

STANDING RULES FOR MR./MS./MISS/MsTER (NGRA ROYALTY)

NEVADA GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

SECTION 1: All entrants must be an active member of the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association in good standing a minimum of ninety (90) days prior to the scheduled competition and must be at least 18 years of age, proof required. All entrants must actually reside in the State of Nevada at the time application is made and at the time of the competition. Contestants for the Mr. and Miss categories will be male. Contestants for the Ms. and MsTer Category will be female.

SECTION 2: An individual who currently holds a Royalty or similar title from another organization will not be eligible to enter the competition, nor is any current NGRA titleholder eligible to compete or hold a similar title from any other organization during their reign.

SECTION 3: Application and entry fee must be submitted not less than sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled competition. Entry fee is non-refundable after the 60-day deadline. (See Exhibit 2)

SECTION 4: Mr., Ms., Miss and MsTer contestants shall be required to be present by the appointed call time at the start of each phase of the Royalty Competition. Failure to comply shall result in a five (5) point penalty per minute tardy, barring emergency situations (to be decided by the Competition Director.)

SECTION 5: Scoring will be done by a minimum of five (5) judges which have not actual or perceived conflict of interest with any contestant or competition officials. One of the judges shall be a current member of the board of directors. The judges' panel will be approved by the Board of Directors prior to the competition. Scores from each category will be accumulated after the high and low scores from each category have been thrown out and contestants receiving the most points will receive the titles.

SECTION 6: Judges shall use standardized scoring sheets.

SECTION 7: All contestants and competition officials shall neither consume nor be under the influence of intoxicating substances during any phase of the competition. The competition director shall define the competition phases and ensure that notice is given to the affected individuals prior to the competition.

SECTION 8: Each category (MR./MS./MISS/MsTER) may have a second runner-up, first runner-up and winner.

SECTION 9:

- A. All contestants will be judged in personal interview, western wear, entertainment, on stage public presentation, and spirit and community service. These categories may be changed by the Board of Directors pursuant to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- B. Western wear, public presentation and entertainment competition will be open to the public. The personal interview segment will be closed to the public.

SECTION 10: POINT VALUES

- A. Western Wear 25 points
- B. Personal Interview 50 points
- C. Entertainment 25 points
- D. On-Stage Public Presentation 25 points
- E. Spirit & Community Service 25 points

SECTION 11: COMPETITION GUIDELINES

A. Personal Interview - Judges will be looking for:

1. Poise
2. Confidence
3. Familiarity with gay rodeo, member associations, NGRA and its benefit to the gay community at large.
4. Casual western wear (Miss will appear in male attire; MsTer will appear in female attire).

****Question(s) will be determined by the current reigning NGRA Royalty and the Competition Director.****

B. Western Wear - Staged separately from entertainment competition.

1. Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer will model contemporary, formal or casual western fashions such as can be found in today's western wear catalogs or in a quality western store.
2. Miss may not wear stage costumes for the western wear competition.
3. Presentation/modeling is limited to stage and/or designated area to be determined by the Competition Director. Failure to comply will result in a two (2) point per judge penalty.

C. Entertainment - Talent competition will be a presentation of country/western in nature.

1. Five (5) minute time limit. Exceeding in the time limit will result in a five (5) point per minute penalty or portion of a minute.
2. Music selection, if any, shall be either on tape, CD or live. If selection is taped, the tape must be cued, with the selection being the only number on the tape.
3. Presentation shall be done solo and without props.
4. Audience will be asked not to tip during the presentation.
5. No props can be used. Props are any item not worn during the performance. Any item shed during the performance may not be touched again during the performance or it will be considered a prop. Preapproval of questionable items must be obtained from the Competition Director.
6. Performances are limited to stage and/or designated area to be determined by the Competition Director.

Failure to comply will result in a two (2) point per judge penalty.

