



2025 57th Annual California State Old Time Open Fiddle & Picking Championships

Welcome

California State Old Time Fiddlers' Association

Officers and Board of Directors:

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Secretary: Mary Rose Preston

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District 7: Dan Touchstone

District 8: Sid Brown

District 9: Bob Palasek

District 10: Tim Rued

We would like to extend an invitation to one and all to the CSOTFA Fiddle & Picking Championships. Whether it is your first time attending a contest or your 50th, I know you will experience something new for the first time.

Great news! This year's contest is certified by the National Old Time Fiddlers. Read more later in the newsletter.

We want to encourage all fiddlers, guitar, mandolin, banjo players, whatever your level of play, to enter the different competitions. There are 8 fiddle, 2 twin fiddle, and 2 picking divisions, and they will feature contestants ranging from very young, to very experienced, and everyone in between.

We are so excited to be once again partnering with the California Bluegrass Association for our State Fiddle Contest and we are excited to see our friends and be able to share our music once more.

Each competition round is limited to four minutes, and the top competitors will move on to a final round. There will also be plenty of time to jam with old friends and make new friends. Fiddler folks LOVE sharing their music and you are welcome to walk around and enjoy the various "jams" that you'll find all over the campground. Hope to see you there!!

Sharon

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, April 18

2:00 PM CSOTFA General Membership Meeting

2:30 PM Registration Opens

3:45 PM **Judges' Meeting**

4:00 PM Senior-Senior Round 1 (age 70 and over)

4:30 PM Senior Round 1 (age 60-69)

5:00 PM **Dinner Break**

6:00 PM Senior-Senior Finals (age 70 and over)

6:25 PM Senior Finals (age 60-69)

6:50 PM Awards: Senior-Senior, Oldest Fiddler, Senior

7:00 PM **Anything Goes** followed by the awards

Saturday, April 19

8:00 AM Registration Opens

8:30 AM **Judges' Meeting**

9:00 AM Young Adult Round 1 (age 18-36)

9:30 AM Adult Round 1 (age 37-59)

10:00 AM Peewee Round 1 (age 8 and under)

10:30 AM Jr-Jr Round 1 (age 9-12)

11:00 AM Junior Round 1 (age 13-17)

11:30 AM Open Round 1 (any age)

12:00 PM Lunch Break

1:00 PM Jr Twin Fiddle Round 1 (17 and under)

1:30 PM Open Twin Fiddle Round 1 (any age)

2:00 PM Junior Picking Round 1 (17 and under)

2:30 PM Open Picking Round 1 (any age)

3:00 PM Peewee Finals (age 8 and under)

3:30 PM Jr-Jr Finals (age 9-12)

4:00 PM Young Adult Finals (age 18-36)

4:30 PM Adult Finals (age 37-59)

5:00 PM Dinner Break

6:00 PM Colors, Flag Salute, Invocation,
Huffman Award

6:15 PM Jr Picking Finals (17 and under)

6:30 PM Open Picking Finals (any age)

6:45 PM Jr Twin Fiddle Finals (age 17 and under)

7:00 PM Open Twin Fiddle Finals (any age)

7:15 PM Awards: Peewee, Youngest Fiddlers,
Jr-Jr, Jr Picking, Jr Twin Fiddle

7:30 PM Junior Finals (age 13-17)

8:00 PM Open Finals (any age)

8:30 PM Awards: Open Twin Fiddle, Open Picking,
Young Adult, Adult, Junior, Open

NOTE: This is a tentative schedule. Times may vary, depending upon the number of contestants. Contestants must check in at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start of their division.

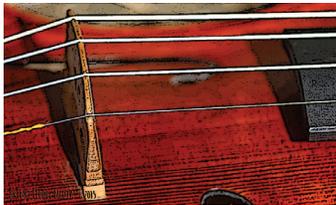
California State Old Time Fiddlers Association

Dedicated to the preservation & perpetuation of old-time fiddle music

2025 57th Annual

Open Fiddle & Picking Championships

In coordination with California Bluegrass Association



Visit our website
www.csotfa.org

for full listings of
schedules, divisions,
rules & guidelines



RV Camping

\$45 per night

Tent/vehicle Camping

\$15 per night

Reservations required

Email: campout@californiabluegrass.net



Contest Co-Chairs

Mark Hogan

707-479-5529

email: hogiemoon@comcast.net

Sharon Barrett

530-604-5279

email: texshar@pacbell.net



CBA Spring Campout

April 15-20, 2025

Lodi Grape Festival Fairgrounds
Jackson Hall 413 E. Lockeford St. Lodi, CA

April 18-19, 2025

How the Judges Judge

Fiddle Divisions - Judging is based on: Old-Time style - 25%, Rhythm/Danceability - 25%, Clarity & Tone, 25% Difficulty - 25%. All scores are cumulative.

Open Division - Any age is eligible, but the contestant may not enter their appropriate age division as well.

