

Down From the Hills  
2011 Heritage Music Series  
May 21, 2011 – New Albany, MS  
Union County Fairgrounds  
Mississippi State Fiddling Championship

**Rules & Award Schedule**

**A. GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

1. Contest rules and regulations may be amended depending on the situation and events at hand before and during the competition. Check website often: [www.mississippifiddlers.com](http://www.mississippifiddlers.com)
2. Entry Fee: Cost of Admission
3. Three Individual Entry Divisions: Beginner: ages 10 & under, Apprentice: ages 11 – 15, & Senior (ages 16 & over)
4. Youth to age 15 may elect to play in an older division. The contestant is limited to play in only one entry division per instrument category.
5. One Band Division (Bluegrass or Old Time Style) – no age limits
6. The judges' decision will be final.
7. The judges will not be permitted to enter or play in any contest category.
8. No electrical instruments or drums will be permitted in any category.
9. No contestant will be permitted to register for any category after the registration for that category has closed. After registration and before the event starts, all contestants will draw for position behind the Union County Arena Stage.
10. Contestants must be present and in proper drawn position for entry on to the stage when name is called. Late arrivals or no-shows will be eliminated from the event.
11. In the interest of fairness to each contestant, a time limit of 3 minutes per tune is allowed for individual categories and 4 minutes per tune is allowed in the Band Category.
12. Order of events on Saturday will be: Mandolin, Dobro, Guitar, Banjo, and Fiddle
13. Schedule of play for each event: Beginner, Apprentice, Senior.
14. Band Competition to be held at 2:00 PM or later, following Fiddle Competition.

**B. GENERAL CATEGORY RULES** (*Rules that apply to more than one category*):

1. A contestant performing in an individual contest may perform unaccompanied or with one or two accompanists. Should the accompanying instrument be the same as the lead instrument, care must be taken by the accompanist to make sure that his or her accompaniment does not overpower the lead instrument. Points will be lost if this happens.
2. Contestants in the Mandolin, Dobro, Guitar, Banjo, and Fiddle will perform one tune. In case of a tie, a second tune will be required.
3. First through fifth place winners will be selected in the Senior division. Beginner & Apprentice divisions will receive a 1<sup>st</sup> place trophy only, except for the Fiddle category which will receive 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> place trophies and award money
4. Contestants in the Fiddle competition will play one tune (breakdown). In case of a tie, competing fiddlers will be allowed to play a tune of choice. Contestants may have a

maximum of two accompanists - any combination of a guitar, a banjo, or a bass fiddle.

**C. SPECIFIC CATEGORY RULES:**

1. **Mandolin:** only eight (8) stringed standard finger board is allowed.
2. **Banjo:** Five (5) stringed only.
3. **Guitar:** Guitar utilized shall be six (6) string. Dobro type guitars not permitted in this category.
4. **Band:**
  - a. Limited to Bluegrass or Old Time Style.
  - b. The band shall consist of at least 3 members.
  - c. Band members can participate in ONE band only.
  - d. No electrical or self amplified instruments, drums or percussion sets will be allowed.
  - e. Band members may be asked to demonstrate their ability to play their instrument.
  - f. Bands will perform three tunes unless to break a tie, in which case the band should be prepared to perform a 4th and different tune. The tunes may be either vocal or instrumental.

**D. JUDGING CRITERIA:**

1. **Rhythm and Timing:** 20 points. The rhythm and timing should be even and consistent.
2. **Creativity:** 20 points. The judges will listen for minor variations and improvisations.
3. **Authentic Performance Style:** 20 points.
4. **Expression:** 20 points. The judges will listen for the "feeling" that the contestant puts into the performance.
5. **Execution:** 20 points. The judges will listen for the tonal quality and clarity of the performance together with the general command of the instrument(s).

**A. GENERAL JUDGING CONSIDERATION:**

1. Each judging category has a potential of 20 points, for a possible score of 100 points per tune or song. The final score for each contestant will be averaged by the number of tunes or songs permitted in that category. High-low scores WILL NOT be thrown out (*ALL points scored will be counted*).
2. All contestants-performers are urged to consider placement of the microphones and the efforts of the persons responsible for the sound systems. Both are there to help the contestants-performers be clearly heard by the judges and audience alike. 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. Please make sure your instruments are properly "miked" and tuned properly prior to starting your performance.

# Awards

## 2011 State of Mississippi Fiddling Championship Awards

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Senior Mandolin	\$250	\$75	\$50	\$25	\$10
Senior Dobro	\$250	\$75	\$50	\$25	\$10
Senior Guitar	\$300	\$75	\$50	\$25	\$10
Senior Banjo	\$300	\$75	\$50	\$25	\$10
Band – Bluegrass or Old Time	\$2000	\$750	\$250	0	0
Beginning Fiddler (age 10 & Under)	\$150	\$100	\$75	\$50	\$25
Apprentice Fiddler ( age 11 – 15)	\$300	\$200	\$100	\$75	\$50
Senior Fiddler (age 16 & over)	\$1000	\$350	\$250	\$100	\$75

Trophies only will be awarded for the 1<sup>st</sup> place in Beginner and Apprentice Divisions with the exception to Fiddler...see rules and regulations.