

Texas State Flatpicking Championship

Contest Rules

1. All contestants must be eligible for the National Competition in Winfield, Kansas
2. The contestant is to be prepared to play 4 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 5 minutes is recommended (medley of tunes is NOT acceptable.)
3. ALL CONTESTANTS MUST PLAY WITH A FLATPICK. NO FINGER PICKING WILL BE ALLOWED. NO COMBINATION OF FLAT PICKING AND FINGER PICKING WILL BE ALLOWED. The contestant may only take one instrument on stage.
4. The alteration of 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 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.
5. Standard or traditional style capos may be used, but no capos which will allow alteration of the individual strings, such as the Third Hand Capo, will be allowed.
6. The scoring system is fashioned in such a way that it would make it extremely unlikely to have a tie. However, in case of a tie, the judges will determine the winner by using the first round scores. The judges will tally the scores at the end of the contest. All decisions are final.
7. When the contestant's number is announced, the contestant will walk to the mike only. No communication will be allowed. Improper dress will not be tolerated (i.e., torn clothing, cut offs, lewd or suggestive type of clothing, etc.)
8. Contestants must be present, accounted for, and registered by 9:30AM the day of the contest. By 10:00AM, all contestants should be back-stage so performing order can be established. Order of appearance to be determined by a drawing.
9. Contestants will not be allowed to re-start a song once he/she has begun. In the case of a broken string, the contestant will be allowed to exit the stage, re-string, and come back at the end of the contest. The contestant will then pick up where he/she left off to finish his/her set.

10. Prizes are awarded to all participants. The first place winner receives a prepaid entry to the National Competition in Winfield, Kansas "entry to Winfield is only valid for person named in the letter, and may not be assigned" in addition to other prizes and trophies: 1st to be announced, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$150.
11. Although this is an open tournament and all types of players are urged to participate, it should be understood that any guitarist who makes a living of \$30,000 a year or more solely from his/her instrument is ineligible to compete. TSFPC Champions are not allowed to enter for the next two years after winning the contest.
12. The winner of the contest will be invited to perform at a Bay Area Bluegrass regular monthly program at their earliest convenience.