



2026 Competition Rules & Regulations

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APPALACHIAN BUCK DANCING

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
7. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
8. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
9. All contestants are advised that competitions are also being held on the Founders Hall Stage. You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!
10. For any category that has Saturday finals, a contestant must be present and participate to place. A finalist not present will result in awarding their slot to the contestant with the next highest score.

B. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. This event should consist of authentic old time dancing in true Appalachian tradition flat-footing style. TAPS ARE PERMITTED. The arms should not be flounced but should be held loosely at the sides of the body. The feet should be kept parallel to the floor and as close to the floor as possible (*kicks, Charleston steps, crossovers, clogging steps, exaggerated backward / side steps are prohibited*). The contestant should keep the head and shoulders as level as possible.

APPALACHIAN BUCK DANCING (Continued)

This is not a "no holds barred" contest, but a contest that stresses the traditional Appalachian "flat-footing" style. Eight (8) finalists will be selected from the eliminations. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected during the finals.

2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.

C. **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent.

2. Creativity (25 points)

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will look for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

4. Execution (25 points)

D. **GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per dance. Points scored in the eliminations WILL NOT be carried over into the finals.

BEGINNER BANJO / BEGINNER MANDOLIN / BEGINNER GUITAR

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

These are the rules and regulations that apply to the following category: *Beginner Banjo / Mandolin / Guitar (12 and under)*

NOTE: The Beginner Banjo / Mandolin / Guitar competition will take place on Brown Hall Stage located behind Founders Hall. This competition will play one (1) round only. Winners will be chosen after the conclusion of that competition. NO FINALS. A contestant 12 and under who enters this category is not allowed in the general individual competition with the same instrument.

- A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements, and other items as dictated by a particular event.
1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
 2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
 3. The judges' decisions will be final.
 4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
 5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
 6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
 7. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
 8. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
 9. All contestants are advised that competitions are also being held on the Brown Hall Stage. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*

BEGINNER BANJO / BEGINNER MANDOLIN / BEGINNER GUITAR (Continued)

B. CATEGORY RULES:

1. Contestants in the Beginner Banjo / Mandolin / Guitar category must be age 12 or under.
2. The same contestant may enter each category of the Beginner Banjo / Mandolin / Guitar competition.
3. Contestant will play ONE (1) tune.
4. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected.
5. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
6. Once a Beginner Banjo/Mandolin/Guitar has entered the general competition he/she may not re-enter the Beginner category in subsequent years.
7. Contestant may perform unaccompanied or with a maximum of two (2) accompanists.

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging, or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.

2. Creativity (25 points):

The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

4. Execution (25 points):

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instruments.

BEGINNER BANJO / BEGINNER MANDOLIN / BEGINNER GUITAR (Continued)

D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune.
2. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until the judges and sound engineer are ready.

BEGINNER FIDDLER & APPRENTICE FIDDLER

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

These are the rules and regulations that apply to the following categories:

BEGINNER FIDDLER (Age 10 and under) and APPRENTICE FIDDLER (Age 11- 15)

NOTE: Beginner and Apprentice Fiddler competition will take place on the Brown Hall Stage. Contestants in these categories ARE NOT permitted to play in the Classic Old Time Fiddle category OR the Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion category. Both Beginner and Apprentice Fiddler will play one (1) round only. Winners will be chosen after the conclusion of that competition. No finals.

