

Hot Bow Contest

The “Hot Bow” contest is an open, stand alone, fiddle contest. It is not a State Championship category. This Contest is open to anyone not otherwise being compensated for services related to the Payson Old Time Fiddle Contest and Acoustic Celebration. Arizona residents may play in this contest and in the State Championship Contest, but are not required to do so.

1. Contest Procedures:

- The “Hot Bow” Fiddle Contest is not a traditional old time fiddle contest. It is an all out, OPEN Fiddle Contest.
- Tunes not generally allowed in traditional fiddle contests, due to bowing techniques or “show” value are allowed in this contest. There is no prohibition on tunes, bowing techniques or tunings.
- Contestants will play 3 tunes within a 7 minute time limit. Contestants must play a slow tune, a fast tune, (*does NOT have to be a waltz and hoedown, but can be*), and a tune of the fiddler's choice, at any speed. Contestants may stop between tunes, or not, at their discretion. If you exceed the seven minute time limit, you will be disqualified.
- Contestants must give their tunes, in writing, and in order of performance, (tune sheet) to the Emcee who will announce the numbers prior to contestant beginning their performance.
- The Emcee will call for all contestants to report to the backstage area when the Last State championship division of the day begins, for the purpose of drawing for performance order. Contestants who do not report for drawing will go to the back of the drawing order and someone else will draw for them.
- Contestants must be ready to take the stage immediately after the previous contestant completes their performance and the Emcee announces your name. If you are not ready, you will lose your chance to compete and your entry fee will not be reimbursed.
- Contestants or accompanists are prohibited from singing or audible augmentation of tunes.
- Contestants may talk to the audience to establish stage presence, but, too much talk, jokes, introductions, etc., may adversely affect your score.
- Judges will watch and hear the entire performance from the front of the stage, in order to view stage presence.
- Appropriate and professional attire is encouraged and may affect scoring.

THERE IS 7 MINUTE TIME LIMIT, we will give an obvious 6 minute warning, but if you go over seven minutes you will be disqualified.

- Contestant may use a maximum of 2 accompanists. Accompanist instruments shall play only rhythm. Accompanists playing lead or harmony parts will penalize the fiddle contestant's score.
- If contestant breaks a string, they may continue or stop. If they continue, tunes will be judged as played. If the fiddler stops, he/she will be allowed reasonable time to replace the string, and begin with that tune, and complete his/her program. The seven minute time limit will be adjusted to the start of that tune. This rule will apply only to the fiddler and not the accompanists. This rule will apply to any major mechanical failure of the fiddle or bow that would render the instrument unplayable, at the judge's discretion.
- In the case of a tie for first place in this contest, the tied contestants will be required to come back to the stage and play one more tune as a tie breaker tune. It will be a Fast tempo tune, different than the first round tune, and contestant will have a 3 minute time limit. A contestant is prohibited from playing any tune more than one time in the “Hot Bow” Contest. If a tie still exists after the first tiebreaker tune, each contestant involved in the tie shall play another tiebreaker round and the judges will determine what tempo to be played. This process will continue until a winning score is attained.
- **This Contest is limited to six contestants.** Entries will be taken on a first come, first served basis. If all participants secure spots with online registration prior to the event weekend, no onsite registrations will be accepted.
- **If the contest does not have at least three contestants, the contest will be cancelled, and prize monies will**

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not be paid out.

- In the event a discrepancy occurs that has not been covered by these rules, Judges will utilize the AZ State Championship rules to determine procedures.

2. Musical Styles, Material:

- **This is a FIDDLE contest, not a violin recital!** Swing, Old Time, Country, Bluegrass, Appalachian, Irish or western are all acceptable genre to draw from. Traditional, recognizable, melodies will be preferred over newer compositions.

3. The following personnel are ineligible.

- Contestants who have won the “Masters, Hot Bow” competition three times previously, will be ineligible for one year from the last win.
- Members of the Payson Old Time Fiddle & Acoustic Celebration production staff - volunteer or paid.

4. Judging Criteria:

- Rhythm and Timing - Judges will listen for Even, consistent timing. Tunes played at dance-able tempos are preferred over those not.
- Tone quality, clarity, and general command of the instrument.
- Creativity
- Originality - Fiddling Ability & Showmanship are more desirable than technical perfection.
- Stage Presence
- Judges for the **“Hot Bow”** contest will be the same three judges that are judging the Az. State championships, plus 2 more. In the “Hot Bow” competition, the high and low scores, of the 5 judges, will be thrown out and the remaining 3 scores will be utilized for total scores.

5. Registration:

- Entry fee for this competition is \$25.
- Registrations will be accepted online and onsite. After six contestants are registered, registration is officially closed. **HOWEVER, as stated earlier, there is a 8-contestant limit and a 3-contestant minimum!**
- Pre-Registration fees are refundable, for extenuating circumstances, if you notify us that you need to withdraw by phone, or in person, at the Payson Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Office (1000 W. Country Club Dr. Payson, AZ. 85541, 928-472-5110), before Sept. 8, 5:00 pm.
- Pre-Registration must be completed online at www.paysonrimcountry.com/fiddle

6. Finality:

Decisions by the judges will be final. Contestants may be allowed to view their score sheets, after the contest is over, upon request. Judges are encouraged to provide comments to provide constructive feedback to contestants.

7. Recording Rights:

All commercial recording rights are reserved and shall become the property of the Town of Payson. Signing of the registration form by contestant acknowledges such recording rights and acceptance of all rules and regulations of the Payson **“Hot Bow”** Competition.

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Find more information, including registration and weekend schedule at paysonrimcountry.com/fiddle