

## **CONTESTANT RULES**

- 1- Age limits are 13 through 21, inclusive. All contestants must be at least 13 years of age, and not more than 21 years of age at opening date of the Mid-South Fair. () **JR. DIVISION IS 9-12 YEARS INCLUSIVE**
- 2- Any act running over 4 minutes will be disqualified. An act is timed from the first vocal utterance in a vocal act, the first body movement in a dance act, and the entirety of any other act. **JR. DIVISION IS 3 MINUTES**
- 3- Acts using machetes, knives, etc. will not be accepted.
- 4- No fire, smoke, or smoke effect will be allowed on stage during the Mid-South Fair.
- 5- A contestant may compete only once in each different “Act category” **AS A SOLO OR AS A SMALL GROUP** There are a total of 4 solo categories and 7 group categories. **THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE NUMBER OF LARGE GROUPS IN WHICH A CONTESTANT MAY COMPETE.**
- 6- No member of a Grand Award-winning act may compete again in the same “Act Category”.
- 7- To Compete in the Sr. Division, you must receive an Invitation/Bid. Invitations/Bids are extended from a Sanctioned Preliminary Contest, A No-Go Preliminary Invitation or an At Large Bid extended by a Mid-South Fair Youth Talent Committee Official Representative. The description of the act must remain the same as invited (either at the Sanctioned Preliminary Contest, No Go Contest or an At Large Invitation/Bid). Members of an act may drop out without penalty, unless it changes the act from a group to a solo, but no members may be added without re-qualifying.
- 8- All props must be inanimate, with the exception of those used by a magician.
- 9- For contestants entered in any vocal act, accompaniment tracks with vocal utterances are strictly prohibited. This includes recorded live voices and voices that are produced and recorded synthetically (i.e. synthesizers or digitally sampled).
- 10- There must be no taps or blatant tap effects on a taped recording (or CD/ JUMP DRIVE) used by a tap dancer or a hard soled Irish style dancer. ( Just as in the vocal category you are not allowed to have the tap sound on a tape when that is what you are being judged on,,no taps enhancing a tap/hard soled dancer like no voices enhancing a vocalist).
- 11- In Instrumental Solo, the only accompaniment allowed is a live or taped acoustical piano. In piano solo, no accompaniment is allowed. In the use of any electronic keyboard, all sounds must be created live on stage. No pre- programmed music is allowed.
- 12- Bands or Instrumental groups may have no accompaniment. All sounds must be created live on stage.
- 13- Accompanists are permitted on stage but must not assume visual importance in the performance. **All accompanists will be confined to a specific area at the rear of the stage.**
- 14- All persons assuming visual importance in the act must meet the age qualification of the Youth Talent Contest.
- 15- An individual cannot be a part of an act at the Fair, if that individual does not appear in the act invited at the sanctioned preliminary contest, No Go Contest or by the extended At Large Invitation/Bid
- 16- Judges will be instructed to consider the appropriateness of material used in competition. The Youth Talent Committee recommends that all presentations be tasteful and appropriate for the contestant’s age and for a Family Entertainment Venue.
- 17- To compete at the Fair in the Sr. Division, you must receive an invitation from the Fair Representative at a Fair Sanctioned Contest. Finalists Acts from the proceeding year’s Fair will receive an automatic invitation in the same category for the next year’s Fair Contest. (The Finals will serve as the acts Fair Sanctioned Preliminary. The No Go Contest is a Fair Sanctioned Preliminary. The Mid South Fair Youth Talent Committee Representatives may also issue At Large Invitations/Bids at their sole discretion.

18- For Senior Division Only, the first place overall winner of a sanctioned preliminary contest will be guaranteed an invitation to compete in the Mid-South Fair Youth Talent Contest (providing eligibility). If the first-place winner of a preliminary contest is ineligible to enter the Mid-South Fair Youth Talent Contest, or has already received an invitation to the Fair, it is up to the Fair Representative as to which act or if any act will receive the official invitation. Jr. Division is open to the 1<sup>st</sup> 200 paid entries.