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that competitions are also being held on Brown Hall Stage. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*

BEGINNER FIDDLER & APPRENTICE FIDDLER (Continued)

B. CATEGORY RULES:

1. Contestants in the Beginner Fiddler category will play TWO (2) tunes; one (1) fast and one (1) slow in NO PARTICULAR ORDER.
2. Contestants in the Apprentice Fiddler category will play TWO (2) tunes; a breakdown and a waltz (PLAYED IN THAT ORDER).
3. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected.
4. The contestant may have a maximum of 2 (two) accompanists. Preferably guitar(s), however, mandolin and bass may be allowed.
5. Any contestant who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
6. No tuning other than standard tuning is allowed in any Fiddle category other than Classic Old Time Fiddle.
7. Competitors in these categories are not eligible to compete in the Classic Old Time Fiddler or the Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddle categories.
8. A Beginner Fiddler (10 and under) may enter the Apprentice Fiddler (11 – 15) category BUT NOT BOTH. Once a Beginner Fiddler has entered the apprentice Fiddler category or he/she may not re-enter the Beginner category in subsequent years.
9. An Apprentice Fiddler (11 -15) may enter the Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion Category BUT NOT BOTH. Once an Apprentice Fiddler has entered the Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion category he/she may not re-enter the Apprentice Fiddler category in subsequent years.
10. Contestants in the Beginner and Apprentice Fiddler categories are NOT eligible to compete for the *Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion* title.

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.

2. Creativity (25 points):

The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

BEGINNER FIDDLER & APPRENTICE FIDDLER (Continued)

4. Execution (25 points):

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

D. **GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. Each tune will be judged independently.
2. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. Points scored in the eliminations WILL NOT be carried over into the finals.
3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until the judges and sound engineer are ready.

BLUEGRASS BAND

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

If the Bluegrass Band category has eight (8) or fewer contestants, we reserve the right to skip the preliminary round, and all contestants will compete only during the Saturday finals.

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that competitions are also being held on the Founders Hall Stage. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*
11. For any category that has Saturday finals, a contestant must be present and participate to place. A finalist not present will result in awarding their slot to the contestant with the next highest score.
12. ***READ THE BAND CATEGORY RULES BELOW CAREFULLY. THEY HAVE CHANGED REGARDING BAND REGISTRATION AND ID REQUIREMENTS.***

B. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. Bands will perform TWO (2) tunes in the eliminations and TWO (2) tunes in the finals (*however, if time becomes a factor, bands may be restricted to ONE (1) tune in the elimination round*). The tunes may be either vocal or instrumental, however, it is recommended that a vocal be included with instrumentation to demonstrate band versatility. Eight (8) finalists will be selected from the

BLUEGRASS BAND (Continued)

eliminations. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected during the finals.

2. A band that has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year. *However, they may compete as a different band after a two-year win provided no more than two of the original winning band members are in the band. In order to ensure this requirement, all bands will be required to provide photo IDs for each member of the band at the time of registration as well as stand for a registration photo.* Prior to Finals band member's IDs will be required to be checked and matched to photo. **A BLUEGRASS BAND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO REGISTER UNTIL ALL MEMBERS ARE PRESENT AT REGISTRATION** (This includes, for example, waiting until a pickup band meeting the requirements is ready to register)
3. *Band members may not be changed or added between the eliminations and the finals. However, if necessary, a band may LOSE a member between the eliminations and finals provided the minimum instrumentation of fiddle, banjo and guitar are met.* Should a band lose the original banjo, guitar or fiddle player between eliminations and finals they will be eliminated from the competition and awarded no place.
4. Tunes/Songs performed in the eliminations SHALL NOT be repeated by the same contestant (or contestants, in the case of the Bands) in the finals.
5. The band shall consist of at least three (3) members but not more than six (6). Minimum instruments shall be a fiddle, a banjo, and a guitar.
6. Band members can participate in ONE (1) band only in this category. The use of Scruggs type tuners on the banjo is not allowed during the performance.
7. All band members MUST demonstrate an ability to play the instrument they are holding and *make a significant contribution to the performance.*

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.

BLUEGRASS BAND (Continued)

2. Creativity (25 points):

The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive so as to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

4. Execution (25 points):

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Each tune will be judged independently.
2. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. Points scored in the eliminations WILL NOT be carried over into the finals.
3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until YOU CAN HEAR, and the judges and sound engineer are ready.
4. If contest time should become a factor, the bands may be cut to one song/tune.

