

MISS RODEO USA NATIONAL PAGEANT RULES AND REGULATIONS

Objective

The objective of the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant is to select a national representative for the International Professional Rodeo Association, its sponsors and supporters. Miss Rodeo USA should be able to speak intelligently and with authority on the sport of rodeo, IPRA policies, her sponsors and the world around her.

Contestant and Miss Rodeo USA Qualifications

- Must not be less than 18 years of age nor more than 26 year of age on at the time of the beginning of the annual Miss Rodeo USA Pageant.
- Shall never have been married, have had a child or have a minor dependents.
- Former Miss Rodeo USA titleholders are not eligible.
- Must be a United States citizen.
- May represent a rodeo, stock contractor, producer or other sponsor (examples: Miss H/K, Miss T-W Western Wear, Miss Alpine Rodeo, etc)

Contestant and Miss Rodeo USA Disqualifications

- Contestant attempts to influence or trouble any of the judges.
- Family or personal acquaintance of the contestant attempts to influence or trouble any of the judges.
- Contestant fails to fulfill obligations as directed by the Miss Rodeo USA Directors.
- Contestant displays any conduct detrimental to the title of Miss Rodeo USA or the IPRA.

Pageant Rules

- The contestants must be chaperoned at all times. The contestants will be under the supervision of the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant chaperones from the time the pageant begins at the orientation until the time the pageant ends with the coronation of the new Miss Rodeo USA and the following awards ceremony. The chaperones will escort the contestants to and from all functions during the pageant week.
- Contestants must attend all Miss Rodeo USA events with the group.
- Contestants will abide by all official pageant directives.
- Most of the Miss Rodeo USA functions are open to family and friends but contestants must always sit together with their chaperones.

Judging

The Miss Rodeo USA contestants will be judged in many areas during the national pageant. The scheduled activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Personal interviews
- Impromptu speeches
- Prepared speeches
- Modeling (Style Shows)
- Media activities
- Written exam

- Horsemanship
- Luncheon and Dinners
- Rodeo performances
- Various entertainment events

Judging Criteria

- Horsemanship 30%

The horsemanship division accounts for 30% of the total judging. The aim of this division is to select the candidate who rates highest in her knowledge, riding and showmanship abilities.

The purpose of the horsemanship division is to judge the candidate on one's ability to ride a horse, including but not limited to equitation skills, hands, and ability to sit a horse, and one's ability to properly tack a horse. The judges will not consider the horses and the equipment, which are provided for the contestants.

An important aspect of horsemanship division is the way a queen presents herself – appearance and personality are a must in this division as well as riding ability.

The horsemanship competition consists of a set pattern provided by the Miss Rodeo USA Association, a second pattern delivered on the day of the competition, and a brief in-arena interview with the judges. The reigning Miss Rodeo USA will demonstrate the required horsemanship pattern prior to the competition. The contestants will be allowed to watch the draw horses warm up before the competition begins. Equal time will be permitted for each contestant to perform the set patterns.

After performing the maneuvers of the first pattern and speaking with the judges in the arena, the contestant will perform a queen run/presentation run before exiting.

The second pattern will be delivered to the contestants in written/diagram format the morning of the horsemanship competition. They will have equal time to study the pattern before executing it on their second draw horse.

The contestants should dress as they would if they were Miss Rodeo USA riding at a rodeo during her reign. Chaps and spurs are not permitted. The contestant should not wear anything that will inhibit the judges' view of her hands or seat. The contestant should be sure that her hat would not come off during her presentation of the horsemanship patterns.

Safety remains the number one priority during the Miss Rodeo USA horsemanship competition. If a contestant requires a saddle swap that allows for the proper length of stirrups to ensure a safe ride, the MRUSA Association will comply. However, stirrup length will be the only reason we will switch saddles for contestants.

Should an unfair situation arise through no fault of the contestant, a re-ride can be granted and the scoring done on the re-ride. This must be a unanimous agreement between judges and the Miss Rodeo USA Board of Directors.

