



# Virginia Folk Music Association

## Rules and Regulations

1. Entrants must be a resident of Virginia or part of a Virginia based band
2. All entrants must use the sound system provided by the VFMA.
3. 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.** If a category does not receive at least 3 entries as of this deadline, no contest will be held nor prizes awarded in that category. In the event a minimum of 3 entries are not reached in any category including the band category, then the contest portion of the festival, which is held on the final day, will be cancelled.
4. All entrants will be judged by the point systems set and approved by the VFMA, based on musical ability, showmanship, appearance, and audience appeal. **Points are awarded as follows:**  
**Musicianship= 0 to 70%: Showmanship= 0 to 10%: Appearance= 0 to 10%: Audience Response= 0 to 10%**
5. No person or group entering the bluegrass contest can enter the country competition, if held, the same year.
6. First place band winner must sit out for one year before entering that category again.
7. No contestant may enter the competition with more than one band. Contestants shall enter no more than three categories, including band.
8. 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 but not for the entire song.
9. 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.
10. Each contestant or group must be prepared to go onstage within 3 minutes of call.
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 plus one more instrument is the minimum required.
15. Electric instruments are not allowed in bluegrass contest. Acoustic Electrics and "Stick" basses are allowed.
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. The band winning the Championship will be offered a slot in the VFMA festival in the subsequent year.

Prize money: 1<sup>st</sup> Band = \$1,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> Band = \$500, 3<sup>rd</sup> Band = \$250: 1<sup>st</sup> Individual (all categories) = \$50

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](mailto:joshgrigsby841@gmail.com), Forms are available on [virginiafolkmusic.org](http://virginiafolkmusic.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](mailto:vafolkmusic@yahoo.com), or find us online at [vafolkmusic.org](http://vafolkmusic.org).*