BLUEGRASS BANJO

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that in addition to the Founders Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at McCandless Hall. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*

B. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. Contestant will perform ONE (1) tune. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected.
2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
3. Contestant may perform unaccompanied or with one (1) or two (2) accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her

BLUEGRASS BANJO (Continued)

accompaniment does not overpower the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.

4. Bluegrass Banjo: Five (5) strings only. The use of Scruggs tuners is NOT permitted.

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.

2. Creativity (25 points):

The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

4. Execution (25 points):

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. Points scored in the eliminations WILL NOT be carried over into the finals.
2. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance YOU CAN HEAR, and until the judges and sound engineer are ready.

CLASSIC OLD TIME FIDDLER

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestants must be present and in a proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will **NOT** be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tunes to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that in addition to the Founders Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at Brown Hall. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*

B. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. This category is for fiddlers ages eleven (11) and over. *The purpose is to promote pure old time fiddling, and to eliminate the characteristics of the more modern, progressive style that is commonly heard today.*
2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
3. Cross tuning **IS PERMITTED** in the Classic Old Time Fiddle category ONLY! It is not permitted in the other fiddle categories.

CLASSIC OLD TIME FIDDLER (Continued)

4. Competitors in this category are not eligible to compete in any other fiddle category.
5. Contestants shall perform ONE (1) Tune of choice.
6. Contestants may have a maximum of THREE (3) accompanists.
7. First through Eighth place winners shall be selected. No Finals.

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.

2. Creativity (25 points):

The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

4. Execution (25 points):

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points.
2. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until YOU CAN HEAR, and the judges and sound engineer are ready.

DOBRO

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that in addition to the Founders Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at McCandless Hall. You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!

B. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. Contestant will perform ONE (1) tune. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected.
2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
3. Contestant may perform unaccompanied or with one (1) or two (2) accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not overpower the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.

DOBRO (Continued)

4. Instrument shall be Dobro style resonator instrument, laid flat. Slide style guitar not permitted.

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.

2. Creativity (25 points):

The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

4. Execution (25 points):

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. Points scored in the eliminations WILL NOT be carried over into the finals.
2. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until YOU CAN HEAR, and the judges and sound engineer are ready.

DULCIMER

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that in addition to the Founders Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at McCandless Hall. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*

B. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. Contestant will perform One (1) tune. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected.
2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
3. Contestants may perform unaccompanied or with one (1) or two (2) accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not overpower the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.

DULCIMER (Continued)

4. Dulcimer: Appalachian or mountain style lap dulcimers only. Instrument may be strummed, flat- picked or finger-picked.
5. Hammered Dulcimers are NOT permitted.

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.

2. Creativity (25 points):

The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

4. Execution (25 points):

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. Points scored in the eliminations WILL NOT be carried over into the finals.
2. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until YOU CAN HEAR, and the judges and sound engineer are ready.

FINGER PICKING GUITAR

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tunes to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that in addition to the Brown Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at Founders Hall. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*

B. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. Contestants will perform ONE (1) tune. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected.
2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
3. Contestants may perform unaccompanied or with one (1) or two (2) accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanists to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not overpower the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.

FINGER PICKING GUITAR (Continued)

4. Shall be six (6) string acoustic guitar. Resonator guitars are permitted.
5. This category could be referred to as "Thumb/Finger Style", "Drop Thumb", "Finger Picking", or possibly other names, but the method remains the same (i.e. Merle Travis, Chet Atkins, Tommy Emmanuel and others).
6. The judges will look for melody and bass lines as well as chord voicings using thumb and fingers.
7. *Finger Picks and Open Tunings are permitted.*

C. **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
2. Creativity (25 points):
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.
3. Expression (25 points):
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
4. Execution (25 points):
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

D. **GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. Points scored in the eliminations WILL NOT be carried over into the finals.
2. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system.
3. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until YOU CAN HEAR, and the judges and sound engineer are ready.

