

vfma | Virginia Folk Music Association

Rules and Regulations Forms

Rules and Regulations:

1. All entrants must be a resident of Virginia. All entrants must use the sound system provided by the VFMA.
2. Entry fee included with the purchase of an admission ticket to the event. Registration ends at midnight 12 AM, September 30th the year of the competition. In the event categories are not contested by 3 entries as of this deadline, no contest will be held nor prizes awarded. In the event a minimum of 3 entries are not reached in all categories the event will be cancelled.
3. All entrants will be judged by the point systems set and approved by the VFMA, based on musical ability, showmanship, appearance, and audience appeal.
4. No person or group entering the bluegrass contest can enter the country competition, if held, the same year.
5. First place band winner must sit out for one year before entering that category again.
6. No contestant may enter the competition with more than one band. Contestants shall enter no more than three categories, including band.
7. Instrumentalists must keep the lead at all times or be disqualified. Vocalists must keep lead at all times. However, harmony can be used in portions of the song, not the entire song.
8. Bands will play a two (2) song set, with each song no longer than approx. 4 minutes. Individual contestants will perform one number. Medley's not encouraged.
9. Each contestant or group must be prepared to go onstage within 3 minutes of call.
10. A three minute song time limit with overtime penalized. Over four minutes, you will be disqualified.
11. All persons who enter the contest agree that pictures, tapes, or any other information may be used by the VFMA as the VFMA chooses, for publicity and promotion of its events, etc.
12. Junior Entertainer Division individuals cannot enter adult categories with the exception of the band category.
13. No backup band will be provided.
14. A band is defined as being composed of at least 4 members playing bluegrass instruments (acoustic guitar, mandolin, fiddle, etc.) A guitar, banjo and a bass is the minimum required.
15. Electric instruments are not allowed in bluegrass contest. Electric bass may be used in special situations.
16. No electronic devices may be used to duplicate any instrument sound.
17. No pre-recorded musical backup will be allowed in any category.
18. The decision of the judges is final. First place winners will be the declared VA state champions.
19. VFMA Board members may not and DO NOT participate in any category, as a judge or musician.
20. First place Champion winners agree to come back the following year, for no fee, either to the festival or the contest, to play one show which will be the choice of the VFMA.
21. Preregistered and pre-paid bands will be allowed to pick a time slot. First come, first serve. Depending on the time slots available. Preregistration must be before August 15th of the current year.

I (We) agree to the rules and regulations as written above: _____

All forms can be mailed or emailed to the contest coordinator, Josh Grigsby at joshgrigsby841@gmail.com, or can be printed out and brought in the day of the contest. Forms will be supplied the day of the competition, and are also available on vafolkmusic.org. Bluegrass competition sanctioned by the Governor of Virginia. First, second, and third place in all categories receive trophies. Questions? Feel free to contact us at vafolkmusic@yahoo.com, or find us online at vafolkmusic.org.