The judges reserve the right to request additional horsemanship maneuvers or rounds. For example, mounting/dismounting, presenting a flag, equitation round, etc.

- Public Speaking 25%

The public speaking division accounts for 25 percent of the total judging. The aim of this division is to select the candidate who rates highest in public speaking events. Those events include the following:

- Platform Speech: Each contestant presents a speech on a personal platform. This speech is timed and must be between one and two minutes in length. Deductions in scores due to time specifications neglect are at the discretion of each individual judge. Judges will be notified of the speech time but a sound/alarm will not sound.
- State Speech: Each contestant presents a speech about their home state, town or sponsor. This speech is timed and must be between two and three minutes in length. Deductions in scores due to time specifications neglect are at the discretion of each individual judge. Judges will be notified of the speech time but a sound/alarm will not sound.
- Impromptu Questioning: Each contestant will answer impromptu questions about either current events, rodeo rules and regulations or situational issues. These questions typically arise during one or more of the scheduled modeling events.

Public speaking is judged on the same guidelines set forth under the personality division.

- Personality 20%

The personality division accounts for 20 percent of the total judging. The aim of this division is to select the candidate who rates highest in:

- Education
- Conversational ability in various areas
- Sense of humor
- Personality appeal – ability to project yourself to others on short appearances
- Rodeo and overall knowledge
- Genuine interest in other people – noticeable consideration of others
- Projection – ability to project your personality whether it be from horseback or before any audience.
- Disposition
- General culture
- Grammar
- Quality of voice expression – this includes enunciation voice inflection

- Appearance 20%

The appearance division accounts for 20% of the total judging. The aim of this division is to select the candidate who rates highest in:

- Attractiveness and facial beauty
- Figure
- Grooming – This includes neatness and cleanliness in every detail such as complexion, hands, hair, boots, hats, etc. Meticulous care in general grooming is essential for contestant to be considered for Miss Rodeo USA.
- Photogenic Quality
- Posture
- Poise and lady-like behavior in any situation
- Clothing (fit and style)
- General Appearance

- Written Examination 5%

The written examination division accounts for 5% of the total judging. The written examination is a cumulative examination covering some, if not all, of the following areas:

- Knowledge of the Miss Rodeo USA Association, including its administration, its regulations, its contestants and former winners (you don't have to know them all) and its sponsors
- Knowledge of the International Pro Rodeo Association, including its administration, contestants, event rules and sponsors and the International Finals Rodeo
- Knowledge of current events in our nation and the world
- General knowledge of livestock and care of livestock (including typical illnesses) and horsemanship/rodeo tack

The written examination is designed to test whether a particular contestant has the knowledge necessary to handle the role of Miss Rodeo USA the day she is crowned. It is NOT a test of trick questions. It will only cover information that is readily available through the MRUSA office/website, the IPRA office/website, the IFR website, general veterinary/horse care sources, general tack sources, and typical sources for current events.

Miss Rodeo USA goes to work only minutes after she is crowned. She must be able to speak intelligently about the organizations and sponsors she represents and the world around her.

Scores

The scores of each contestant will be determined by the judges during all the pageant activities. The scores in the different divisions will be multiplied by the appropriate percentage factor and totaled.

In the event of a tie for the first place, the contestant with the highest score in horsemanship will be declared the winner. If this still leaves a tie, the contestant with the highest score in personality will be declared the winner. If this still leaves a tie, the contestant with the highest score in appearance will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, each judge will cast a secret ballot for the winner from the contestants who are tied. The contestant with the most votes will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, a designated Judge will declare the winner.

All score sheets are tallied by a Certified Public Accountant and will be kept on file for a period of one month. In the event of a dispute, the claimant may submit a grievance. If a grievance is filed, the scores will be opened for verification of the results.

At the culmination of the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant, each contestant will receive their personal scores and any comments the judges provided via mail no more than 30 days following the pageant.