

Rules for Competitors at This FIRE-Sanctioned Competition

This competition is sanctioned by Scottish FIRE (Scottish Fiddling Revival, Ltd.), the national Scottish Fiddling Organization, and is conducted according to these rules. For full rules, see the Scottish F.I.R.E. Facebook page.

Conduct of the Competition

Each Open class competitor will first play an air, followed by a pause. Then the competitor will play, without pausing between the tunes, a march, a strathspey, and a reel, in that order.

Each Novice class competitor will play three tunes. This can be either (1) an air, followed by a pause, then without pausing between tunes a strathspey and a reel; or, (2) a march, a strathspey, and a reel played without pausing between tunes. Novice competitors may also choose to play an air, march, strathspey and reel as described above for Open competitors.

Each Junior class competitor will play as described for Open class.

Definitions of Classes of Competitors

Open: Any fiddler may compete in this class.

Novice: Any fiddler new to the art of Scottish fiddling may compete in this class, with no age restriction. When a novice competitor has won first place in three novice class competitions, that competitor will be required to enter in the open class.

Junior: Any fiddler under the age of 18 may compete in this class.

The use of written music is optional. Although it is customary not to use written music in Scottish competitions, do not let this discourage you from competing: If you need written music, bring it!

Performance Standards

For the opening air and the march/strathspey/reel sequence, factors will be considered and weighted as follows:

- **Rhythm/Tempo, 30 points:** Tempo, continuity of music, rhythm. The tempo must be appropriate both to the tune chosen and to the style of execution. The rhythm must be appropriate to the tune chosen (i.e., strathspey, reel, etc.). While some variation may be appropriate for the proper interpretation, the overall context and structure of the tune should not be lost to specific techniques of execution or expression.
- **Execution/Technique, 30 points:** Command of the instrument, both fingering and bowing, and technical skill in playing or ornamentation, in correct intonation, and in mastery of effects.
- **Style/Interpretation, 40 points:** The quality of the performance that appeals to the listeners' feeling, reflecting the performer's judgment and ability in capturing the sentiment of the composer or the traditional associations of the tune. In the march/strathspey/reel sequence, the following additional factors will be considered as part of expression:
 - Transitions: March to strathspey and strathspey to reel. Does the transition suit the tunes and provide an effective bridge for the listener in terms of melodic flow, tonal and rhythmic punctuation?
 - Overall coherence and effect: Extent to which the tunes as played stand together as a coherent musical statement.
 - In all aspects, performance in the traditional Scottish style will be the significant element in distinguishing otherwise technically comparable performances. There will be no favor or penalty for playing in any particular Scottish style, such as Northeast, Highland, Cape Breton, etc.; timing, execution, expression and interpretation should be appropriate to the chosen Scottish style.
 - Competitors will perform without any accompanying instruments.

Types of Tunes Permitted in each Category

- **Air:** Any slow air, pastoral, slow strathspey, lament or other tune played as an air.
- **March:** Any march (pipe march or other) whether 2/4, 4/4, 6/8, or any other tune played as a march.
- **Strathspey:** Any dance strathspey, or other tune played as a strathspey.
- **Reel:** Any reel, Scots measure, hornpipe or other tune played as a reel.

NOTE: Waltzes, jigs (6/8 and 9/8), and hornpipes played in the original manner are not allowed as substitutions for any of the categories above.