Picking Division - Any age is eligible. Picking instruments are guitar, banjo and mandolin. Contestants must play two (2) Old-time fiddle style tunes of choice, a fast & a slow tune. Judging based on: Picking ability - 25%, Rhythm/Danceability - 25%, Clarity & Tone, 25% Difficulty - 25%. This is ONE round only and has no time limit

Accompanist- Place determined by the number of appearances on stage

Twin Fiddle Division-Any age is eligible & no entry fee. Constants must play two (2) Old-time fiddle style tunes of choice, a fast & a slow tune. Judging based on: Harmony-25%, Rhythm/Danceability-25%, Clarity & Tone-25% and Difficulty-25%. Constants may use tunes that were used in the fiddle contest. This is ONE round only & has no time limit. Medals are awarded to 1st through 3rd Places.

Anything Goes -Entry Fee of \$20 per Individual or Group (up to five (5)). Contestants may play two (2) tunes of choice, fast or slow, vocals or instrumental . Time limit is SIX (6) minutes.

Donations & Sponsorships

We need your help! Here is your opportunity to help sponsor or make a donation to help support the 2025 State Contest.

The yearly contest is the most important state-sponsored event of the year. Your donation will help encourage these fiddlers to keep working hard and improving their skills. If you would like to sponsor any one of these divisions and/or the place prize money, you can do so by emailing

Sharon Barrett at:
texshar@pacbell.com

Or

Mail your check to:
Robert Curtis
60 Vernal Ct.
Alamo, CA 94507

Thank you very much!

Prizes & Awards

PeeWee (ages 8 & under)

1st Place \$50 & trophy
2nd " \$25 & Medal
3rd " \$15 & Medal
4th " \$10 & Medal
5th " \$5 & Medal
6th-10th Medals

Junior-Junior (ages 9-12)

1st Place \$100 & Trophy
2nd " \$50 & Medal
3rd " \$25 & Medal
4th " \$15 & Medal
5th " \$10 & Medal
6th-10th Medals

Junior (Ages 13-17)

1st Place \$125 & Trophy
2nd " \$75 & Medal
3rd " \$50 & Medal
4th " \$35 & Medal
5th " \$20 & Medal
6th-10th Medals

Young Adult (Ages 18-36)

1st Place \$150 & Trophy
2nd " \$100 & Medal
3rd " \$75 & Medal
4th " \$50 & Medal
5th " \$25 & Medal

Adult (Ages 37-54)

1st Place \$150 & Trophy
2nd " \$100 & Medal
3rd " \$75 & Medal
4th " \$50 & Medal
5th " \$25 & Medal

Senior (Ages 55-69)

1st Place \$150 & Trophy
2nd " \$100 & Medal
3rd " \$75 & Medal
4th " \$50 & Medal
5th " \$25 & Medal

Senior-Senior (Ages 70+)

1st Place \$150 & Trophy
2nd " \$100 & Medal
3rd " \$75 & Medal
4th " \$50 & Medal
5th " \$25 & Medal

Open (Any Age)

1st Place \$250 & Trophy
2nd " \$175 & Medal
3rd " \$125 & Medal
4th " \$100 & Medal
5th " \$75 & Medal

Jr Twin Fiddles

(Age 17 & Under)
1st Place \$50 ea.
2nd " \$25 ea.
3rd " \$15 ea.
4th -5th " Medals

Adult Twin Fiddles (18 & over)

1st Place \$75 ea.
2nd " \$40 ea.
3rd " \$20 ea.
4th -5th " Medals

Junior Picking (17 & Under)

1st Place \$100
2nd " \$50
3rd " \$40
4th " \$20
5th " \$15

Open Picking (Any Age)

1st " \$100
2nd " \$50
3rd " \$40
4th " \$25
5th " \$15

Accompanist (Any Age)

1st Place \$150
2nd " \$100
3rd " \$75
4th " \$60
5th " \$45

Anything Goes (all ages)