19- All contestants may only enter and exit from stage left and right. No act may exit or enter from the front, the audience or the back of the stage before, during or after the act.

20- Anything thrown off the stage at any time will be cause for immediate disqualification.

21.- Any act invited as a **vocal act** will be subject to disqualification if the act adds self-accompaniment as it changes the nature of the act to a variety act and therefore would have required the act to have re-qualified at the preliminary level. Likewise, a variety act cannot change category to a vocal act by dropping the accompaniment without re-qualifying at a preliminary or formally applying for and receiving a new At Large Invitation/Bid.

22.- All Variety acts that are a combination of two or more talents ( ie: song and dance or vocal and instrument) will be judged in equal parts for each individual talent. If there is a singer and a dancer, then the scores will be split equally between each talent.... 1-20 points for the vocal and 1-20 points for the dance for the maximum total of 40 points) This will insure that each portion of the variety act will carry its equal importance in the judges scoring.

**THERE BE CATEGORIES FOR:**

**VARIETY SOLO, SMALL VARIETY GROUP (2-3 MEMBERS) AND LARGE VARIETY GROUP (4 & OVER);**

**VOCAL SOLO, SMALL VOCAL GROUP (2-3 MEMBERS AND LARGE VOCAL GROUP (6& OVER); AND**

**DANCE SOLO, SMALL DANCE GROUP (2-3 MEMBERS) AND LARGE DANCE GROUP (4 & OVER).**

The following are policies in place for the Youth Talent Contest and will be strictly adhered to:

- ▶ Judges are not allowed to discuss contestants and/or acts with anyone other than those on the Judges panel. Please do not approach judges for explanations regarding their decisions. Anyone attempting to discuss an act with a judge before, during or after a contest will be disqualified.
- ▶ Any protest concerning rule violations must be made **prior to** the announcement of the winners. Once the winners are announced, the decisions of the judges at the Mid-South Fair Youth Talent Contests are final. This includes all MSF Daily Preliminary, Semi-Final, and Grand Final competitions. Studio Teachers should be responsible for control of parents and/or contestants. Violation of this rule may jeopardize the contestants' eligibility
- ▶ Individual scores will be posted for SR. age contestants for one (1) hour after the announcement of results for each contest. There will be a parent/teacher observer for each show to ensure the integrity of the results of each contest as to which acts will advance to SR Semi-Finals, SR Finals and of the 4 top Placement awards on SR. Finals. **NO SCORES WILL BE MAILED OR RELEASED. NO SCORES ARE POSTED OR RELEASED IN THE JUNIOR DIVISION.**
- ▶ The Youth Talent Policy Committee will not tolerate offensive conduct by participants, teachers, parents, or associates. Such conduct can result in future expulsion from the Mid-South Fair Youth Talent Contest. Acts of bullying will not be tolerated.

Judges scoring for Variety Acts will be divided and awarded between the individual talents performed to ensure that each talent is valued at one-half of the act. (ie: song and dance... vocal performance portion would receive up to 20 of the 40 points possible and the dance performance would receive up to 20 points of the 40 points possible.... Or Self Accompanied Vocalist... vocal performance up to 20 points and guitar accompaniment up to 20 points of the possible 40 total for the act)

► THE FOLLOWING ARE THE “**ACT CATEGORIES**” and their descriptions:

1. **VOCAL SOLO**: Shall consist of a solo performance by an individual vocalist. Instrumental accompaniment by others is allowed but must assume the pure character of accompaniment. No vocalist may play any musical instrument during the vocal performance. The test shall be whether the performance would stand alone if the accompaniment were removed.

2. **SMALL VOCAL GROUP**: Shall consist of from Two to Three (2-3) Vocalists ( DUET OR TRIO), male and/or female. Instrumental accompaniment by others is allowed but must assume the pure character of accompaniment. No vocalist may play any musical instrument during the vocal performance. The test shall be whether the performance would stand alone if the accompaniment were removed.

3. **LARGE VOCAL GROUPS**: Same rules as for Small Dance Group, except it shall consist of four (4) or more vocalists.

