



**2024 J.W. & Vertielee Floyd Memorial**  
**Old Time Fiddlers' Contest**  
**Arizona State Championship – Payson, Arizona**



2024 Fiddle Festival Rules

1. Registration

- a. All fiddlers entering this contest must be legal residents of Arizona for at least 6 months immediately prior to the contest and be able to provide proof, if questions arise.
- b. Registration will be accepted online at [www.adventurepayson.com](http://www.adventurepayson.com) from Friday June 28, 2024, to Monday Sep 9, 2024 at 11:59pm.
- c. Contestants must be present to draw for order of appearance at check in.
- d. Contestants must complete a W9 at check in. Contestants will not be allowed to compete without it. Please have your social security number handy to help check-in move steadily.
- e. Contestants are responsible for being on stage, ready to perform, at the appointed time. Failure to appear can result in forfeiture of entry fee.
- f. Registration signature by the contestant, and/or parent/guardian, acknowledges such photo/video/recording rights and acceptance of all rules and regulations of the contest.
- g. Entry fees will not be refunded.

2. General

- a. Contestants are responsible for being on stage, ready to perform, at the appointed time. Failure to appear can result in forfeiture of entry fee.
- b. Contact microphones, amplified instruments, and music stands are not permitted. Acoustic instruments only in all competitive categories.
- c. No tune may be played more than once by the same contestant during all divisions of the fiddle contest or band competition, if applicable. Repeating tunes or unqualified tunes may result in disqualification.
  - i. If a contestant is uncertain whether a tune qualifies, he/she may submit the title in writing to the Contest Committee/Staff for verification by the judges.
- d. If a string breaks, the fiddler may continue or stop. If the tune is complete, it will be judged as played. If the fiddler stops, he/she will be allowed to begin with that tune and complete his/her program. The five-minute time limit will be appropriately adjusted to the start of that time.
- e. Fiddlers may play without an accompanist, or with not more than four. Accompanists must be listed by the contestant.
- f. Scores will be entered on a form provided to the judges. The scoring method will be at the discretion of the judges and decided, and agreed upon, by the judges before the event.
- g. In the case of a tie, a playoff will be at the discretion of the judges. Tunes played in the playoff must not have been played prior in the category by the contestant.
- h. All decisions by the judges are final.
- i. Any questions or concerns will need to be communicated with the Town of Payson Special Event Coordinator. Any protest may be submitted in writing to the Coordinator and signed by no fewer than three contestants within one hour of the occurrence.
- j. Songs, material, and dress must be appropriate for this family entertainment event.
- k. Any contestant that appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be disqualified, and all registration fees and/or prize money will be forfeited.
- l. If any contestant is acting in an unsp01ismanlike manner to other participants, volunteers, or staff, they will be disqualified at the discretion of the coordinator and all registration fees and/or prize money will be forfeited.
- m. Contestants must be ready and in the staging area at the beginning of the contest. Contestants must remain in the staging area throughout their category.
- n. If a playoff is required and a contestant is not present, the award will go to the other contestant.



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- o. Once a division begins, the previous division is officially closed.
- p. The Town of Payson has the right to cancel this event (on or before contest day). If canceled due to COVID, low participation, or venue/facility availability, registered participants will be refunded.

3. Fiddle Rules

Contestants must play in order (1) a hoedown tune, (2) waltz, and (3) tune of choice, other than a hoedown or a waltz.

- a. Judges will score on old time fiddling ability, difficulty of tune, rhythm (timing), tone quality, and dance ability of tunes played.
- b. Five-minute time limit will be enforced. Ten points will be deducted from the total score for each 30 second interval over, or portion thereof. (I.E., a 10-point deduction is assessed at 5:01. An additional 10 points will be deducted at 5:31, and so on at each subsequent 30-second interval).
- c. No trick or fancy fiddling, or cross tuning, is allowed in these divisions.
- d. If a large number of contestants sign up for any age division that division may be asked to play only a hoedown and a waltz. They would then have a three-minute time limit and the top four would be eligible for the Championship Division.
- e. Members of the Payson Old Time Fiddle & Acoustic Celebration Organizing Committee and/or Festival directors, employees of the Town of Payson Parks and Recreation Dept. are not allowed to compete.

