



Grand Master Fiddler Championship Inc.™

A Tennessee non-profit and U.S. IRS
501(c)(3) charitable corporation, formed to
educate about and perpetuate fiddling as an
art form and cultural treasure

TRADITIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

CONTEST RULES

1. The Grand Master Fiddler Traditional Championship is designed to recognize fiddlers who play a fiddling style outside the recognized US "contest" or "Texas" styles, or Canadian "contest" styles. If you play the competitive style heard at places such as Weiser, Shelbourne, or Hallettsville then you should not enter this category. Contestants playing in those styles in this competition will be disqualified – if in doubt ask the contest coordinators before you enter this category.
2. Entrants in this division may NOT also enter the Grand Master Fiddler Championship or the Accompanist contest and no one entered in either of those contests may compete in this contest.
3. Examples of TRADITIONAL styles could be the Appalachian fiddling, the Central Missouri fiddling, Metis, Bluegrass, Southeastern, Scottish, Irish, New England, the Kentucky fiddling of Doc Roberts, and Ed Haley and so forth, This list is not inclusive.
4. No electric instruments and no instruments playing "lead" will be permitted. No fiddler will be allowed more than 4 accompanying instruments. Any stringed instrument is acceptable as backup.
5. No songs are banned.
6. For your information, the judges will be housed in a separate facility and no visual displays will influence their decisions. Judges will not have any contestant names or be told who is performing.
7. In each fiddler's presentation, they must play a fast tempo tune, a slow tempo tune (does NOT have to be a waltz) and a tune of their choice. Each fiddler must be prepared to give their tunes, in order of performance, to the Contestant Coordinator who will have the M.C. announce the numbers.
8. **THERE IS NO TIME LIMIT** - play as long as you need, there is no need to cut your tunes short - we encourage you to play the entire tune.
7. There are two rounds round of competition.
8. Contestants should be ready to complete when called to the stage. Contestants will be required to begin their first tune within 30 seconds from the time they are announced to the judges. Consideration will be given for broken strings, switching instruments, etc. Violation of this rule will result in loss of 30 points and/or disqualification.
9. In the event a contestant breaks a string, they will be allowed to restart their tune. If they continue, the tune will be scored as is. If their accompanist breaks a string, the contestant has 30 seconds to decide whether to stop and restart the tune or continue. Any stoppage after this 30 second grace period will result in the tune being scored as is.
10. The decision of the judges is FINAL. Any contestant or accompanist who harasses, threatens or verbally abuses a judge will first be warned and next be expelled from the contest for the current and next year.
11. Upon contestant registration, all commercial recording, photo and video rights during the contest are reserved and shall become the property of the Grand Master Fiddler Championship.

Last revised: July 5, 2010