

Kennedy Creek Old-Time Music Festival

Fiddle Contest Rules and Regulations

1. There are two divisions: Open (any age) and Junior (age 16 and under). Contestants may only compete in one division.
2. In Open Division, each contestant will play one tune in the Preliminary Round and finalists will play two tunes in the Final Round. Junior Division will be only one round with contestants playing one tune each.
3. Contestants will draw for order of performance.
4. Each contestant may have one accompanying instrument back them up and it cannot be a fiddle.
5. Each contestant will clearly state the tune title and source(s) before commencing.
6. Tunes should be from 1938 or earlier, or from source field recordings that reflect fiddling from the pre-war era.
7. There are no rules disqualifying any styles or tricks but judges will be listening for style and repertoire that represents the region and old-time fiddling in general.
8. Contestants who play a tune from a Georgia source will receive 10 points (out of 100 possible points) from each judge per tune (maximum 10 points per judge for prelim and 20 points per judge for finals). A tune will be determined to qualify as a Georgia tune if the source fiddler was born in Georgia or is primarily associated with generally accepted Georgia music or bands. Tune title alone is not sufficient to qualify. For example, Harry Kiker's "Hell Amongst the Yearlings" would qualify as a Georgia tune but Clark Kessinger's "Hell Amongst the Yearlings" would not. Determination is solely at the judges discretion. If a judge is unsure of the correct determination they should consult their peer judges.
9. Scores will be tabulated directly after the end of the preliminary round and the five finalists will be announced and posted immediately. In the event of a tie for 5th place the contestants will play one tune each for score to determine who moves on to the finals.
10. Finals will begin 30 minutes after finalists are announced. Finalists will draw again for order of performance.
11. Open finals will consist of two tunes.
12. Tied scores may result in additional playoff rounds. Scoring between the preliminary, final, and any playoff rounds will NOT be cumulative. Each of the two tunes played for the final round will be scored separately and added together to determine final score.

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13. Winners and awards will be announced directly after finals have finished. All contestants are responsible for their own festival admission fees. The contest is open to all participants, including non-Georgia residents.
14. Should a conflict of interest exist between a judge and a contestant, a designated alternate judge will score said contestant. Examples of conflicts of interest would be a family relationship, significant others, a teacher/student relationship, roommates, and membership in the same currently performing band.
15. Contestants who fail to appear when their name is called to perform will be disqualified.
16. Contestants who experience a broken string during their performance (either themselves or backup instrument) will be allowed a makeup performance.