

Flatpicking Contest RULES

Contest will be open to anyone except those directly involved with running the contest or the bluegrass festival, and their close family members. Contestants may enter the contest provided they are registered before the deadline.

Since we must limit the number of contestants we can handle in the contest, WE WILL ACCEPT **ONLY TWENTY** CONTESTANTS. THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TWENTY CONTESTANTS REGISTERED. REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE AFTER THIS NUMBER IS REACHED. Registration will include a weekend pass for the festival

Contestants must play only acoustic instruments. No electrical instruments will be allowed. Contestants may have one rhythm instrument for accompaniment. Contestants will not be allowed to take two instruments on stage. Selection committee reserves the right to eliminate contestants whose style of playing and selection of material is not in keeping with the flavor of the festival. Bluegrass instrumentals only are appropriate. A MEDLEY OF TUNES IS **NOT** ACCEPTABLE.

In an effort to judge the contest objectively and equally, the following criteria will be considered by the judges and assigned point value in each area:

40 points 1. **ARRANGEMENT**- Contestants version of the tune selected. Is it appropriate to the tune and instrument? Difficulty and originality will be considered.

40 points 2. **EXECUTION, TUNING**- Fingering, picking and dynamics will be considered. Is the instrument in tune?

10 points 3. **SHOW VALUE**- The music should be played with life and feeling. It should not appear listless nor should it drag.

10 points 4. **OVERALL IMPRESSION**

Contestants will be prepared to play four instrumental numbers in **traditional fiddle tune or bluegrass style**. Two numbers will be played in the first round and the other two in the final round should the contestant be selected as a finalist. Maximum playing time of 7 minutes is recommended. ALL contestants must play with a FLAT PICK. NO FINGER PICKING WILL BE ALLOWED. NO COMBINATION OF FLAT PICKING AND FINGER PICKING WILL BE ALLOWED. The alteration or the tuning of the low E (6th) string will be permitted. The low E (6th) string can be changed to any note desired, not limiting the tuning of the 6th string to "Drop D" or a low D note but to any desired pitch. No other string tuning or variance from the standard E (1), B (2), G(3), D (4), A (5), will be permitted. Some slight, overall variance from concert pitch (A=440) will be tolerated. (See #2 in the general rules.) Standard or traditional style capos may be used, but no capos which allow the alteration of individual strings, such as the Third Hand Capo, will be allowed.

WE WILL ACCEPT CONTEST REGISTRATIONS UNTIL ONE HALF HOUR BEFORE SCHEDULED CONTEST TIME OR UNTIL TWENTY CONTESTANTS ARE REGISTERED.

All contestants may pre-register for the contest by returning the entry form with the \$40.00 fee. Order of appearance will be determined by drawing a number before the contest begins. If there are nine or fewer contestants registered, contestants may play three tunes and judges will place winners without the additional tune. Score cards will **NOT** be given out. **Contestants are not allowed to speak on stage.**

Contestants will have a time limit of 7 minutes to play 2 tunes. If nine or fewer contestants are registered, contestants will have 9 minutes to play 3 tunes. This includes time between tunes.

ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BE AT THE CONTEST SITE AT 1 P.M. ON THE DAY OF THE CONTEST. Anyone not there on time will not be allowed to play in the contest and will forfeit their application money, so please be on time.