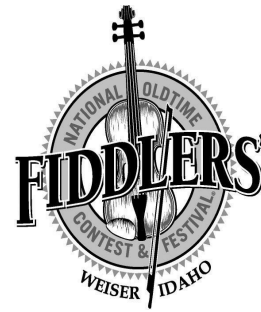


Certification and Advisory Board

National Oldtime Fiddlers, Inc

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

Email: joyamhill@gmail.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)

Open Certification is offered free of cost to any fiddle contest with an Open or Championship Division. \$170 is the new cost to certify the balance of the remaining divisions from your contest. This is a cost benefit/savings for contests that currently are fully-certified (net savings for them is \$25).

We have a special offer for a "first time" or "welcome back" full-contest certification promotion (since we're eliminating the \$60 Open-only option) at \$100 for the balance of divisions at any contest not certified (in the last 5 years). This includes contests that are currently certifying only their Open/Championship division, as we are eliminating the \$60 Open certification option.

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

This is the form for filling in the name(s) and address(es) of the division winner(s). 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, certified winners photos will be on public display during Fiddle Week at Weiser High School.

Suggested Contest Procedure:

Fill in the winner's name and your contest information on the Winner's Certificate, and give it to your certified winner(s) 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,

Joya Hill

Certification Chairman

Certification and Advisory Board

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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 contest in each state will be given certification of ALL divisions as the State Contest. The State contest is defined as having only state resident participation. Some current State Contests include non-residents with the understanding that they **can not** be a State certified winner. Other State contests have chosen to have two championship divisions, one for residents and one for non-residents. However, non-resident competitors in the State contest can also be certified if the contest organizers choose to pay additional certification fees for non-resident contestants.

All other contests will be designated as Regional and are open to residents of all states. They will be allowed certification of all divisions or for selected divisions of their choosing.
4. **COST OF CERTIFICATION:** Open Certification is offered free of cost to any fiddle contest with an Open or Championship Division. \$170 is the new cost to certify the balance of the remaining divisions from your contest. This is a cost benefit/savings for contests that currently are fully-certified (net savings for them is \$25).
5. We have a special offer for a "first time" or "welcome back" full-contest certification promotion (since we're eliminating the \$60 Open-only option) at \$100 for the balance of divisions at any contest not certified (in the last 5 years). This includes contests that are currently certifying only their Open/Championship division, as we are eliminating the \$60 Open certification option.
6. **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.

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GUIDELINES AND RULES

FOR CONTESTS CERTIFIED BY The National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest

With your fiddle contest certification, it is recommended you use the NOTFC rules as a guide, and adjust accordingly for your local or regional community.

The following are expected of certified contests:

1. Applause during a round is at the discretion of the local contest to manage however they see appropriate.
2. No less than two judges are required for your contest.
3. 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 a tune more than once during the contest.
4. Certified contests may set their own time limits for their contest rounds. The contestant will be expected to adhere to the current NOTFC rules when competing in Weiser.
5. Contact microphones and amplified instruments will not be permitted.
6. No trick or fancy fiddling allowed during the contest appearance.
7. Judging criteria on individual tunes should include Oldtime Fiddling Style, Danceability, Rhythm and Timing, and Tone quality or similar criteria.
8. No sheet music shall be used on stage.

AFTER CONTEST GUIDELINES

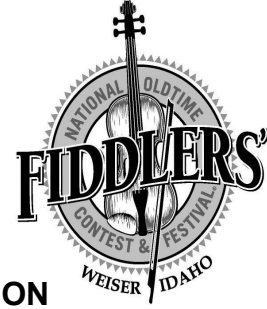
1. The first place winner is eligible to compete in the Certified Showcase event at the National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest but they must complete the Showcase entry form. In case the second place fiddler becomes eligible to attend the NOTFC, they will not be able to participate in the certified showcase 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 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:

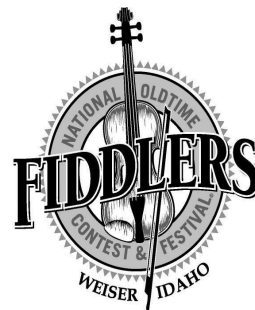
If your contest divisions are titled differently or the age categories are different than at the National Contest, your winners will be placed in the correct category for their age at the time of the National Contest.

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CONTEST CERTIFICATION AGREEMENT

Enclosed find \$ _____ Open Certification is offered free of cost to any fiddle contest with an Open or Championship Division. \$170 is the new cost to certify the balance of the remaining divisions from your contest. This is a cost benefit/savings for contests that currently are fully-certified (net savings for them is \$25).

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_____, _____ of the
(Name) (Title)

(Name of Contest)

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

I am submitting 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:

- Copy of this contest's rules.
- Names and addresses of Division Winner(s).
- One 5 x 7 photo of each Winner to be hung in the Hall of Fame.
- One 5 x 7 digital photo of each Winner.

We understand as a certified contest we will receive:

- Certificate(s) for Certified Winner(s).
- Prepaid entry for First Place Winners to **Nationals** (non-refundable).
- First Place Winners are eligible to enter **Certified Showcase** at Nationals, at no cost.
- Winners photo display at Weiser High School during Fiddle Week

Date of Contest to be certified: _____

By: _____
(Contest Chairman)

Certification and Advisory Board

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WINNERS INFORMATION SHEET

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

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE EMAILED YOUR PICTURES

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 **emailed a 5 x 7 digital photo** of each winner for your digitized records. **NOTE:** Certified winners are not automatically entered into Nationals. They must still register for their division.

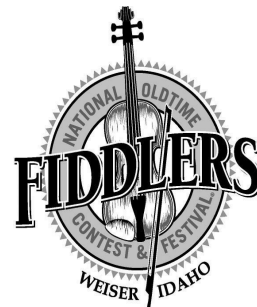
Date _____ Authorized Signature _____

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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 :

Joya Hill, Certification Chairman

P.O. Box 447 Weiser, Idaho 83672