

## **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 sponsor's and the world around her.

### ***Contestant and Miss Rodeo USA Qualifications***

- Pageant Representation: May represent a rodeo, stock contractor, producer, or other sponsor (examples: Miss H/K, Miss T-W Western Wear, Miss Alpine Rodeo, etc)
- Age: I will not be less than 19 years of age, nor will I be more than 27 years of age, on the date of the beginning of the National Pageant. I will provide a copy of a government issued identification (such as a birth certificate, driver's license, passport, etc.) verifying my age
- Residency and Citizenship: I am a resident and citizen of the United States of America.
- Education: I have obtained a high school diploma (or equivalent).
- Gender: I am female and have always been female.
- Marital Status: I am not currently married and have never been married. I have never participated in a situation where it could be determined that I am or have been married by common-law or cohabitated with another person in lieu of a marriage contract. I have never entered into a purported marriage ceremony or obtained a divorce or annulment of any true or purported marriage.
- Marital Engagement: I am not currently engaged, and I agree not to become publicly engaged during my term as Miss Rodeo USA.
- Parental/Guardian Status: I am not pregnant, nor have I ever given birth to or adopted any child. I am not the guardian of any person.
- Good Character: I am of good moral character. I have never committed or been involved in an act of moral turpitude.
- No Criminal Record: I have not been convicted or charged with any criminal action, regardless of whether a felony or misdemeanor (excluding minor traffic offenses). I agree to provide proof of any charge against me, or the resolution thereof, for any criminal action for which a penalty may be assessed.
- Health: I am in good health, and I do not have any health concerns which would prevent me from fully participating in this contest or from serving as Miss Rodeo USA, if selected.
- Substance Abuse: I do not use any illegal or controlled substances (other than prescription medications and then only in the manner prescribed). I do not abuse alcohol or other dangerous substances. I agree to submit to a random or targeted alcohol or drug test upon suspicion by MRUSA that I am or have been under the influence of alcohol or illegal substances during the National Pageant or during my term as Miss Rodeo USA, if selected.
- Contractual Obligations: I am not under any contractual obligation which would interfere with my ability to participate in this contest or interfere with my ability to perform as Miss Rodeo USA, if selected. I agree to provide copies of any, and all contracts to which I am a party if requested by MRUSA.
- No other Competitions: I do not currently hold a title from any pageant or competition that would interfere with my ability to serve as Miss Rodeo USA, if selected. I agree to notify MRUSA of any title I currently hold and agree to forfeit such title, if requested by MRUSA, if I am selected to serve as Miss Rodeo USA.
- No Competitions/Conflicts during the term of the agreement to serve as Miss Rodeo USA: I agree

that if I am chosen as Miss Rodeo USA, I will not enter any beauty, talent, modeling, or other such competition during my term as Miss Rodeo USA, nor will I make any public appearance of any kind without the express written consent of MRUSA.

- No Agent Status. I will not incur any bill, obligation, or liability on behalf of the MRUSA or the IPRA.
- No Other Acts Detrimental to Reputation: I have not engaged in any act, which if made public, would be reasonably likely to cause harm or damage to my reputation or to the goodwill and reputation of MRUSA/IPRA.
- If I have any concerns about the applicability of and of these provisions, I acknowledge I have been advised to discuss this with a representative of MRUSA prior to signing this agreement.
- Ability to Perform: To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing that will interfere with my ability to compete in this contest or to perform the obligations of Miss Rodeo USA, if selected.
- Any resolution of any questioned provision shall be documented in writing.

### ***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 Pageant Officials.
- Contestant displays any conduct detrimental to the title of Miss Rodeo USA or the IPRA.
- Contestant violates Cell Phone Usage Agreement (if presented by the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant)
- Contestant violates outside communication guidelines presented at Orientation, including but not limited to using hotel phones, using personal cell phones (outside of acceptable times approved by Miss Rodeo USA Pageant), or attempting to contact family/friends at unapproved times.
- Contestants must be in good financial standing according to the Miss Rodeo USA Association before Orientation or will not be permitted to compete (entry fees, ad money, hotel expenses, etc.).
- Contestant's behavior is inappropriate, offensive, or problematic to IPRA, MRUSA Officials, volunteers, judges, or other contestants - MRUSA Board of Directors will vote on disqualification. (If unanimous, contestant will be disqualified.)
- **NOTE: If contestant is disqualified for any reason, contestant will not receive any reimbursement for their participation. Including but not limited to entry fees or hotel expenses.**

### ***Pageant Rules***

- The contestants must always be chaperoned. 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.
- Contestant understands the communication limitations; including limited or no cell phone usage (to be explained at orientation), **NO gifts/deliveries** of any kind (flowers, cards, gifts, etc.) to contestant after pageant begins; speaking to family will only occur when Miss Rodeo USA Pageant officials allow it.
- The Miss Rodeo USA Association and Pageant officials reserve the right to search any contestant room under suspicion of violating pageant rules set forth by this agreement.
- It is the contestant's responsibility to communicate IN ADVANCE any dietary restrictions or medical needs. All medication or specific diet requirements that can be prepared in advance, must be done by contestant before Orientation (ie: prescription refills, over-the-counter medication, snacks, etc.) The Miss Rodeo USA Association will provide support in emergency situations only.

- Judges reserve the right to inquire to the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant Officials regarding contestant's behavior and attitude throughout the week
- Each contestant will be given equal time for events (interviews with judges, on camera, live on FB or otherwise) and will be timed to ensure equal opportunity.
- When questions are created for the contestants by the judges or the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant Officials, fairness regarding level of difficulty will always be a top priority.
- The Miss Rodeo USA Association will appoint a Judge Chaperone to oversee and guide judges through the pageant schedule. They DO NOT judge the contestants with score sheets, nor do they influence the judges in any way. They are critical to the organization of the pageant to answer questions of the judges, provide transportation, explain MRUSA Pageant events, etc. They also act as a Miss Rodeo USA Pageant delegate in the rare instance that a judge is acting in a questionable manner that would compromise the integrity of the pageant.

### ***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 no later than the morning 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 an equal amount of 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.

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- 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. Initiating a saddle swap will be at the discretion of the Miss Rodeo USA Pageant Officials.
- 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.
- Horse handlers will not voluntarily give information about a draw horse. However, they will answer any question the contestant asks to the best of their ability.

### **- 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. Notes or cue-cards will not be allowed.
- 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. Notes or cue-cards will not be allowed.
- Impromptu Questioning: Each contestant will answer impromptu questions which could be about 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,

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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.

All contestants will be granted equal time to complete the written examination.

#### **Scores**

The scores of each contestant will be determined by the judges during 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 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.