

# ABINGDON, VA OLD TIME & BLUEGRASS FIDDLERS' CONVENTION

## RULES & PROCEDURES 2023

**Note: All scheduled performances and competitions will be at The Washington County Fairgrounds in Abingdon, VA on the outdoor stage. In case of inclement weather, competition will be moved inside building A. Few bleachers will be provided, guests should bring chairs.**

### **COMPETITION RULES** (as listed on [www.abingdonfiddlers.com](http://www.abingdonfiddlers.com) and catalog)

1. Adult bands may compete on Friday night, Saturday night, or both nights. If a band competes both nights, the lower score is dropped and the higher score considered for award placement. **(1<sup>st</sup> Place Winners from both Old Time and Bluegrass Bands will be invited to play The Carter Fold between July 2023-June 2024)**
2. All contestants will be given a participation award.
3. Individual instrumentalists may have one accompanist.
4. Only acoustic instruments on stage; no electric instruments.
5. No amplified music to be played at any time during the event.
6. By performing, all contestants agree that the sponsor may record and reproduce performances free of claim by the contestants. The sponsor has the right to record and reproduce music played at the convention. The sponsor also has the right to share any photos or videos on social media, websites, and other media outlets.
7. If a contestant breaks a string while performing, they must stop immediately. They will be allowed to replace the string and can perform immediately after restringing.
8. No medleys are allowed in the competition, only individual songs, and tunes.
9. Competitors are limited to two individual competition categories and one band only. Dance competition is open to individuals beyond the limits stated above. On Friday night, bands must exit the stage after competing even if band members are competing in individual competition. Likewise, contestants competing on Friday in individual categories must exit the stage before playing in the band competition.
10. Please list only one contact name and mailing address for Band competitors. If your band wins a monetary prize, a check will be issued in this person's name. No cash will be distributed. No exceptions.
11. There is a 3-minute time limit for all competition performances. When time expires competitors will be allowed to finish current verse and/or chorus only.
12. Songs and tunes must be part of the public domain or original to the performer only.

13. Violation of the above rules will result in disqualification of the contestant.
14. Adult contestants (individuals and bands) may register at any time on Friday beginning at 4:00 PM. Friday competition will be a mixture of individual and band competitions beginning at 6:00 PM.
15. On Saturday, contestants (individuals and bands) may register from 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM. All individual contestants will perform before 7:00 PM when the adult band competition begins.
16. Youth Competition (for contestants no greater than 17 years old) will be held Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Registration begins at 11:00 AM and Youth Band Registration cutoff will be 11:55 AM. Individual Youth competition will begin at 12:00 Noon followed by Youth Band Competition. Youth competitors may also register for adult individual and band competition.
17. Dance competitors will need to be registered by 8:00 PM, the competition will begin no sooner than 8:30 PM on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>.
18. Rules are subject to change without notification. The Judge's decisions are final.
19. Washington County Fairgrounds does not take responsibility for any stolen property or injury.

