

U. S. Scottish Fiddling Revival, Ltd.

The Sanctioning of Scottish FIRE Judges

Application Process

1. In order to be considered to become a FIRE judge, the following list of prerequisites must be met:
 - a. Prize-winning competitive experience in the Open class of the US. National Scottish Fiddling Championship or the equivalent
 - b. Demonstrated teaching experience/ability
 - c. Demonstrated analytical ability, communication skills, integrity, and professionalism
2. To apply for consideration, a prospective candidate should contact or have been contacted by the FIRE Board. The candidate will be sent an application asking the following questions:
 - a. Why do you want to become a judge?
 - b. Why do you think you should become a judge?
 - c. What is your competition experience?
 - d. What is your teaching experience?
3. The FIRE Board will review each candidate according to the above criteria, and all candidates will receive a response approving/denying his/her request with reasons.
4. Extraordinary circumstances will receive consideration on a case-by-case basis.

Sanctioning Process

1. Suitable candidates will be invited to attend a training seminar for prospective judges. The training seminar will conclude with an adjudication examination.
2. FIRE will host a judging training seminar and judging adjudication examinations for qualified candidates who wish to become members of the FIRE Judging Panel.
 - a. Such training will happen in conjunction with a US National Scottish Fiddling Competition OR through an agreed-upon venue/online video conferencing.
 - b. Training will be conducted as scheduled by the Scottish FIRE Board.
 - c. Candidates approved for training must be members of Scottish FIRE and must meet the musical requirements as defined in the Application Process.
3. Those who pass their examination shall serve an apprenticeship prior to being sanctioned as judges.
4. Candidates who have served their apprenticeship shall affirm their commitment to the judge's Code of Conduct before their name is added to the list of sanctioned judges.

5. Once candidates have successfully served their apprenticeship, as demonstrated by the recommendations of the judges with whom they worked during their shadow-judging, they may be recommended to the FIRE Board for official sanctioning.
6. Once officially sanctioned, new judges must remit a brief bio and contact information to the FIRE webmaster so that their information may be added to the judges list on the FIRE website.

“Shadow-Judging” Apprenticeship Program

1. The purpose of the apprenticeship period is to enable candidates to garner actual experience before judging a competition where the results of their adjudication shall be the official contest results. This will allow for the development of:
 - a. a close familiarity with the judging rubric
 - b. the facility to evaluate different Scottish regional styles alongside each other without bias
 - c. the development of helpful, pedagogically and educationally sound comments,
2. The Apprentice Judge’s scores will not count for the official results.
3. The Apprentice Judge’s scores are not to be shared with the competitors in any capacity. Any “words of advice” for a competitor must be sought out by the competitor and may only be given through conversation.
4. The Apprentice Judge shall shadow-judge alongside a sanctioned FIRE Judge at a regional competition.
 - a. Prior to the day of the regional competition, the Apprentice Judge must seek permission of both the regional competition steward/organizer and the contracted FIRE sanctioned judge in order to serve as an apprentice judge for that competition.
5. The Apprentice Judge must shadow-judge a minimum of three regional competitions alongside three different sanctioned FIRE Judges. If traveling to a regional competition is an issue, arranging a type of video conferencing of the competition will also be accepted.
6. The Apprentice Judge’s results do not have to exactly match those of the sanctioned judge. However, the Apprentice Judge must be able to make a convincing case to the overseeing FIRE-Sanctioned Judge why he/she scored the results in the manner in which they were.
7. Each sanctioned FIRE Judge with whom the Apprentice Judge works with in the shadow-judging capacity must write a recommendation to the Scottish FIRE Board detailing the grounds upon which they believe the Apprentice Judge is either ready to be fully sanctioned or if the Apprentice Judge needs additional shadow-judging experience prior to sanctioning.

