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Rule Changes for 2026 CSOTFA State Contest

Please read these rule changes and look in Rule Books at Registration.

1. **Registration Form and Tune Sheet** must be turned in and all fees paid before registration is complete. Tune sheet for 2nd Round must be given to the MC as you go on stage. If Tune Sheet is incomplete or not turned in, the contestant will be dropped to the end of the Round and will incur a 10-point penalty.
2. **Contestants have 3 minutes to go on stage** after the announcer calls them to the stage. Five points will be added to score for not going on stage on time. Special circumstances will be considered by Contest Chair for contestants with difficulties getting on stage. Time will keep track of all times.
3. **PLAYING TIMES:** Playing time for 2nd Round of OPEN FIDDLE is 5 minutes - no grace period.
4. **ANYTHING GOES:** Chairman - VP Mikki Feeney
New Rules: One Tune - 4 minutes' time
Mandatory sign up by 5:30 pm on Friday
Judging is on Entertainment Value: Appearance, Audience Appeal, Musicality and Showmanship Overall 20 points possible.
5. **DIVISIONS:** New Division: Jr. Jr. Picking age 12 and under. Top 3 play second round.
6. **ACCOMPANISTS:** Contestants may play either unaccompanied or with up to 3 accompanists. Accompanists must only use acoustic instruments.
7. **JR PICKING and OPEN PICKING:** The top five in points play a second round. Prize money and medallions go to the top five.
8. **JR TWIN and OPEN TWIN:** The top three in points play a second round.
9. **AWARDS:** Adding award to Youngest Picker and Oldest Picker.