

CGMFA 2013 Competition Rules

1. A contestant must be a Canadian Citizen, or have been a permanent resident of Canada for the two years immediately preceding the competition. Provincial representatives must have been permanent residents of their respective provinces as of December 31st of the final qualifying year.
 2. There are three (3) possible ways to be eligible for entry into the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Competition in any given year.
 - a) By invitation from the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddle Association, based on provincial/territorial selections. Five (5) contestants may be invited from each, in this scenario.
 - b) By finishing in the top eleven (11) of the previous year in the CGM. (If you also qualify under rule 2a, you will be included as one of your provincial/territorial selections as well. If you only qualify in rule 2b, and not in rule 2a, you are not included in your provincial/territorial selection but do qualify as a previous year finalist).
 - c) If you are a past champion of the CGM, (since its inception), you are now automatically eligible to compete every year for the rest of your life if you so wish but must enter by the specified date, each year.
- With the three possible ways of entry into the contest, now it is very possible that more than five (5) contestants from each province/territory will be entered in any given year. Contestants must hold membership in the Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Association and be in good standing.
3. Contestants must be ready at the beginning of the competition. The order of play will be determined by draw during registration on the morning of the competition.
 4. Pillars of the Competition:

The Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Association considers the competition to have three pillars. In essence, the competition:

 - a) Emphasizes traditional fiddling;
 - b) Represents Canadian fiddling styles; and
 - c) Embraces the regional diversity of Canadian fiddling.
 5. Specific Rules for Preliminaries:
 - a) Each contestant must play a Waltz (3/4 time), Jig (6/8 time), one of a Reel, Breakdown or Hornpipe (2/4 time) and a Tune of Choice. These tunes can be played in any order in which the contestant wishes to play them. The tune of choice should be something other than a waltz, jig or reel.
 - b) Each contestant will have five (5) minutes to complete the four tunes. This time limit will be strictly adhered to.
 - c) Judging will cease immediately upon the expiration of this time limit.
 - d) In the event of a tie for eleventh place, the tied contestants will be required to play over again. The contestant must play a Waltz, Jig and one of a Reel, Breakdown or Hornpipe (three tunes). The tunes played during the preliminary round may be repeated or different tunes may be played. The choice is up to the contestant. These tunes can be played in any order.
 6. The top eleven (11) contestants will be chosen for the finals and must be ready at the start of the Competition Finals that evening. Contestants will draw for playing position on stage immediately after the top eleven (11) are announced.
 7. Specific Rules for Finals:
 - a) Finalists must play four (4) contrasting tunes. Finalists may play tunes from their preferred repertoire and comfort zone which showcases the contestant's skill, technical ability, and musicality.
 - b) Competitors will play four contrasting pieces, being one piece from each of the following three categories:

Category 1: Waltz, Aire

Category 2: March (6/8), Jig

Category 3: Reel (2/4 or 4/4), Hornpipe, Strathspey, Polka, Clog, Two-Step

Category 4: and Competitor's choice - Competitors will play one further piece of his/her choice of a type not previously played from Category 1, 2, or 3
 - c) Selections will represent the three pillars of the Competition as outlined in Rule 4 above.
 - d) Recognized fiddle styles include: Country, Old Time, Cape Breton, Swing, Métis, Bluegrass, French Canadian Etc. Contrasting tunes can be played in one style (e.g. four contrasting Old-time tunes) or in any number of a variety of styles (e.g. Old-time waltz, Irish polka, Cape Breton jig and Bluegrass show-tune). **Classical, jazz, blues and other non traditional fiddle styles are not acceptable for this contest.**
 - e) Finalists must not play the same tunes that they played in the preliminaries. Playing the same tunes will result in disqualification.
 - f) Each contestant will have five (5) minutes to complete the four tunes. The time limit will be strictly adhered to. Judging will cease upon the expiration of this time limit.
 - g) In the event of a tie for 1st, 2nd or 3rd, the tied contestants must play three (3) more contrasting tunes with a time limit of four (4) minutes. Contestants will not be allowed to repeat any tunes that they played in previous rounds.
 8. Judges' decision will be final.
 9. Any contestant winning the contest three (3) years in a row (consecutively), will have to step out of the competition the following year, for 1 year.
 10. Contestants may have two (2) accompanists. A house piano accompanist will be provided. Clogging your feet is acceptable and is not considered to be one of the accompanists.
 11. Accompanists must chord only.
 12. No electrical amplifiers or pick-ups will be permitted. Microphones will be on stage for the contestants' use. **NOTE: Microphones will only be adjusted, if necessary, by staff.**
 13. In the event of an accident (broken string, P.A. problems, etc.) contestants may replay, at the discretion of the judges, starting with the tune where the problem commenced.
 14. Entries to the contest must be received by the date specified. Entries received after the deadline may not be accepted.
 15. Failure on the part of the contestant to abide by any of these rules will result in disqualification.
- Here are some criteria that judges will be listening for:** Intonation
Technical Ability - Danceability Overall Accuracy - Emotion & Feeling
- Variety of Tunes** (from one specific fiddle style or a variety of styles): The CGMFA understands that not all fiddle styles lend themselves to dancing and if you play such a tune, you will not be penalized for this. With that being said, dancing and fiddling go hand in hand with most styles, so adding some danceable tunes is recommended.
- Guideline on Improvisation:** Competitors may use improvisation while preserving the meter and fundamental structure of the piece. **The CGMFA does not encourage excessive improvisation.** If improvisation is used, competitors will be judged on the extent to which improvisation is effectively employed in light of the three pillars of the Competition.