

CONTEST RULES

2017 Texas State Championships Mandolin, Flat Pick Guitar and 5-String Banjo

General Rules for All Contests

Eligibility

The Texas State Championship contests for Mandolin, Flat Pick Guitar, and 5-string Banjo are open to Texas residents, only.

Those who have been the First Place winner within the past **five years** — specifically the years 2012 through 2016 - are not eligible to compete again this year on that same instrument. However, previous winners may enter and win contests for other instruments which they have not won within the last five years.

Registration

Only 15 contestants may compete per contest.

This will be the first 15 contestants answering when their names are called from the chronological registration lists, one-half hour before the contest begins.

Advance registration is encouraged to help ensure a spot in the contest. A discounted entry fee is offered for advance registration (\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door). Online registration with PayPal and mail-in registration forms are available on the contest web page at: <http://bayareabluegrass.org/Contest.php>

On contest day, contestants must confirm their registration at the contest table prior to the time that registration closes (9:30am) and will be asked to show proof of Texas residence (e.g. driver's license). Order of appearance will be determined by drawing a number one-half hour before the contest begins.

** Please note that we cannot accept contest registrations after the registration cut-off which is 30-minutes before contest time.*

Contest Times and Location

The 2017 Texas State Championships will be held at the Pearl Community Center in Pearl, Texas on the morning of the FREE monthly Pearl Bluegrass 1st Saturday Jam & Stage Show.

June 3, 2017	Mandolin (*9.30am Registration Cut-off, 10am Contest)
July 1, 2017	Flat Pick Guitar (*9.30am Registration Cut-off, 10am Contest)
Aug 5, 2017	5-String Banjo (*9.30am Registration Cut-off, 10am Contest)

Pearl is located just 75 miles from geographic center of the state of Texas. For a map and to get directions from your starting location to the Pearl Community Center, see the [MAP](http://pearlbluegrass.com) link on the Pearl website at: <http://pearlbluegrass.com>.

Full RV hookups are available on-site for just \$15/night those who would like to enjoy a weekend of jamming and stage shows at Pearl in conjunction with the contests.

Number of tunes

Contestants need to be prepared to play four instrumental numbers.

Two numbers will be played in the first round of competition and the other two will be played in the final round - should the contestant be selected as a finalist.

Note: * A "medley" of tunes is NOT acceptable and maximum playing time is five (5) minutes.

If there are five (5) or less entrants, there will be only one round. Each contestant will play three (3) tunes with a maximum playing time of seven (7) minutes. Judges will place winners without the additional tunes of a second round.

Acoustic instruments, only

Contestants must play instruments acoustically into a microphone. An instrument's electrical capability cannot be used.

You may retune your instrument between instrumental numbers using a portable electronic tuner. BE AWARE that time spent retuning your instrument on stage will be included as part of the maximum playing time of 5 minutes.

Accompaniment

Contestants may have one rhythm instrument for accompaniment. Contestants will not be allowed to take two instruments on stage.

Judging

Judges will be isolated in a separate judging room where they will listen to each contestant over a speaker. The judges will not see the contestants who will be referred to only by their numbers. This "blind judging" makes the competition as fair as possible.

Please note: >>> ***Contestants are not allowed to speak on stage.*** <<<

The judging room only hears the competing instrument and receives no mix or sound coming from accompaniment or rhythm instrument. Score cards will NOT be given out and the judge's identities will not be revealed.

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

1. ARRANGEMENT (40 points): Contestant's version of the tune selected.

- Is it appropriate to the tune and instrument?
- Difficulty and originality will be considered.

2. EXECUTION, TUNING (40 points):

- Dexterity, picking and dynamics will be considered.
- Is the instrument in tune?

3. SHOW VALUE (10 points)

- The music should be played with life and feeling.
- It should not appear listless nor should it drag.

4. OVERALL IMPRESSION (10 points)

Specific Contest Rules

Flat Pick Guitar Championship

All guitar contestants must play with a FLAT PICK. NO FINGER PICKING WILL BE ALLOWED. NO COMBINATION OF FLAT PICKING AND FINGER PICKING WILL BE ALLOWED.

Standard / traditional acoustic 6-string or standard / traditional acoustic 12-string guitars may be played in this competition. The alteration or 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) and E(6) will be permitted. Some slight, overall variance from concert pitch A=440 will be tolerated. Standard or traditional style capos may be used. **Capos which allow the alteration of individual strings AND partial capos depressing some, but not all strings will NOT be allowed.** CAPOS, IF USED, MUST BE APPLIED ACROSS ALL STRINGS ON THE SAME FRET OF THE INSTRUMENT.

Banjo Championships

Only acoustic 5-string banjos played in the 3-finger style are allowed in this competition. Other banjo styles (i.e., claw hammer, dixieland, etc.) are not included.

Mandolin Championships

There are no additional specific rules for the mandolin championships beyond what is described in the previous "General Rules for All Contests".

Cash Prizes and Awards

Winners will be announced and receive their awards immediately after each contest. The first place winner of each competition will be eligible to enter the 2017 National Championships held by The Walnut Valley Association in Winfield, Kansas.

1st-Place:

- \$500 cash prize
- Plaque award
- "2017 Texas State Champion" title
- Free entry to compete for the National Championship and free entry to the associated 46th Walnut Valley Festival (Sept 13-17)

2nd-Place:

- \$350 cash prize
- Plaque award

3rd-Place:

- \$200 cash prize
- Plaque award