



## Kansas State Fiddling and Picking Championships Rules and Regulations

Each contest is open to anyone except members of acts scheduled to perform and the first place winners of that contest from last year. However, those winners may enter and win any other contests in which they did not take first place last year.

Contestants must play only acoustical instruments. No electrical instruments will be allowed. Contestants may have one rhythm instrument for accompaniment. A medley of tunes is not acceptable. Contestants may not speak on stage.

In an effort to judge the contestants objectively and equally, the following criteria will be considered by the judges:

### **Rhythm and Timing** (25 points)

The judges will look for even, consistent rhythm.

Rushing, dragging, or unevenness in performance will result in lost points.

### **Execution** (25 points)

The judges will look for tone quality, dynamics, pitch, and general command of the instrument. Bad tone and muffled notes will result in lost points.

### **Creativity** (25 points)

The judges will look for variations, improvisations, and “good licks”. Repetitious performance will result in lost points.

### **Expression** (25 points)

The judges will look for the feeling that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical, unfeeling performance will result in lost points.

### **Registration**

Contest registration will be accepted until 20 minutes before the scheduled contest time (forms are available on our website or at the registration table the day of the contest). Order of appearance will be determined randomly shortly before the contest begins. Contestants are responsible for checking with the stage manager for their position in the contest. Second and third place prizes are not given if there are too few entries. Score cards will not be given out.

### **Registration Fee**

*Adults:* \$10 per individual contestant.

*Kids:* \$5 per individual contestant.

*Harmony Singing:* \$10 for each group.

**Please note:** An individual may enter the Miscellaneous Acoustic Instruments contest only once per year; in other words, the contestant may not enter multiple times with different instruments.

### **Prizes**

*1st place:* \$150 and a trophy. (Always awarded.)

*2nd place:* \$100. (Awarded if contest has more than 4 entries.)

*3rd place:* \$50. (Awarded if contest has more than 8 entries.)

*All youth entries receive a certificate of participation.*

*Cont.*

## Specific rules for each contest

Also see general rules. (Note: stage assignments subject to change)

### State Banjo Championship (South stage)

North stage. Contestants will play two instrumental numbers, on a five string banjo, in any style.

### State Harmony Singing Championship (North stage)

Ensembles must consist of two to five voices. Ensembles will sing in any traditional folk singing style. Contestants will have a six minute time limit and will be cut off after six minutes. There is no limit to the number of songs which may be performed within the six minute time limit. Ensembles may have a total of one rhythm instrument for accompaniment. (Note: this is not one instrument per singer.) Instrumentalist need not be a singer. An instrumentalist, who does not sing, may accompany more than one ensemble. Singers may be in only one ensemble.

### State Fiddle Championship (North stage)

Open to contestants of any age. Each contestant will play a hoedown, a waltz and a tune of his/her choice, in that order. (In the event that 20 contestants register for the contest, the waltz will be dropped from the competition. Each contestant will play two tunes, a hoedown and tune of choice.)

### Youth Fiddle Championship (North stage)

This is a separate contest for youth, 16 years and under, who do not wish to compete in the open competition. Each contestant will play a hoedown, a waltz and a tune of his/her choice, in that order. (In the event that 20 contestants register for the contest, the waltz will be dropped from the competition. Each contestant will play two tunes, a hoedown and tune of choice.)

### State Finger-Style Guitar Championship (South stage)

Contestants will play two instrumental numbers in any traditional style. Alternative tunings are allowed.

### State Flat-Pick Guitar Championship (South stage)

Flat-pick guitar is defined as playing fiddle tunes on a guitar using a flat-pick. Contestants will play two instrumental numbers in any traditional style.

### State Mandolin Championship (South stage)

Contestants will play two instrumental numbers in any traditional style.

### State Miscellaneous Acoustic Instruments Championship (North stage)

Two numbers, on the same instrument, will be played in the contest. Selections should be in a style traditional for the instrument. Contestants may have one rhythm instrument for accompaniment. An individual may enter the Miscellaneous Acoustic Instruments Contest only once per year; a contestant may not enter multiple times in the same year, playing a different instrument each time.

### Youth Award

No distinction is made among contestants in regular judging on the basis of age; individuals, age 16 or younger, have the same eligibility requirements as all other contestants in the Championship categories. In addition, individuals, age 16 or younger are judged for the Youth Award. A special youth judge watches all of the youth contestants as they compete. The contestant in this age group, who did not win the Youth Award last year, and receives the highest score in an instrumental contest, in this separate round of judging, will receive the Youth Award. Scores in the Harmony Singing and Youth Fiddle Contest do not count toward the Youth Award.

### Clarifications based on questions from contestants

- In all contests, including Harmony Singing, only one rhythm instrument in total is allowed for accompaniment.
- The back-up player may change instruments between each selection played by the contestant.
- The back-up player in the finger-style and flatpicking contests may play a guitar. Back-up players in the mandolin, fiddle and banjo contests may not play the same instrument as the contestant. For example, the accompanist in the fiddle contest may not play another fiddle.
- 5 string fiddles fall into the Miscellaneous Acoustic Instrument category.

**Notable rule change:** Alternative tunings may now be used in the fiddle contests.

*Please contact us if you have any questions: 785-691-7314 or [info@fidpick.com](mailto:info@fidpick.com)*