divisions to also register for the championship division (additional fees apply). Notification of this will be given once all contestants have registered.
7. Any contestant winning a trophy or money must appear on stage to receive their awards or the awards will be forfeited.
8. A contestant may not play the same tune more than one time in the course of competition.
9. All contestants must play three tunes. A Breakdown/Hoedown – a tune in 2/4 or 4/4 time which contains parts that are 8 measures in length, suitable for square dancing. A Waltz – a tune in 3/4 time. A Tune Of Choice – anything OTHER THAN a breakdown or a waltz including but not limited to – rags, polkas, blues tunes, jigs and schottisches. Out of fairness to contestants who take care to play the correct kinds of tunes, those who don't will loose points in their scores.
10. Sheet music should not be used on stage. Scores will be reduced out of fairness to contestants who take time to memorize their tunes.
11. Tunes which are primarily “showpieces” or “trick” tunes, such as “Black Mountain Rag”, “Listen to the Mockingbird” or “Orange Blossom Special” will not be permitted or judged in competition. Questions as to the tune selection appropriateness should be directed to the judges prior to entering the stage for the contest. Judge’s decision will be final.
12. Contestants will announce their own tunes and should endeavor to limit the length of their performance to a total of 8 minutes for all tunes. Redundant and repetitive playing may influence the judges negatively.
13. Order of appearance for all rounds shall be randomly drawn by the contestants of each division. Contestants must report to the registration desk when called to draw for order. Contestants must be ready to play when it is their turn.
14. In the event of a tie within any division individuals involved will play one tune to be judged by the judges.
15. In the event a contestant or back up player breaks a string the contestant has the option to stop while the situation is remedied or continue on without back up. The contestant must resume their round from the tune they were playing during the interruption.
16. Contestants may pick up their score sheets at the registration table at the end of the contest.
17. All commercial recording, photo and video rights are reserved and shall become the property of the Colorado Old Time Fiddlers' Association -*nonprofit and legal entity* and the Montrose County Fair. Signing of the contest registration form shall signify you have waive such rights.
18. Circumstances not addressed by the above information will be decided by a consensus of the judges. In all instances, the decision of the judges will be final. Any contestant who harasses or threatens a judge will be automatically eliminated from the current contest and next year's contest. Any person doing the same will be asked to leave immediately.