GUITAR FLAT-PICKING

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestants must be present and in a proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that in addition to the Brown Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at Founders Hall. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*

B. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. Contestants will perform ONE (1) tune. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected.
2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
3. Contestants may perform unaccompanied or with one (1) or two (2) accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead

GUITAR FLAT-PICKING (Continued)

instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not overpower the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.

4. Shall be six (6) string acoustic guitar.
5. This category will consist of "flat picking" guitar style (i.e. Tony Rice, Doc Watson, etc.) with use of a flat pick.
6. Standard tuning. A Drop D is allowed.

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
2. Creativity (25 points):
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.
3. Expression (25 points):
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
4. Execution (25 points):
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune.
2. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until YOU CAN HEAR, and the judges and sound engineer are ready.

HARMONICA

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestants must be present and in a proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that in addition to the Founders Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at McCandless Hall. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*

B. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. Contestants will perform ONE (1) tune. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected.
2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
3. Contestants may perform unaccompanied or with one (1) or two (2) accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not overpower the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.

HARMONICA (Continued)

4. The use of chromatic or double reed harmonicas IS NOT permitted. Only ten (10) hole, twenty (20) note harmonicas will be allowed. Only one (1) harmonica may be used per tune.

C. **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.

2. Creativity (25 points):

The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

4. Execution (25 points):

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

D. **GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune.
2. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until the judges and sound engineer are ready.

MANDOLIN

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestants must be present and in a proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that in addition to the Founders Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at McCandless Hall. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*

B. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. Contestants will perform ONE (1) tune. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected.
2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
3. Contestants may perform unaccompanied or with one (1) or two (2) accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her

MANDOLIN (Continued)

accompaniment does not overpower the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.

4. Only eight (8) stringed standard fingerboard mandolin is allowed. *Mandola, Mandocello, or Bouzouki is NOT permitted.*
5. Cross tuning of instrument is NOT permitted.

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.

2. Creativity (25 points):

The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

4. Execution (25 points):

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

F. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune.
2. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until YOU CAN HEAR, and the judges and sound engineer are ready.

OLD TIME BANJO

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

GENERAL REGULATIONS: Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that in addition to the Brown Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at Founders Hall. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*

2. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. Contestant will perform ONE (1) tune. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected.
2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
3. Contestant may perform unaccompanied or with one (1) or two (2) accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care
4. must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his/her accompaniment does not overpower the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.

OLD TIME BANJO (Continued)

5. Five (5) string banjo only. Scruggs/Keith tuners are NOT permitted to be used in performance of contest tune. Fretless fingerboard is permitted. Various tunings are permitted. Playing style shall be either Clawhammer, Drop Thumb or two-finger. Picks are NOT permitted.

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):
The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.
2. Creativity (25 points):
The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.
3. Expression (25 points):
The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".
4. Execution (25 points):
The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

E. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune.
2. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until YOU CAN HEAR, and the judges and sound engineer are ready.

OLD TIME SINGING

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
2. The judges' decision will be final.
3. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
4. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
5. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
6. Contestants must be present and in a proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
7. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage.
8. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of a song.
9. All contestants are advised that in addition to the McCandless Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at Founders Hall. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*

B. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. Contestants will perform ONE (1) song. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected.
2. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
3. Old time singing is limited to a maximum of two (2) performers. One (1) performer must sing. However, both performers may sing and play an instrument.
4. A STRICT time limit of 3 ½ minutes per song. Contestants WILL BE timed. Contestants exceeding 3 ½ minutes (*however they may finish a last verse or chorus that may exceed the allotted time*) will be disqualified and no score awarded.

OLD TIME SINGING (Continued)

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Authenticity (40 points):

Songs should be Traditional. Preferably Appalachian in nature. Contemporary country songs are not permitted. Contemporary gospel songs are not permitted.

2. Execution (30 points):

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the voice.