D. Public Presentation - Contestant will be asked one (1) question on stage and will be judged on the following:

1. Poise
2. Stage Presence
3. Content of Answer
4. Confidence

****Question(s) will be determined by the current reigning NGRA Royalty and the Competition Director.****

E. Spirit and Community Support

1. This category is designed encourage public participation in fundraising activities and support for NGRA events and to give consideration for those activities in the competition.
2. Judging is to be based on a personal interview, where questions will focus on the contestant's activities and contributions to the community and/or NGRA.
3. Spirit and Community Support Interviews will follow the Personal Interview portion of the judging.
4. Each contestant will have 10 minutes to talk to the judges about their merits in this category.

5. Contestants may use the interview worksheet (Exhibit 9) to prepare their comments. This worksheet can be submitted to the judges as well.

6. The contestant can earn up to 25 points in this category scored as follows:

- Community Visibility (up to 5 points): Participation and activities in support of organizations and events of value to the community as a whole
- Participation with NGRA (up to 5 points): Involvement and participation in NGRA meetings and events
- Community Fundraising (up to 5 points): Fundraising efforts in support of other organizations and/or events
- NGRA Fundraising (up to 5 points): Fundraising efforts in support of other NGRA and/or its selected charities
- Spirit & Creativity (up to 5 points): Original concepts, leadership on a project's development, recruitment and inclusion of others

SECTION 12: COMPETITION QUALIFICATIONS

A. In order to qualify, all contestants must appear in person. Should a contestant fail to compete in one or more of the contestant categories, that contestant will be disqualified from the entire competition.

B. All contestants competing for the title of Mr., Miss, Ms., or MsTer NGRA will be required to singly or jointly host a minimum of one (1) fund raising event for that year's 501(c)(3) charity prior to the competition. In addition, all contestants must attend a minimum of one general membership meeting, one board of directors meeting and one RPC meeting prior to the competition. It will be the competition director's responsibility to verify attendance with the official records of the association.

C. Minimums of two (2) contestants per title category are required in order for that title to be contested. To receive the title of Mr., Miss, Ms., or MsTer NGRA the contestant must obtain a minimum of seventy five percent of the total points possible.

D. In the event of a tie between Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer Contestants, the Public Presentation scores will determine the winner. In the event of a further tie, the personal interview scores will determine the winner.

E. Must provide a written, detailed personal Plan of Action for the reigning year to be opened by the Vice President at the completion of the Competition and entered into the records of the association.

SECTION 13: The Royalty Competition will be held by the last weekend of February and the winners of Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer will reign until the date of the competition of the following year. The date of the competition will be selected by the Board of Directors. The Competition Director will provide a budget at least thirty (30) days prior to the Royalty Competition. Upon Board approval of the budget, NGRA will provide all funding for its Royalty Competition. The competition director will oversee the competition committee, which will consist of current title holder(s) and other volunteers to aid in organizing the competition.

SECTION 14: Following each segment of the competition, a tally committee consisting of two (2) individuals shall be responsible for tallying the judges' scores. These individuals shall have no actual or perceived conflict of interest with contestants or competition officials. Final tallies shall be verified for accuracy by two (2) Board appointed auditors who also shall have no actual or perceived conflict of interest with any contestant or competition official.

SECTION 15: Sashes will be awarded to the winners of Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer NGRA and each first and second runner-up. Sashes are to be constructed with at least two (2) of the three (3) NGRA colors (blue, silver and yellow). The Miss will receive a crown, while the Mr., Ms., and MsTer will receive a crown pin. Titleholders may receive an NGRA buckle upon completion of their term, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. The Competition Director shall be responsible for procuring the abovementioned items. After completion of the competition, the director shall provide each contestant his/her original score sheets. Final tallies will be posted immediately after the completion of the competition and entered

into the records of the association.

SECTION 16: Original competition winners of the Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer NGRA Royalty titles will not be eligible in the same category for the following year's competition (i.e. no consecutive title holders). Former Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer NGRA's will be allowed to enter future competitions after not reigning for a minimum of one (1) year or term.

