

Certification and Advisory Board

National Oldtime Fiddlers, Inc

P.O. Box 447 Weiser, Idaho 83672 208-414-0255

Email: admin@fiddlecontest.com



CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Contest Chairman:

We welcome you and will be proud to include your contest as one that promotes fairness and consistency in its organization. Enclosed you will find the necessary paperwork for certifying your contest, as well as some explanation of their purposes:

1. Certification Overview
2. Guidelines and Rules
3. Application (to be filled out every year with current info) From this form we learn your contest name, important dates, names and addresses of the contact people and what divisions are to be certified.
4. Agreement (to be filled out every year with current info)

The Agreement and fees of \$60 (Champion division), \$35 (Senior-Senior division), \$35 (Senior division), \$45 (Adult division), \$45 (Young Adult division), \$35 (Junior division), \$25 (Junior-Junior division) \$20 (Small Fry division), or if the total of all divisions you are certifying is greater than \$195, please send a check for \$195 **prior** to your contest. On this form your contest agrees to adhere to our Guidelines and Rules. Send us a copy of your rules, furnish us with the names and addresses of division winners, and provide one 5x7 photograph of each certified division first place winner (to be placed in our Hall of Fame). On the back of the pictures, please put the name, city, and division. Please also email the winners' photos for inclusion in the newspaper. To review the Certification Board's obligations, please see the Agreement form.

5. Winners Information Sheet (make a copy for *each* division certified)

This is the form for filling in the names and addresses of the division winners. Do not give these to your winners. Please fill them out at the contest and return them to me at above address. These Winner Information Sheets, your contest rules, and the contest placement results of the top five finishers (not individual scores) should all be returned within **30 days** after your contest. In order to promote your contest nationally, placement results and photos are printed in the *Fiddler* online newspaper, as well as other information of interest about your contest (e.g., judges/hometowns, special divisions, attendance, etc.). The *Fiddler* welcomes articles of interest from you about memorial awards, contest history, special characters, etc. We feel certified contests deserve special publicity. Ad space can also be purchased in this national newspaper prior to your contest.

Suggested Contest Procedure:

Fill in the winner's name and your contest information on the Winner's Certificate and give it to your certified winners when you are awarding trophies and taking your pictures (remember that each first place winner needs an individual photo). This is also a good time to fill out the Winner Info Sheets.

Please accept our thanks to you and your contest committee for their hard work putting together your contest. We look forward to seeing your winners here in Weiser!

Sincerely,

Aimee Burdette

Certification Chairman

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CERTIFICATION OVERVIEW

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. **CHOICE OF STATE CONTEST OR REGIONAL:** Only one State contest will be given certification of ALL divisions. The State contest is defined as having only state resident participation. Some current State contests include non-residents with the understanding that they **cannot** be a State certified winner. Other State contests have two championship divisions: one for residents and one for non-residents. Only the resident division of the State contest can be certified.

All other contests will be designated as Regional and are open to residents of all states. They will be allowed certification for all divisions.

4. **COST OF CERTIFICATION:** COST OF CERTIFICATION: Fees are \$60 (Champion division), \$35 (Senior-Senior division), \$35 (Senior division), \$45 (Adult division) \$45 (Young Adult division) \$35 (Junior division), \$25 (Junior-Junior division) \$20 (Small Fry division) or if the total of all divisions you are certifying is greater than \$195, please send a check for \$195. This is to cover the cost of entry fees of contest winners in the National Contest, printing and mailing of certificate.
5. **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.
 - Provides year-round publicity and promotion of your contest through the National Oldtime Fiddlers website and National newspaper.
 - Furnishes Certificate of Award (suitable for framing) for presentation to Certified winners.
 - Provides special recognition to Certified winners at events 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 mandatory that contestants in the Certified Showcase Contest be NOTFA Members. For scheduling purposes, this membership must be received by June 1. This contest showcases the ability and talents of winners who may perform in different styles and musical genres outside of the restrictive NOTFC repertoire. A Certified Showcase Scoresheet included with the Certified Showcase Entry Form lists the judging criteria for Certified Showcase contestants.