3. Expression (30 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances will result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Possible score is 100 points.

- #### 2. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system.
- The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument or voice too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until YOU CAN HEAR, and the judges and sound engineer are ready.

OLD TIME STRING BAND

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION

Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

If the Old Time String Band category has eight (8) or fewer contestants, we reserve the right to skip the preliminary round, and all contestants will compete only during the Saturday finals.

GENERAL REGULATIONS: Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that in addition to the Founders Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at Brown Hall. *You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!*
11. For any category that has Saturday finals, a contestant must be present and participate to place. A finalist not present will result in awarding their slot to the contestant with the next highest score.
12. ***READ THE BAND CATEGORY RULES BELOW CAREFULLY. THEY HAVE CHANGED REGARDING BAND REGISTRATION AND ID REQUIREMENTS.***

OLD TIME STRING BAND (Continued)

B. CATEGORY RULES:

1. Bands will perform TWO (2) numbers in the eliminations and TWO (2) in the finals (*however, if time becomes a factor, bands may be restricted to ONE (1) number in the elimination round*). The selections may be either vocal or instrumental. However, it is recommended that a vocal be included with the instrumentation to demonstrate the band's versatility. Eight (8) finalists will be selected from the eliminations. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected during the finals.
2. Any Old Time String Band that has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
3. *However, they may compete as a different band after a two year win provided no more than two of the original winning band members are in the band. In order to ensure this requirement, all bands will be required to provide photo IDs for each member of the band at the time of registration as well as stand for a registration photo. Prior to the Finals band member's IDs will be required to be checked and matched to photo. AN OLD TIME STRING BAND WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO REGISTER UNTIL ALL MEMBERS ARE PRESENT AT REGISTRATION (This includes, for example, waiting until a pickup band meeting the requirements is ready to register)*
4. *Band members may not be changed or added between the eliminations and the finals. However, if necessary, a band may LOSE a member between the eliminations and finals provided the minimum instrumentation of fiddle, banjo and guitar are met. Should a band lose the original banjo, guitar or fiddle player between eliminations and finals they will be eliminated from the competition and awarded no place.*
5. Tunes/Songs performed in the eliminations SHALL NOT be repeated by the same contestant (or contestants, in the case of the Bands) in the finals.
6. The band shall consist of at least three (3) members but not more than six (6). Minimum instruments shall be a fiddle, a banjo, and a guitar. Band members can participate in ONE (1) band only in this category. Bluegrass style banjo not allowed – fingerpicks not permitted on banjo. Lead instrument is NOT limited to the fiddle. *All band members MUST demonstrate an ability to play the instrument they are holding and make a significant contribution to the performance.*

OLD TIME STRING BAND (Continued)

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.

2. Creativity (25 points):

The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

4. Execution (25 points):

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Each tune will be judged independently.
2. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. Points scored in the eliminations WILL NOT be carried over into the finals.
3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until YOU CAN HEAR, and the judges and sound engineer are ready.
4. If contest time should become a factor, the bands may be cut to one song/tune.

SENIOR FIDDLER

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

These are the rules and regulations that apply to the following categories: *SENIOR FIDDLER (Age 55+)* Contestants in this category ARE NOT permitted to compete in the Classic Old Time Fiddle category, OR the Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion category.

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestant must be present and in proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to the stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that in addition to the Founders Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at Brown Hall. You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!

B. **CATEGORY RULES:**

1. Senior fiddlers age 55+.
2. Contestant will play TWO (2) tunes, a breakdown and a waltz (PLAYED IN THAT ORDER).

SENIOR FIDDLER (Continued)

3. The contestant may have a maximum of four (4) accompanists. Preferably guitar(s), however, mandolin and bass may be allowed.
4. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
5. First through Eighth place winners will be selected. No Finals.
6. Cross tuning is NOT permitted.
7. Competitors in this category are not eligible to compete in the Classic Old Time Fiddler category or the Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion category.

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.