4. Championship Division

- a. The top 15 scoring fiddlers, plus the top 3 from each age division are eligible, but not required to enter the Championship Division. A list of eligible fiddlers will be posted at the end of the contest on Saturday.
- b. Scores from the age division competition will not be added to the score a fiddler receives in the Championship Division.
- c. The first round of the Championship Division will narrow the contestants down to the top seven.
- d. Five-minute time limit, as stated in rule 3-c.
- e. The top seven scoring fiddlers will then play the second round. Five-minute time limit, as stated in rule 3-c.
- f. Round one and round two scores of the Championship Division will be added together to determine the winners.
- g. After a third win as State Champion, a fiddler will be retired for five years before being eligible to compete in any division of the state contest again.

5. Specialty Divisions

a. Twin Fiddle

- i. One entry per fiddler in this division. One slow tune and one fast tune within a five-minute time limit. Up to two accompanists are allowed for each pair of contestants. **Must be at least two teams entered or division is cancelled.**

b. Trick Fiddle

- i. Trick Fiddle Division is for those who wish to hold their fiddle or bow in unusual positions, and/or perform a special trick while playing. Three-minute time limit. **Must be at least two contestants entered, per division, or division is cancelled.**



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- c. Open Talent
  - i. One entry per fiddler in this division. Up to two accompanists allowed. Five-minute time limit. All instruments and vocals welcome. **Must be at least two contestants entered or division is cancelled.**
- d. Band Competition – 15-minute time limit
  - i. Fiddlers competing as a member of a band in the *Payson Fiddle-in Band Competition* are eligible and encouraged to compete in age group and championship divisions, as long as they are Arizona residents and not otherwise ineligible. *The Payson Fiddle-in Band Competition* is a completely separate competition, scored separately from individual competition and is not considered "Entertainment" by the definition of these rules.
  - ii. See Band Competition package for specific rules and procedures
- 6. Entertainment
  - a. All entertainment used during the weekend festival is at the discretion of the Town of Payson.
- 7. Accompanist
  - a. Prizes based on the number of times you are on stage accompanying fiddlers during the contest. Winners will be determined by counting accompanists' names as listed on fiddlers' tune sheets. You do not need to be an AZ resident.
- 8. Miscellaneous
  - a. Visit [www.adventurepayson.com/events](http://www.adventurepayson.com/events) for specific category rules and contestant packets.
  - b. Dry Camping will be offered at the Payson Multi-Event Center Friday, September 20-Sunday, September 22, at no charge. Fire restrictions may apply. Details to follow.
  - c. This is a Town of Payson sponsored event. All marketing and promotional material for this event is owned and copyrighted by the Town of Payson.
  - d. Spectators **will be allowed** to clap after the contestant performs

The Town of Payson reserves the right to change or modify contest rules prior to the start of the competition. A copy of finalized rules will be available at the registration table prior to the start of the contest.

- e. The Town of Payson reserves the right to alter the time schedule, order of categories, or number of tunes to be played as needed.
- f. Ineligible members will consist of those who, take part in and/or have an active role that can be categorized as a Payson Old Time Fiddle & Acoustic Celebration organizing committee, and Employees of the Town of Payson Parks and Recreation Department/event staff.



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**2024 Fiddle Festival Schedule**

**Friday, September 20**

*Free Event*

Meet & Greet

Fiddlers Jam

Food Trucks & Beer Garden

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Green Valley Park

*\*Bring a lawn chair and/or a blanket\**

**Saturday, September 21**

*Free Event*

Payson's Fiddle Festival

Arizona Fiddle State Championships

Food Trucks & Beer Garden

Location: Green Valley Park

9:00 am

Introductions

9:15 am

National Anthem

Contest Begins

Small Fry Division

Junior Junior Division

Junior Division

*\*10-minute break\**

Young Adult Division

Senior Division

Adult Division

*\*10-minute break\**

Awards Announcement/Tie Breaker for Young Adult, Senior, and Adult Divisions

2:00 pm

Twin Competition

3:00 pm

Trick Competition

4:00pm

Band Competition

5:00 pm

Concert

*\*Bring a lawn chair or blanket\**

Note: Divisions and Competitions categories may appear earlier or later than the time expressed on the schedule based on participation. Times for Divisions and Competitions above are not guaranteed.



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**Sunday, September 22**

*Free Event*

Payson's Fiddle Festival  
Arizona Fiddle State Championships  
Food Trucks  
Location: Green Valley Park

*\*Bring a lawn chair\**

10:00 am Grand Champion Division - Round 1

Open Talent

11:00 am Grand Champion Division Round 2

Awards Announcement and Pictures

*\*\*Schedule subject to change based on participation numbers. Times above are not guaranteed.*