

Florida State and Regional Bluegrass Music Competitions – OFFICIAL RULES

Please Read and Understand

DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES, THE CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS
MAY BE AMENDED BY CONTEST OFFICIALS BEFORE OR DURING THE CONTEST.

Contestants will be advised regarding a deviation from written rules.

LIMITATIONS

1. Contestants are limited to entering no more than three (3) competitions.
Playing backup for other contestants is not considered competing.
2. Contestants are limited to one (1) performance per competition.
Playing backup for other contestants is not considered performing.
3. Contestants are limited to a maximum of two (2) backup musicians.

MUSIC SELECTION

1. No pre-recorded background music will be allowed. All music must be live!
2. Music selection will be **bluegrass and old-time style fiddle music.**

This is a bluegrass music contest!

3. Each contestant will play two (2) tunes. **IF** more than six (6) contestants are entered in a competition, contestants may be limited to one (1) tune, excepting fiddle contestants.
4. Each fiddle contestant is required to play two (2) tunes, a waltz and a breakdown.

GENERAL RULES – ALL COMPETITIONS

1. The judges' decisions will be final! (3- judges total)
2. The judges for these competitions must be will not be permitted to enter or play in the competitions.
3. Competitions will be: Vocal Band, Instrumental Band, Flat-picked Guitar, 5-string Banjo, Mandolin, Dobro, Fiddle, and Do-bro competition will be raised nut, played lap style. In Jr and Sr categories for individual instruments only.
4. Instruments on stage will be limited to acoustic stringed instruments traditionally associated with bluegrass music.

Examples: Guitar, 5-string banjo, mandolin, dobro, bass and fiddle, or variations thereof. The only electric instrument allowed will be the electric bass.

5. Contestants must register in person between (TBD by location) on the day of the event. No contestant will be permitted to register for any competition after registration is closed. The number of contestants in each competition will be made known when the Order of Performance Schedules are posted, NOT BEFORE.
6. Contest officials will determine the order of performance by drawing. The Order of Performance Schedule for each competition will be posted in a place designated at the time of registration.
7. Contestants must be present and in proper position, per Order of Performance Schedule, for entry on the stage when called. It is up to the contestants to make sure their backup persons are present and available to come to the stage with the contestants. Late arrivals or no-shows on stage will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other circumstances judged to be beyond the control of the contestants. A contest official should be notified immediately if a problem or situation should occur.
8. All contestants are urged to consider the placement and proper working order of the microphones and monitors. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far from the microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in the loss of points if a PA is used.
9. Judges will independently score each tune performed. Each tune will be judged for rhythm & timing, performance style, expression, and execution. Each of these categories will be judged on a scale of 1-25. The highest total points possible for each tune would be 100 points per judge (**a perfect performance**). Scores will not be averaged. A contestant's total points received after combining all judges' scores will be the contestant's final score for that competition. The contestant receiving the highest number of points will be awarded first place, second-highest number of points will receive second place, and the third-highest number of points will receive third prize.
10. In the case of a playoff, each contestant involved will play one tune – different from his/her previous tunes. This tune will be judged in the same manner as in previous performances. The contestant who receives the highest total of points will win the playoff.
11. In the interest of fairness to all contestants, a time limit of 3-1/2 minutes per tune will be observed by each contestant.

GENERAL RULES – ALL COMPETITIONS (Continued)

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR THE FIDDLE COMPETITIONS

1. All contestants will compete in their age group. Junior 13 and under - Senior age 14 and up.
2. Any contestants that have participated in a regional or state contest within the last 36 months must enter under the Masters classification.

COMPETITION JUDGING CATEGORIES

- (1) **Rhythm & Timing:** The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging, or changes in tempo will result in a loss of points.
- (2) **Performance Style:** Includes selection of music, preparation of selected tunes, and adherence to bluegrass traditions (the judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations). Excessive changes in a tune which make the performance unrecognizable, or the addition of inappropriate "modern licks," will result in a loss of points.

- (3) **Expression:** The judges will note the “feeling” that the contestant puts into the performance. (This includes stage presence, appearance, and appropriate showmanship.) Lackluster performances or excessive showmanship will result in a loss of points.
- (4) **Execution:** The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance and the complexity of the tune, along with the general command of the instrument(s). A very simple tune played perfectly will be judged lower than a complex tune played less than perfectly.

NOTICE

Presentation of Prizes

All 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners will be called to the stage as a group for the presentation of prizes. Please make yourself available at these times, so we do not have to wait for your appearance or look for you!

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!

DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES, THE CONTEST RULES AND REGULATIONS MAY BE AMENDED BY CONTEST OFFICIALS BEFORE OR DURING THE CONTEST.

**ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO IS IMMODESTLY DRESSED, BEHAVES IN A
DISRUPTIVE MANNER, OR BEHAVES IN SUCH A WAY THAT SUGGESTS
ALCOHOL OR DRUG INFLUENCE WILL BE ELIMINATED FROM THE CONTEST.
SUCH INDIVIDUALS WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE PREMISES!**