2. Creativity (25 points):

The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

4. Execution (25 points):

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

D. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:

1. Each tune will be judged independently.

SENIOR FIDDLER (Continued)

2. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. Points scored in the eliminations WILL NOT be carried over into the finals.
3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until YOU CAN HEAR, and the judges and sound engineer are ready.

TENNESSEE VALLEY FIDDLE CHAMPION

TENNESSEE VALLEY OLD TIME FIDDLERS CONVENTION
Athens State University, Athens, Alabama

If the Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion category has eight (8) or fewer contestants, we reserve the right to skip the preliminary round, and all contestants will compete only during the Saturday finals.

These are the rules and regulations that apply to the following categories: *Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion (Ages 11 and up)* Contestants in this category ARE NOT permitted to compete in any other fiddle category.

A. **GENERAL REGULATIONS:** Every contestant should read their specific category rules thoroughly. Depending on the category, regulations deal with proper order of tunes (i.e. Fiddle), time limits, tuning requirements and other items as dictated by a particular event.

1. Playing order will be assigned by random computer selection and posted when category registration closes.
2. The contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand during the convention.
3. The judges' decision will be final.
4. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
5. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category. No DI permitted. Each instrument must use mic provided by sound company.
6. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed.
7. Contestants must be present and in a proper drawn position for entry onto the stage when their name is called from the staging area. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event. Allowances may be made for broken strings and other happenings judged to be beyond the control of the contestant(s).
8. Contestants must have instruments tuned and ready to play when called to stage.
9. Judges will NOT be allowed to advise contestants in their selection of tune to be played.
10. All contestants are advised that in addition to the Founders Hall Stage, some competitions are being held at Brown Hall. You must be present in any category to participate. No allowances will be made, nor refunds given for contestants in multiple categories that may overlap in different locations. Choose your categories wisely!
11. For any category that has Saturday finals, a contestant must be present and participate to place. A finalist not present will result in awarding their slot to the contestant with the next highest score.

TENNESSEE VALLEY FIDDLE CHAMPION (Continued)

B. CATEGORY RULES:

1. *Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion (Age 11 and up).*
2. Contestant will play TWO (2) tunes during the eliminations; a *Breakdown* and a *Waltz* (PLAYED IN THAT ORDER).
3. TWO (2) tunes are required in the finals; a *Breakdown*, and a *Tune of Your Choice* (the tune of your choice can be a waltz).
4. Eight (8) finalists will be selected from the eliminations. First (1st) through eighth (8th) place winners will be selected during the finals.
5. The contestant may have a maximum of four (4) accompanists (Stringed instruments only). *Banjo is NOT permitted.*
6. Any contestant (entry) who has won first (1st) place for two (2) consecutive years will not be allowed to compete in the same category the following year.
5. Tunes performed in the eliminations SHALL NOT be repeated in the finals.
6. Cross tuning is NOT permitted.
7. Competitors in this category are not eligible to compete in any other fiddle category

C. JUDGING CRITERIA:

1. Rhythm and Timing (25 points):

The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent. Any jerking, rushing, dragging or unevenness in tempo of the performance will result in a loss of points.

2. Creativity (25 points):

The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations. However, the creativity should not be excessive to change or destroy the basic melody line of the tune. This may result in a loss of points.

3. Expression (25 points):

The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance. Flat, mechanical and unfeeling performances may result in lost points as will excessive "showmanship".

4. Execution (25 points):

TENNESSEE VALLEY FIDDLE CHAMPION (Continued)

The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

D. **GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. Each tune will be judged independently.
2. Each judging category has a potential of 25 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune. Points scored in the eliminations WILL NOT be carried over into the finals.
3. All contestants/performers are urged to consider the placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound system. The judges will judge exactly what they hear. An instrument too close or too far away from a microphone could distort or drop out the sound, resulting in a loss of points. DO NOT start your performance until YOU CAN HEAR, and the judges and sound engineer are ready.