



## Oklahoma State Fiddle Contest

**Pre-Register from August 1 to September 14, 2026:** Contestants who pre-register will pay an entry fee of \$10 and will receive by mail an admission ticket to the Tulsa State Fair and will have a souvenir T-shirt reserved for them and available for pickup at the contest.

**After September 14<sup>th</sup>:** The entry fee will be \$20. Contestants may register online or at the contest using their cell phone. Credit card only, no cash will be accepted. They must buy their own admission ticket to the Tulsa State Fair and will not receive a T-shirt. Admission to the Tulsa State Fair is \$17 for adults, \$12 for youth 5-12 and Seniors. Children under 5 are free.

**Contest:** Saturday, October 3, 2026, 10am – 9pm – SageNet Center Lower-Level Stage

### General Rules

#### Eligibility

1. Contestants need not reside in Oklahoma.
2. Relatives of judges are ineligible to compete.
3. Contestants must play in their age division, based on their age on October 3, 2026. However, any fiddler may elect to compete in the Championship (Open) division instead of (NOT in addition to) his age division. Age divisions are as follows:
  - PeeWee: 8 & Under
  - Youth: Ages 9 -12
  - Junior: Ages 13 - 17
  - Adult: 18 & Older
  - State Championship: Open to All Ages
4. Registration for a division closes 30 minutes prior to the published contest start time for that division.

#### Contest Rules

5. The Oklahoma State Champion (Open) division is a two-round contest. The five highest-scoring contestants from Round One will compete in Round Two. The scores from Round One are added to those from Round Two to determine the finalists' finishing order.
6. All other fiddle divisions are one-round contests.



7. In each round a contestant must play, in this order, a hoedown (including breakdown, hornpipe, or reel), a waltz, and something else besides a hoedown or waltz: (blues, jig, rag, polka, Schottische, swing, etc.)
8. These songs are not allowed: *Listen to the Mockingbird*, *Orange Blossom Special*, and *Black Mountain Rag*.
9. Contestants may not repeat a song.
10. Contestants may not play a medley.
11. Time limit for a round is six minutes for all divisions except Championship (Open), which has a limit of seven minutes.
12. Each song has a potential score of 100 points. Points will be awarded for rhythm, timing, tone and intonation, authenticity, taste, expression, and execution. A perfect score from all three judges would result in 900 points for a contestant.
13. In the event of a tie, a one-song playoff will take place.

### **Judging**

14. Decisions of the judges and scoring table are final.
15. Judges may limit the number of songs in a round if necessary to maintain the schedule.
16. In case of rule infractions for which penalties are not specified, or for situations not foreseen by these rules, the judges and scoring table will determine an appropriate penalty ranging from none up to disqualification.
17. The scoring table is responsible for enforcing time limits. There is no penalty for the first 10 seconds over the time limit. Thereafter, five points will be deducted for each 10 seconds over the time limit.
18. Judges' score sheets will be put immediately into a binder that must remain at the scoring table for public view.
19. Contestants draw for order of appearance prior to each round.
20. Contestants may not trade playing positions.
21. Contestants who are unready to play when called, at the judges' discretion, receive zero points for that round.
22. Contestants are allowed only one fiddle on stage.
23. Cross-tuning is not allowed.
24. Only acoustic, non-amplified stringed instruments may be played.
25. Contestants may have up to three accompanists. The only acceptable backup instruments are acoustic guitar, acoustic tenor guitar, and acoustic bass.
26. In case of a broken string, slipped peg, fallen bridge or other instrument malfunctions, a contestant will have five minutes without penalty to recover and restart the song.



Age Divisions

PeeWee: 8 & Under

Youth: Ages 9 -12

Junior: Ages 13 - 17

Adult: 18 & Older

State Championship: Open to All Ages

Awards

Division	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Championship</b>	\$1,000, Buckle	\$800	\$600	\$500	\$400	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$100
<b>Adult</b>	\$150, Buckle	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20
<b>Junior</b>	\$150, Buckle	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20
<b>Youth</b>	\$75, Buckle	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10
<b>PeeWee</b>	\$50, Buckle	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10	\$5