1st Place \$250
2nd " \$125
3rd " \$75
4th " \$50

Youngest Fiddler Boy &
Girl & Oldest Fiddler
Medals for each

2025 CSOTFA General Contest Rules

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

1. Entry form must be completed in full and entry fee paid. Registration for each division will close when the first contestant steps on stage. Your registration is not complete until your tune sheet has been turned into Traffic. Registration will close Saturday after all fiddle and picking 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); Junior Twin Fiddle (both 17 years and younger); Open Twin Fiddle (any age); Junior Picking (17 years and younger); Open Picking (any age). A contestant may not enter more than one fiddle division, but may additionally enter Accompanist, Twin Fiddle, and/or one Picking Division. Any contestant entering multiple divisions must complete and turn in a separate tune sheet for each round in 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 **and only count if the contestant has listed the accompanist on the tune sheet**. 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 Play will be drawn by lottery approximately 30 minutes before the start of each division. The committee will draw before each round for a new Order of Play. If a contestant is not ready to play when called by the MC, he/she will be dropped to the end of the division and incur a 10-point penalty. Any contestant registered and not playing the initial round will be eliminated from the contest and forfeit all fees for the remainder of the contest. Total playing time is four minutes and fifteen seconds. There is no grace period. Timing will start when the contestant or any accompanist plays any note on stage. Two points will be deducted for every ten seconds or portion thereof over four minutes and fifteen seconds.***
5. ***In the event of a tie involving prize money after the final round, the high scores for the final round for the tied contestants will be compared and the contestant with the higher score will be deemed to have won the tie. If the scores are still tied, the contestants will be deemed to have tied for the placement and will split the prize money for that place and the one below it.***
6. If a contestant qualifies and does not play the Final round, he/she will forfeit his/her standing in the Final Round. The next contestant will move up and play in the Final Round.
7. Contestants may play without an accompanist or with no more than three accompanists, no more than two of which may be standard guitars. ***Having more than two standard guitars as accompaniment will incur a 5-point penalty.*** An accompanist may not play the melody of the tune.
8. No instrument with electrical amplification will be allowed on stage. 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, or there is other "equipment failure", 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 moved to the end of the round and will play a complete round, regardless of whether or not any tunes were completed before the incident.***
11. Any contestant or accompanist who 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 prize money; and will be asked to leave the contest. Appropriate attire is expected, including shirt and shoes.
12. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Contest Chair and signed by not less than three contestants of the contest division within three (3) hours of the protest occurrence.
13. All decisions of the judges and/or 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. Final results will be printed in the *Soundpost* and posted on the website.
15. All questions regarding contest rules, procedures, and personnel must be addressed to the Contest Committee.



National Oldtime Fiddlers

CERTIFICATION OVERVIEW

The California State Old Time Fiddle & Picking Championships is a Certified Contest!

- 1. PURPOSE:** The purpose of Certification shall be as set forth by the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest® at Weiser, Idaho as outlined below.
- 2. WHY CERTIFIED CONTESTS WERE ESTABLISHED:** Certification and Advisory Board, in cooperation with the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest, established the plan of certifying fiddling contests to insure that oldtime fiddling activities throughout the nation were being coordinated in a professional and positive manner.
- 3. WHAT CERTIFICATION DOES:** Promotes national recognition and perpetuation of oldtime fiddling throughout the United States. Encourages regional styles and tunes as part of the national fiddling lore. Supplies Certified Contests with rules and guidelines and gives assistance in the organization and implementation of contests. Furnishes Certificate of Award (suitable for framing) for presentation to Certified winners. Provides special recognition to Certified winners in photos displayed during the National Contest. Winners are given a certified ribbon along with their contestant ribbon at Nationals. Provides the winner with prepaid registration to the NOTFC with inclusion in the Certified Showcase Contest. It is no longer mandatory that contestants in the Certified Showcase Contest be NOTFA Members. This contest allows players to showcase their musicianship in other musical genres not allowed in the restrictive NOTFC repertoire.

AFTER CONTEST GUIDELINES

- 1.** The first place winner is eligible to compete in the Certified Showcase event at the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest but they must complete the Showcase entry form. In case the second place fiddler becomes eligible to attend the NOTFC, they will not be able to participate in the certified showcase because it is for first place winners only.
- 2.** The first place winner will have their fees paid to the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest unless they are unable to attend, then the second place winner will have their fees paid to the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest. If the first place winner has won other certified contests and is in attendance at the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest they are still the winner, and this does not create a situation where the second place winner's entry fees are paid into the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest.
- 3. All winners wishing to compete at Weiser must complete their entry form and pay their entry fee prior to June 1 to be placed on the contestant list.** Money will be refunded to anyone who paid an entry fee then ended up winning a certified contest. Many of the divisions fill quickly and you don't want to be left out.
- 4.** For a complete listing of our rules, entry forms, etc., please access the National Oldtime Fiddlers' website at <http://www.fiddlecontest.org> Click on Contestant.

1ST PLACE PAYS \$250

ANYTHING GOES CONTEST



- CONTESTANTS SOLO OR GROUP OF 5 MAX
- TWO TUNES OF CHOICE
- 6 MINUTES TIME LIMIT (START OF TUNE OR USE OF MIC.)
- JUDGING BASED ON: AUDIENCE APPEAL, STAGE PRESENCE, ORIGINALITY, TECHNICAL ABILITY

\$20 SIGNUP

SIGNUP CLOSES AT 5:30 ON FRIDAY



CSOTFA ANYTHING GOES RULES

1. Any acoustic instrument may be played during this division.
 - a. Bands/Groups/vocals may be included.
2. **Sign-up is mandatory by 5:30 PM on Friday, April 18, 2025.**
3. Contestants may play two (2) tunes of their choice: fast or slow, vocals or instrumentals.
4. Time limit is 6 minutes. Time starts when you start tune or say something to audience.
5. **Contestants will be allowed to have a group of up to 5 on stage. Lead contestant may not be on stage more than once except to play rhythm backup for another contestant.**
6. Judging will be based on: Audience Appeal, Stage Presence, Originality, and Technical Ability.
7. Ten points will be deducted for going over time and for every 10 seconds afterward.
8. Fee is \$20 per individual or group. Entry registration at Anything Goes Table.
9. Contestants will draw for playing order.
10. Prize money distribution as noted below:
1st Place - \$250 2nd Place - \$125 3rd Place - \$75 4th Place - \$50