

# National Oldtime Fiddler's Contest

## Certification and Advisory Board



P. O. Box 447  
Weiser, ID 83672  
208-414-0255 or 1-800-437-1280  
email: [admin@fiddlecontest.com](mailto: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 only) or \$195 (two divisions up to eight) may be sent at any time **prior** to the 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 name(s) and address(es) of division winner(s), and provide one 5x7 photograph of each certified division first place winner (to be placed in our Hall of Fame). Please do not email winner photos. 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 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, placement results and photos are printed in the *Fiddler* 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 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 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 nonresidents. 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: The fee for certifying up to eight divisions of a State or Regional Contest is \$195. The fee for certifying only the Grand Champion Division is \$60. This is to cover the cost of entry fee(s) of contest winner(s) in the National Contest, printing and mailing of certificates.
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.
  - Upon request, special certificates are awarded to contest sponsors. Certificates are suitable for framing.
  - 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. However, ***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 of excellent talents and encourages the contestant to encompass musicianship to include not only old time contest fiddling arena, but to encompass other fiddle styles or songs not allowed in the restrictive NOTFC repertoire.

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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 local contests if they wish to allow interaction between the contestants and the audience.
3. No less 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 a 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.

### AFTER CONTEST GUIDELINES

1. The first place winner is eligible to compete in the Certified Showcase event at the National Oldtime Fiddle 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 Fiddle Contest unless they are unable to attend, then the second place winner will have their fees paid to the National Oldtime Fiddle Contest. If the first place winner has won other certified contests and is in attendance at the National Oldtime Fiddler's 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 Fiddler's 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.com](http://www.fiddlecontest.com) Click on Judges

*National Oldtime Fiddlers'*  
*Certification and Advisory Board*



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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.

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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 no., 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, or \$195 for 2 through 8 Divisions) 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 Winner(s).
3. One 5 x 7 photo of Winner(s) to be hung in the Hall of Fame.

We understand as a certified contest we will receive:

1. Certificate(s) for Certified Winner(s).
2. Prepaid Entry for Winners to *Nationals* (non-refundable).
3. Winners are eligible to enter *Certified Showcase* at Nationals, at no cost.
4. Winners photo display in National Hall of Fame.

Date of Contest to be certified: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Contest Chairman)

National Oldtime **Fiddlers'**  
Certification and Advisory Board



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**WINNERS INFORMATION SHEET**

**COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL WITH 5X7 PHOTOS  
WITHIN 30 DAYS FOLLOWING YOUR CONTEST.**

*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 \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a 5 x 7 glossy photo (no email please) of first place winner(s) to be hung in the National Fiddlers' Hall of Fame in Weiser, Idaho. **NOTE:** Certified winners are not automatically entered into Nationals. They must still register for their division.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_