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GUIDELINES AND RULES

FOR CONTESTS CERTIFIED BY The National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest

1. "Blind judging" or locating the judges away from the contesting stage where the name of the contestant or audience applause cannot be heard and contestants cannot be seen is required. The final round of the Championship division will be the choice of the certified contest – blind or open.
2. Applause during a round is optional. It is up to the individual contests whether they wish to allow interaction between the contestants and the audience.
3. No fewer than three judges and no more than five judges are required for your contest.
4. The contestants at each appearance must play a hoedown, a waltz, and a fiddle tune of choice, other than a hoedown or waltz. No contestant shall play any tune more than once during the contest.
5. Certified contests may set their own time limits for their contest rounds if they so desire but the contestant will need to adhere to the four minute round when competing in Weiser.
6. Contact microphones and amplified instruments will not be permitted during any competition.
7. No trick or fancy fiddling allowed during the contest appearance.
8. Judging criteria on individual tunes will include but is not limited to Oldtime Fiddling Style, Danceability, Rhythm and Timing, and Tone quality.
9. No sheet music shall be displayed in the contesting area.

WINNERS' 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. If they are unable to attend, 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 considered the first place winner, and this does not create a situation where the second place winner's entry fees are paid into the National Oldtime Fiddler's Contest.
3. All winners wishing to compete in the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest at Weiser must complete their regular contest registration forms and pay their entry fee prior to June 1 to be placed on the contestant list. Anyone subsequently qualifying as a Certified Contest winners will have their registration fees refunded. Many of the divisions fill quickly, so early registration is encouraged.
4. For a complete listing of our rules, entry forms, etc., please access our website at www.fiddlecontest.org Click on Contestant

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ANNUAL APPLICATION FOR CONTEST CERTIFICATION

Print the name of your contest as you wish for it to appear in any promotional listings.

City, State where contest is held _____

Date of Contest (current year) _____

Date of Contest (next year) _____

Circle type of contest: State Contest or Regional Contest

Website address, if any: _____

Person handling the Certification paperwork _____

(name and title)

(address)

(phone number and email)

Name, phone number, email of contest chairman _____

List the divisions to be certified:

If your contest divisions are titled differently or the age categories are different than at the National Contest, your winners will be placed in the correct category for their age at the time of the National Contest.

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CONTEST CERTIFICATION AGREEMENT

Enclosed find \$ _____ (\$60 Champion Division), \$35 (Senior-Senior division), \$35 (Senior division), \$45 (Adult division) \$45 (Young Adult division) \$35 (Junior division), \$25 (Junior- Junior division) \$20 (Small Fry division) or if the total of all divisions you are certifying is greater than \$195, please pay only the \$195 for which I,

_____, _____ of the
(Name) (Title)

(Name of Contest)

from _____ this _____ day of _____,
(City, State)

submit for application to the National Fiddlers' Certification and Advisory Board, in Weiser, Idaho, for recognition as a CERTIFIED CONTEST from the state of _____,

and I hereby agree that we will adhere to the Guidelines and Rules for Certified Contests as closely as possible, and we will use our contest to promote and perpetuate oldtime fiddling. We will furnish the National Fiddlers' Certification Board with:

1. Copy of this contest's rules.
2. Names and addresses of division winners.
3. One 5 x 7 photo of each winner to be hung in the Hall of Fame.
4. Email one 5 x7 digital photo of each winner to appear in the Fiddler Newspaper.

We understand as a certified contest we will receive:

1. Certificates for Certified Winners
2. Prepaid entry for winners to **Nationals**
3. Winners are eligible to enter **Certified Showcase** at Nationals at no cost.
4. Winners photos will be displayed in National Hall of Fame.

Date of Contest to be certified: _____

By: _____

(Contest Chairman)

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WINNERS INFORMATION SHEET

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL WITHIN 30 DAYS FOLLOWING YOUR CONTEST.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE EMAILED YOUR DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

(Please print clearly)

Name of Contest _____

_____ Date held _____

DIVISION: _____

First Place Winner _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Birth Date _____ Phone Number _____

Email: _____

Second Place Winner _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Birth Date _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____

I have **mailed a 5 x 7 photo** of each winner to be hung in the National Fiddlers' Hall of Fame in Weiser, Idaho and have **mailed a 5 x 7 photo** of each winner to be used in the Fiddlers' Newspaper. **NOTE:** Certified winners are not entered automatically into Nationals. They must still register for their division.

Date _____ Authorized Signature _____

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TOP 5 CERTIFIED WINNERS

Please list the top five winners and their hometowns for each certified division. Return a separate form for each certified contest division to our NOTFA Editor for inclusion in the next newsletter. Thank you

Contest Name _____

Certified Division _____

Top five places in division

1. _____

Hometown _____

2. _____

Hometown _____

3. _____

Hometown _____

4. _____

Hometown _____

5. _____

Hometown _____

Send to :

Sandra Cooper/ Editor

P.O. Box 447 Weiser, Idaho 83672