



# Official Alabama State Fiddling Championship Contest Rules and Guidelines / Judging Criteria

## Pre-Registration

### Sponsors of the AL State Fiddling Championship



**Please read the contest rules, guidelines, and judging criteria before pre-registering.**

### Contest Rule and Guidelines

1. Contest rules and guidelines may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the competition.
2. Pre-registration prior to 1 April 2006 will ensure eligibility to compete in the 2006 Alabama State Fiddling Championship.
3. Contact microphones and amplified instruments will not be permitted.
4. Contestants may play without accompanists or with no more than two. Any stringed instrument is acceptable as backup. Accompanists should not play "lead".
5. Contestants should avoid "trick" or "show" fiddling. Traditional show tunes, "Mockingbird", "Black Mountain Rag" and "Orange Blossom Special" will not be allowed in competition. No cross-tuning. Note: "Double shuffle" is acceptable if it is a traditional part of the tune.
6. Using sheet music on stage will result in disqualification.
7. In the event of a broken string or similar equipment failure, the fiddler will have the option to continue or stop at that point. If the contestant continues, the tune will be judged as played. If the fiddler stops play, he will be allowed to begin with that tune and complete his program.
8. Registration for each category will end prior to drawing for position, before the beginning of each category. Contestants who have pre-registered still must check in on day of contest. All contestants will draw for position and must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event.
9. Contestants are responsible for being backstage one act prior to their position. Contestants should be ready to compete when called to the stage. Contestants should begin their first tune within 20 seconds from the time they are announced.
10. Competition in the Jr.-Jr., Junior, Adult, and Senior divisions will consist of one round of two tunes - a **breakdown** and a **waltz**.
11. Contestants in the Master division will play a preliminary round of two tunes - a **breakdown** and a **waltz**. The top five will then move on to the Championship round, where they will play three tunes - a **breakdown**, a **waltz**, and a **tune of choice** other than a breakdown or a waltz (i.e., a rag, polka, jig or schottische).
12. In the event of a tie, contestants will play a tie breaker round of two tunes - a breakdown and a waltz.
13. Playing time should not exceed 2 1/2 minutes per tune. Excessively long performances will result in lost points.
14. Contestants can play a tune only once in competition. If a tune is repeated, no score will be given for that tune.

15. Any contestant who wins first place for two consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
16. Decisions of the judges and of the contest committee will be final.
17. The contest committee reserves the right to reduce the number of tunes played and/or reduce performance time in any or all rounds of competition as necessary to complete the competition within time constraints.
18. Judges and contest personnel are not eligible to compete, nor are their immediate family members - spouse, siblings, parents or children.
19. Upon contestant registration, all commercial recording, photo and video rights during the contest are reserved and shall become the property of the Alabama State Fiddling Championship.

## **Judging Criteria**

There will be a total of 30 points awarded per tune per judge. In the Master division, points from the Preliminary round will be added to points from the Championship round to determine the contestants' final score.

In determining a score for a performance, the judges will consider adherence to the contest rules and guidelines as well as the following criteria:

1. Rhythm and Timing - The judges will listen for even, consistent rhythm. Rushing, dragging or unevenness in performance will result in lost points.
2. Creativity - The judges will listen for variations, improvisations and "good licks". Repetitious performance (i.e., using the same "licks" over and over) will result in lost points.
3. Authenticity and Taste - The judges will look for selection of authentic performance styles. Indiscriminate use of variations that make the basic tune unclear and inappropriate "licks" will result in lost points.
4. Expression - The judges will listen for the feeling that the contestant puts into his performance. "Flat", mechanical, unfeeling performances will result in lost points, as will excessive "showmanship".
5. Execution - The judges will listen for tone quality, clarity and general command of the instrument. Bad tone and muffled notes will result in lost points.

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# The Official Alabama State Fiddling Championship

*at*

**Panoply Arts Festival  
April 29, 2006**

## **Pre-Registration**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Prize Category (please select one):**

- Junior-Junior (12 and under)
- Junior (13-16)
- Adult (17-59)
- Senior (60 and over)
- Master (All ages)

Championship to be held at the  
25<sup>th</sup> Annual Panoply Arts Festival  
April 29, 2006  
Big Spring International Park  
Huntsville, Alabama

**Mail to:**

Attn: AL Fiddling  
The Arts Council, Inc.  
700 Monroe Street, Suite 2  
Huntsville, AL 35801

Or email your registration form to: [rwilkerson@panoply.org](mailto:rwilkerson@panoply.org)  
Questions? Call (256) 519-ARTS (2787), ext. 206

**Bring your families! Children under 12 admitted FREE and all children's activities are FREE! April 28-30, 2006**

**A special thanks to our Fiddling Sponsors!**

