



Texas State Championships

Banjo • Mandolin • Guitar

2021 Contest Rules

Eligibility

- Contests are open to the first 10 eligible Texas residents who register and pay the registration fee. Contestants must present valid proof of Texas residency. All contest judge and administrator decisions relating in any way to the Championships are final and binding in all respects.
- No person who placed 1st in the past 3 contest years (2017-2019) or who won the National Championship at Winfield in the past 5 contest years (2015-19) may compete on the same instrument in 2021.
- Only acoustic instruments are permitted, with no use of pickups or amplification, and the instrument must be played into the microphone provided.

Sign-in Requirement

- Failure to sign in 30 minutes before contest time will result in forfeiture of contest slot.
- During this time, contestants will receive instructions, draw for order to play, and have photos taken.

Number of tunes

- Contestants should be prepared to play **four** instrumental tunes.
- Two tunes will be played in the first round and, if selected as a finalist, two more in second round.
- A “medley” of tunes is not allowed and will disqualify the contestant if played.

Time Limit

- Maximum playing time is limited to a total of 5 minutes per contestant for each round.
- Re-tuning between songs is permitted, but time spent re-tuning counts toward total time allowed.

Accompaniment

- Accompaniment by one acoustic rhythm player is allowed but not required.

Banjo Style: 3-finger

- This banjo championship is for 5-string banjos played in 3-finger style. No other banjo styles (such as clawhammer, frailing, Dixieland, etc.) are permitted in this contest.

Guitar Style: Flat picking

- Playing with a flat pick is required for this competition - finger picking style is not allowed.
- 6-string and 12-string acoustic guitars are allowed.
- Altered tuning of the low E (6th) string is permitted.
- No other variance from standard tuning is permitted.
- Partial capos depressing some, but not all, strings on the same fret are not allowed.

Photo and Video Consent. By participating in any one or more of the 2021 Texas State Championship contests, each contestant (or their parent or guardian, if applicable) grants a perpetual royalty-free license to each of the sponsors of the 2021 Texas State Championship, the Bluegrass Heritage Foundation, and each of their respective affiliated entities, assignees, and successors (the “Sponsoring Parties”) to (a) interview, photograph, or otherwise capture such contestant’s image, both in still and motion pictures, (b) record such contestant’s voice, separately and/or in synchronization with images, by any means known or hereafter discovered, and (c) use and duplicate such photographs or other images, whether in print, videotape, digital, or other formats, and reproduce such contestant’s voice, separately or together with such contestant’s name and images for publicity, advertising, and archival purposes.