



# **FIDDLING & BACKUP** **INFORMATION**

## **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Lorain County Fair Fiddle Contest**

**Saturday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018**



### **Fiddlers**

- Beginner division contestants will play 2 tunes: Hoedown & Waltz
- All other divisions will play 3 tunes: Hoedown, Waltz, & Tune-of-Choice
- Tune Definitions/Descriptions:
  - **Hoedown** – A “fast” and lively tune, in 2/4 or 4/4 time, suitable for square dancing.
  - **Waltz** – A “slow” tune, in 3/4 time, suitable for waltzing.
  - **Tune-of-Choice** – Any traditional type of fiddle tune with a danceable rhythm (although a tune with a different ‘flavor’ than your hoedown or waltz is preferred.)
- No tunes are banned (other than medley-style selections) and no preference will be given to any one style of fiddling over another, as long as fiddlers stay within traditional fiddling styles.
- In the event of an unavoidable problem while playing (such as string breakage or slipping, etc.) you will be allowed to start over with the tune that you were playing.
- All music should be memorized - no sheet music should be used. (Exceptions can be made for the Beginner division.)
- If there is a tie, contestants may be asked to play one additional (new) tune in order to resolve the tie or the judges may decide the tie by vote.

### **Backup**

- Up to 2 accompanists are allowed.
- Scores will not be based on the presence or absence of an accompanist.
- Solo fiddling is welcome.
- Any acoustic instrument suitable for an old-time dance is welcome – guitar, mandolin, banjo, cello, accordion, dobro, bass, harmonica, dulcimer, autoharp, spoons, washboard, zither, bones, kazoo, jug, saw, etc. (no drums).
- Contestant may have a 2nd violin as backup, but the 2nd fiddler must play chords or backup (no melody or twin fiddling).
- Accompanists are not allowed to take leads, play the melody, or play a harmony part with the fiddler, but must play only chords or rhythmic back-up.
- The contestant must lead at all times.
- There might only be one single stage mike that people will have to play around; just like the old time folks did it.
- The accompanists should never be so loud as to drown out the fiddle contestant.