4. **DANCE SOLO**: Shall consist of a solo performance by one dancer. There must be no tap or blatant tap effects on a taped recording used by a dancer performing a tap dance or an Irish dance (hard soled). Accompanist are permitted on stage but must not assume visual importance. Vocal performance by a dancer will not be judged. Acrobatic or gymnastic movements are allowed.

5. **SMALL DANCE GROUP**: Shall consist of performance by as few as two and as many as three (2-3) dancers ( DUET OR TRIO) . There must be no tap or blatant tap effects on a taped recording used by a dancer performing a tap dance or an Irish dance (hard soled). Accompanist are permitted on stage but must not assume visual importance. Vocal performance by a dancer will not be judged. Acrobatic or gymnastic movements are allowed.

6. **LARGE DANCE GROUP**: Same rules as for Small Dance Group, except it shall consist of six (6) or more dancers.

7. **INSTRUMENTAL SOLO**: Shall consist of solo instrumental performance without vocal utterance. The only accompaniment allowed is a live or taped acoustical piano. In piano solo, NO accompaniment is allowed.

8. **INSTRUMENTAL GROUP/BAND**: \*\*\*\* Shall consist of any group of two or more instrumentalists, with or without vocalists, using amplified or non-amplified instruments and/or rhythm section (i.e., drums, acoustic or electric bass, acoustic piano or electric keyboard). No accompaniment is allowed. All performers on the stage must meet the age qualifications of the Youth Talent Contest. In the use of any electronic keyboard, the contestant must create all sounds live on stage. Pre-programmed music is not allowed.

9. **VARIETY SOLO**: Shall consist of a solo performance of a talent not described in other categories (i.e., magician), and is also intended to provide a proper showcase for those acts which are truly dependent on the display of multiple acts of equal importance. COMBINATION OF CATEGORIES (such as song and dance) IS ALLOWED, but the individual category rules will apply, and **each category will be given a score**. Vocals on any portion of a song and dance tape are not allowed. Performers who fit the description of another category may not appear in the Variety category. Category combinations must remain exactly as invited. **Vocalists who perform their own instrumental accompaniment will be placed in Variety.**

10. **SMALL VARIETY GROUP**: Shall consist of a performance by two to three (2-3) ( DUET OR TRIO) persons of a talent not described in other categories (i.e., magician), and is also intended to provide a proper showcase for those acts which are truly dependent on the display of multiple acts of equal importance. COMBINATION OF CATEGORIES (such as song and dance) IS ALLOWED, but the individual category rules will apply, and **each category will be given a score**. Vocals on any portion of a song and dance tape are not allowed. Performers who fit the description of another category may not appear in the Variety category. Category combinations must remain exactly as invited. **Vocalists who perform their own instrumental Accompaniment will be placed in Variety. (Unless you qualify as a band as set out above\*\*\*\*\*)**

11. **LARGE VARIETY GROUP:** Same rules as for Small Variety Group, except it shall consist of four (4) or more performers.

**FOR CONTESTANTS ENTERED IN ANY VOCAL CATEGORY, ACCOMPANIMENT TRACKS WITH VOCAL UTTERANCES ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED. THIS INCLUDED RECORDED LIVE VOICES AND VOICES THAT ARE PRODUCED AND RECORDED SYNTHETICALLY (i.e. Synthesizers and /or digitally sampled).**

**RULE FOR GROUPS ONLY::::: A Group in the Sr. Division or Jr. Division where there is at least one member who qualifies in that age group i.e.: ( Sr. Division 13-21 years of age) (Jr. Division 9-12 years of age) then the “*group act*” may include a younger person or persons in the group. No one may compete in a lower age category even as a member of a group. No one under the age of 9 may compete in any group. If it is in the Sr. Division “*the group act* “must be invited with all of the members, you may not add anyone after you have been invited without re-qualifying. NO SOLO ACT MAY COMPETE OUT OF THEIR AGE DIVISION.**

**NEW RULE AS OF 2022 FAIR**

**A contestant may only compete once in each of the categories in solo or Small Group (2-3) persons (Duet or Trio) but they may compete in any number of Large Group categories in any Large Group categories.**