

Rules for Minnesota State Fiddle Contest August 27, 2022

Entry:

A \$10 entry fee is required with the registration. Checks should be made payable to MSFA. Entry forms are due no later than Saturday, August 12. If the divisions are not full, registrations may be accepted thereafter. Registrations received after August 12 may not receive free tickets to the fair.

Divisions:

Age Divisions and an Open Division that are open to all. A contestant may not enter both an Age Division and Open Division. Special divisions include Heritage, Fee-Fi-Faux and the Gilmore Lee "Best Waltz." Contestants may sign up for any or all of these divisions. To run, a division needs at least two contestants.

Scoring:

Performances will be scored on tone (pitch, intonation, pleasing tone), timing (good tempo, rhythm & beat), and execution (difficulty of tune and overall performance). Traditional fiddle style playing is expected. This is a "fiddle" contest.

Rules:

- Order of appearance will be determined by a computer randomization of the contestants prior to the contest. Last minute entrants will be added to the end in order of registration.
- A tune may be played by a contestant only once during all performances in the entire contest. A medley of tunes is not considered a fiddle tune and will receive zero points.
- Contestants may play alone or with no more than three accompanists. The accompanist may not play the melody or a bowed instrument but may use chord charts. No amplified instruments may be used in the contest. Only four string fiddles are allowed. Points may be deducted for warming up on stage.
- Age division contestants shall come prepared to play a waltz and a fast tune. Open-division contestants shall come prepared to play three tunes: a waltz, a hoedown, and a tune of choice, in that order. (A tune of choice is fiddle tune that is not a hoedown or a waltz. If the contestant would like to know if their tune qualifies, they may email msfafiddlers@gmail.com prior to the competition.) Tunes should be memorized (no sheet music on stage) and played at a danceable tempo. Accompanists may use chord charts.
- Each contestant in the Age Divisions shall have a maximum of four minutes to play two tunes. Each contestant in the Open Division shall have a maximum of six minutes to play three tunes.
- When the contestant's turn comes, he or she must be near the stage entrance and ready to play. Failure to do so will disqualify the contestant, however, in extremely unusual circumstances, the contest managers will make the final decision.
- The judges will break all ties.
- 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 stops play due to a broken string, he or she will be allowed to begin again with that tune and complete the program without penalty.
- Fiddles are to be played under the chin. No trick fiddling is allowed. Tunes such as "Orange Blossom Special" "Black Mountain Rag" or "Listen to the Mockingbird" are not allowed.
- All contest manager's decisions and judges' decisions are final. Scores will not be released to the contestants or the public. Judges will not discuss contestants' performances during or after the contest. Any protest must be signed and submitted to the contest manager with three hours of the protest occurrence. Later protests will not be acknowledged.
- Contestants and their family members and the accompanists are expected to conduct themselves with common courtesy and a spirit of fair play. Attire should be appropriate.