**GENERAL CONTEST RULES – ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIDDLE CHAMPIONSHIPS & MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**CONTESTANTS MUST REGISTER NO LATER THAN 30 MINUTES BEFORE THEIR CATEGORY BEGINS**

1. Contest officials will draw playing order and post it as soon as possible.
2. Contestants will hand tune sheet to emcee.
3. Contestants are responsible for appearing on stage on time. Contestants not appearing on stage within two minutes after their numbers are announced may be disqualified. Due to time constraints, this rule will be strictly enforced.
4. All music must be titled and reflect traditional country, folk or bluegrass style. No medleys are allowed. Tune disqualification must be a unanimous judges’ decision.
5. Instruments must be unamplified. Contact microphones are not allowed.
6. If a string breaks or slips, the contestant will have the option to continue or stop at that point. If the tune is completed, it will be judged as played. A contestant who stops will be allowed to begin with that tune and continue his/her round.
7. The sound system will be preset to desirable general levels. No individual adjustments will be made.
8. Contestants may play without accompaniment, or with no more than 3 accompanists. Use of a second fiddle is prohibited. Vocalists who are self-accompanied may have two additional accompanists.
9. Time limit on stage for all categories is four minutes, except for the Grand Championship Fiddle final round, which is allowed five minutes. Points will be deducted for a performance that runs overtime.
10. Scores are based on: old-time ability, danceability, rhythm & timing, and tone quality. Points will be deducted for rules infractions.
11. First through third place ties will result in a one-round playoff. Tunes previously performed may not be repeated. Ties will be resolved in this manner for first through fifth place in the Grand Championship Fiddle category.
12. Individual score sheets will be available upon request after awards for a category have been announced.
13. A contestant who threatens, verbally or physically attacks, or attempts to influence a judge, or attempts to jeopardize the performance of another contestant will be disqualified from the current and following year’s contest.
14. The contest director reserves the right to alter the time schedule and order of categories, and number of tunes per round as necessary.
15. By submitting an entry form, contestants waive recording rights to performances at the contest, are responsible for entering the proper category, and agree to abide by all contest rules.
16. Decisions of the judges and contest director are final.

**SPECIFIC CATEGORY RULES**

**FIDDLE**

1. Contestants may compete in EITHER their age categories OR the Grand Championship Fiddle category. (PLEASE NOTE THIS RULE CHANGE. It is necessary due to time constraints.) **The Grand Championship Fiddle category will be two rounds. The top five from the first round advance to the second round.**
2. Contestants must first play a hoedown; second, a waltz; and third, a tune of choice other than a hoedown or a waltz except for **Twin Fiddle contestants, who will play a slow tune and a fast tune.**
3. No trick or fancy fiddling is allowed. No cross-tuning is allowed. Disqualification of a tune must be a unanimous decision of the judges.
4. A contestant winning an age category three years in a row must sit out or judge the next year, except Small Fry & Junior-Junior contestants, who must move up one age division.

**GUITAR, VARIETY INSTRUMENT & YOUTH VARIETY INSTRUMENT**

1. Contestants will play two tunes of choice.
2. There are no stylistic restrictions (i.e. finger style or flat picking)
3. Contestants may enter the Variety Instrument category more than once, on different instruments. Entry fee must be paid for each appearance on stage. This category includes all instruments that don’t have a specific category**. NOTE: Youth guitarists (17 & under) may play either in Youth Variety Instruments or the Guitar category. Adult guitarists must enter the Guitar category.** NOTE: Contestants who compete in a fiddle category may not play a bowed instrument in the Variety Instrument categories.

**VOCAL**

1. Contestants will sing one tune.
2. In addition to the judging criteria outlined in general contest rule #11, tone quality will include diction, breath and voice control, phrasing and pitch.
3. All vocal categories are solo performances.
4. Vocalists must take special note of general contest rule #9.

***The favorite accompanist award will be based on the number of appearances on stage so be sure to write your accompanists’ names on your tune sheets.***