Temporary Sanctioning

1. If, at any time, a sanctioned FIRE judge is needed by a regional FIRE competition, and a currently sanctioned FIRE judge is not reasonably available, a local Scottish fiddler of similar stature to that of a sanctioned FIRE judge may be granted temporary sanctioned status. Temporary sanctioning is granted in advanced of the competition by contacting the FIRE VP of Competitions. Temporary sanctioning lasts for the duration of the FIRE regional competition for which it was petitioned.
2. If a Scottish fiddler from outside the United States is being brought in for the National Competition, the fiddler must have BOTH an established international performing reputation of traditional Scottish fiddling and an exemplary teaching reputation. Such a person's name may be submitted to the FIRE VP of Competitions in order to be granted a temporary courtesy sanctioning.
3. If a Scottish fiddler from outside the United States is being brought in for a regional competition, the fiddler must have BOTH an established international performing reputation of traditional Scottish fiddling and an exemplary teaching reputation. Such a person's name may be submitted to the FIRE VP of Competitions in order to be granted a temporary courtesy sanctioning. However, a single FIRE-sanctioned co-judge is required to judge alongside the guest judge.
4. Repeated temporary sanctioning is not permitted.

Judge Sanctioning Maintenance

1. Judges must maintain their membership in FIRE.
2. Judges must abide by the Scottish FIRE Judge Code of Conduct.
3. Judges may voluntarily give up their status as a sanctioned judge at any time. Their information will be removed from the official list on the FIRE website and they will no longer be able to function as FIRE sanctioned judges at FIRE competitions. If, former judges would like to be reinstated, they will have to contact the FIRE Board in order to reaffirm their commitment to the FIRE Judge's Code of Conduct before their name is once more added to the official list of sanctioned judges.

Removal of Sanctioning

1. If, at any time, a sanctioned FIRE judge is found to be violating the FIRE Judge's Code of Conduct, his/her sanctioning may be removed by the Scottish FIRE Board. Their information will be removed from the official list on the FIRE website and they will no longer be able to function as FIRE sanctioned judges at FIRE competitions. However, if a judge whose sanctioning was removed would like to be reinstated, he/she will have to contact the FIRE Board in order to go through the sanctioning process again. In his/her application, the applicant will also be required to address the reasons why the sanctioning was lifted and how he/she has been or will be able to address this problem in the future.

SCOTTISH FIRE JUDGE CODE OF CONDUCT:

1. Judges shall uphold the Rules and Regulations of Scottish Fiddling Revival, Inc.
2. Judges shall present themselves in a professional manner
 - a. to Games organizers, through their correspondence and other communications, and shall appear on time for their assignments.
 - b. to the competitors and to any audience members
 - c. by dressing in an appropriate manner for the event.
3. Judges shall uphold their responsibility to keep their own views about other judges to themselves, even when they disagree.
4. Judges shall not speak negatively about other competitions, competitors, Games, Scottish fiddling camps, regional styles of Scottish fiddling, or competing in general.
5. Judges shall endeavor to perform their duties in a timely fashion so as to enable competitions to be concluded in a reasonable length of time.
6. Judges shall not discuss the results of a contest prior to the official disclosure of results.
7. Judges shall make themselves open to competitors to explain the results of a competition and their comments on a competitor's score sheet.
8. Judges shall not use their position to solicit students or other paid opportunities.
9. Judges shall not adjudicate members of their immediate family.
10. From time to time situations may arise where a judge may be called upon to judge his/her students, fellow band members, etc. in competition. The judge should make a reasonable effort to avoid these situations, however, if it is unavoidable, the judge should make every effort to judge in an obviously un-biased manner.
11. "Reasonable effort" means the affected judge should notify the competition Steward as quickly after the conflict is discovered as possible. Judges will be considered to have abided by the spirit of this rule even if the conflict cannot be resolved.

Any reported infractions will be investigated by the FIRE VP of Competitions and, if deemed legitimate, will be referred to the FIRE Board for appropriate action.

I agree to abide by the above Scottish FIRE Judges' Panel Code of Conduct.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name (please print): _____