

2023 CSOTFA General Contest Rules

This contest is open to any musician. The highest scoring California resident in each division will be declared the California State Champion. California residency is defined as six (6) months as a California resident or having a California Driver's License. Contestant does not have to belong to the CSOTFA.

1. Entry form must be completed in full and entry fee paid. Registration for each division will close when the first contestant steps on stage. Your registration is not complete until your tune sheet has been turned into Traffic. Registration will close Saturday after all fiddle and picking preliminaries have finished and final rounds are posted.
2. DIVISIONS: Peewee (8 years and under); Junior Junior (9-12 years); Junior (13-17 years); Young Adult (18-36 years); Adult (37-59 years); Senior (60-69 years); Senior Senior (70 years and over); Open (any age); Junior Twin Fiddle (both 17 years and younger); Open Twin Fiddle (any age); Junior Picking (17 years and younger); Open Picking (any age). A contestant may not enter more than one fiddle division, but may additionally enter Accompanist, Twin Fiddle, and/or one Picking Division. Any contestant entering multiple divisions must complete and turn in a separate tune sheet for each round in each division.
3. An Accompanist must register and play with at least one contestant in competition—excluding entertainment. Accompanist awards are given according to the number of times an accompanist plays during competition rounds **and only count if the contestant has listed the accompanist on the tune sheet**. All commercial recording rights are reserved and shall become the property of the CSOTFA. Signing of the registration form shall waive such rights.
4. Initial Order of Play will be drawn by lottery approximately 30 minutes before the start of each division. The committee will draw before each round for a new Order of Play. **If a contestant is not ready to play when called by the MC, he/she will be dropped to the end of the division and incur a 10 point penalty.** Any contestant registered and not playing the initial round will be eliminated from the contest and forfeit all fees for the remainder of the contest. **Total playing time is four minutes fifteen seconds. There is no grace period. Timing will start when the contestant or any accompanist plays any note on stage. Two points will be deducted for every ten seconds or portion thereof over four minutes fifteen seconds.**
5. **In the event of a tie involving prize money after the final round, the high scores for the final round for the tied contestants will be compared and the contestant with the higher score will be deemed to have won the tie. If the scores are still tied, the contestants will be deemed to have tied for the placement and will split the prize money for that place and the one below it.**
6. If a contestant qualifies and does not play the Final round, he/she will forfeit his/her standing in the Final Round. The next contestant will move up and play in the Final Round.
7. Contestants may play without accompanist or with no more than three accompanists, no more than two of which may be standard guitars. **Having more than two standard guitars as accompaniment will incur a 5 point penalty.** An accompanist may not play the melody of the tune.
8. No instrument with electrical amplification will be allowed on stage. This is strictly an acoustical contest.
9. No sheet music shall be displayed while contesting. There are no vocals allowed. This is an instrumental contest.
10. **If a string breaks, or there is other "equipment failure", the contestant will have the option to continue to play, or to stop at that point. If the tune is completed, it will be judged as played. If the contestant stops, he/she will be moved to the end of the round and will play a complete round, regardless of whether or not any tunes were completed before the incident.**
11. Any contestant or accompanist who acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, is intoxicated or is under the influence of drugs: will not be allowed to perform; will forfeit entry fee and prize money; and will be asked to leave the contest. Appropriate attire is expected, including shirt and shoes.
12. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Contest Chairman and signed by not less than three contestants of the contest division within three (3) hours of the protest occurrence.
13. All decisions of the judges and/or Contest Committee are final.
14. Contestants are responsible for picking up their own score sheets at the registration table at the end of the contest. Final results will be printed in the *Soundpost* and posted on the website.
15. All questions regarding contest rules, procedures, and personnel must be addressed to the Contest committee.