

CSOTFA General Contest Rules

This contest is open to any musician. The highest scoring CA resident in each division will be declared the CA State Champion. CA residency is defined as six (6) months as a CA resident or having a CA Driver's License. Contestant does not have to belong to CSOTFA.

1. Entry blank must be completed in full and entry fee paid. Registration for Senior-Senior and Young Adult divisions will each close when the first contestant steps on stage. Registration for all other divisions will close 30 minutes before the scheduled starting time. **Your registration is not complete until your tune sheet/s has been turned into the Traffic Desk.** Registration will close Saturday after all fiddle preliminaries have finished and final rounds are posted.
2. DIVISIONS: Peewee (8 years and under); Junior-Junior (9-12 years); Junior (13-17 years); Young Adult (18-36 years); Adult (37-59 years); Senior (60-69 years); Senior-Senior (70 years and over); Open (any age); Open Twin Fiddle (any age); Junior Twin Fiddle (17 and younger); Accompanist (any age); Open Picking (any age); and Junior Picking (17 and younger). In order to compete in the Twin Fiddle, a contestant must be registered in a fiddle division and compete as scheduled. A contestant may not enter in more than one fiddle division, but may additionally enter Accompanist, one Twin Fiddle and/or one Picking division. Picking contestants may play only one instrument. **ANY CONTESTANT ENTERING MULTIPLE DIVISIONS MUST COMPLETE AND TURN IN A SEPARATE TUNE SHEET FOR EACH DIVISION.**
3. An Accompanist must register and play with at least one contestant in competition (excluding entertainment). Accompanist awards are given according to the number of times an accompanist plays during competition rounds. All commercial recording rights are reserved and shall become the property of the CSOTFA. Signing of the registration form shall waive such rights.
4. Initial order of appearance will be drawn by lottery approx. 30 minutes before the division is to go on stage. The fiddle committee will draw before the final round for a new order of appearance. A contestant will be ready to play when called or he/she will lose his/her turn and be disqualified from the contest. The MC is given the authority to move on to the next contestant, and the CSOTFA board authorizes the president to disqualify the contestant who was not ready to play in a timely manner. Contestants **must** be available 30 minutes before the division begins, and tune sheets must have been turned into Traffic. **Any contestant not ready for warm up and for their turn on stage will be placed at the end of the order of play for that Division and will have a 5 point penalty placed on their score.** Any contestant registered and not playing the initial round will be eliminated from the contest and forfeit all fees and badges for the remainder of the contest.
5. A contestant must wait for their first round to be posted in case a tie has to be broken before the second round. If a contestant is not immediately available, the committee will make a decision regarding the tie. A tie for 5th place will result in 6 contestants playing in the second round. Winners of non-money ties will be decided according to which contestant played first in the first round.
6. If a contestant qualifies and does not play a second round, he/she will forfeit their standing in the second round. The next contestant will move up and play in the second round.
7. Contestants may play without accompanist or with no more than three accompanists, no more than two of which may be standard guitars. An accompanist may not play the melody of the tune.
8. No instrument with electrical amplification will be allowed. This is strictly an acoustical contest.
9. No sheet music shall be displayed while contesting. There are no vocals allowed. This is an instrumental contest.
10. If a string breaks, the contestant will have the option to continue to play, or to stop at that point. If the tune is completed, it will be judged as played. If the contestant stops, he/she will be allowed to begin with that tune and complete the round. If the judges fail to hear all or part of a tune, the contestant will have the option of re-playing the round immediately, or playing at the end of the division.
11. Any contestant or accompanist that acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, is intoxicated or is under the influence of drugs, will not be allowed to perform; will forfeit entry fee and any prize money; and will be escorted from the contest. Appropriate attire is expected, including shirt and shoes.
12. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Contest Chairman and signed by not less than three contestants of the contest division involved within three (3) hours of the protest occurrence.
13. All decisions of the judges and/or the Contest committee are final.
14. Contestants are responsible for picking up their own score sheets at the registration table at the end of the contest. **First round results will be posted.** The final results will be printed in the "Soundpost".
15. All questions regarding contest rules, procedures, and personnel must be addressed to the Contest committee.