SECTION 17: In a case where there may be no Royalty Competition, the current royalty's title will end after their one year term as Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer NGRA.

SECTION 18: Upon assuming their respective title, Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer NGRA and all runners up are expected to:

- A. Serve as active members for Fund Raising Committee.
- B. Communicate with each other and with the Public Relations and Fund Raising Directors throughout the year.
- C. Work with the Public Relations and Fundraising Directors in planning, preparing for, and participating in NGRA public relations events and fundraisers throughout the year.
- D. Report monthly to the Board of Directors, either verbally or in writing. The report should include all individual and joint public relations and fund raising activities engaged in during the previous month and plans for activities for the coming month. This information will be presented at the monthly General Membership meeting as part of the Public Relations and Fund Raising committee reports.
- E. Represent the NGRA in a positive manner by attending as many rodeos as physically and financially able and being a visible member of the Nevada gay community by attending fundraisers, NGRA convention and fundraisers for reciprocal organizations as possible while wearing a sash.
- F. Abide by the Conduct Rules governing Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer NGRA.
- G. Remain a resident of the State of Nevada for the entire term of their reign.

SECTION 19: Any Royalty titleholder who fails to meet the minimum requirements of the previous section is subject to have his/her title removed. Any titleholder whose title is removed may never run for an NGRA Royalty position. Notification is to be sent to IGRA regarding NGRA actions in this matter. Removal of a title must be approved by a majority of the Board of Directors. Upon removal of a title the runners-up for that title will advance. In the event there are no runners-up, the title will remain vacant. Titleholders are also subject to the provisions of Article VIII, Sections I and II.

SECTION 20: In the event a Royalty Title becomes vacant, the Board of Directors may select a past Royalty member to fill that vacancy.

SECTION 21: Royalty Travel Fund

Serving Royalty title holders are permitted to conduct sponsorship and fundraising activities for the purpose of reimbursing their expenses for travel relating to their duties as NGRA Royalty. Funds collected through sponsorship or fundraising activities for this purpose will be surrendered to the Treasurer for deposit into a special Royalty Travel Fund. All such sponsorship and fundraising activities require prior board approval.

- A. Royalty title holders may draw up to the amount they have deposited in the fund
- B. Any unused funds will be donated to the 501(c)3 charity of the individual's choice and in their name upon their stepping down as title holder
- C. If a title holder runs for and wins another NGRA Royalty title in the following year, any unused funds will roll-over into the following year.
- D. Should a title holder be removed for any reason, the unused funds will be donated to the 501c-3 charity of the individual's choice or if that choice is not communicated to the Board of Directors, the Board will determine the recipient.

Eligible travel expenses are limited to airfare, fuel, car rental, lodging, meals, and event entry fees. Reasonable efforts must be taken to control expenses.

- A. The Treasurer will maintain detailed records of deposits and withdrawals, listed by individual
- B. Prior approval is required from the Board of Directors for all withdrawals
- C. Approved reimbursements will occur upon the presentation of receipts to the Treasurer

SECTION 22: Personal Financial Responsibility Agreement

All Royalty titleholders will sign a personal financial responsibility agreement (Exhibit 11) immediately upon assuming their titles. This agreement details personal accountabilities and sets out the terms of the Royalty Travel Fund.

SECTION 23: Winners of the Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer NGRA competition are encouraged to represent NGRA at the Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer IGRA competition at Finals in that year. (see Exhibit 1)

SECTION 24:

All rules and regulations contained herein shall not be waived for any reason

CONDUCT RULES GOVERNING MR./MS./MISS/MsTER NGRA

"The desire to serve, the ability to perform, the courage to act "

As a titleholder of the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association, you are an ambassador of the organization and a representative on a city, state and nation-wide level. Approach the title with dedication and with pride. Approach the title like you would a job; a job with four parts:

- A. Fundraising
- B. Education
- C. Raising Public Awareness
- D. Having Fun

As a titleholder, the very essence of leadership is that you have a vision. Remember, rank does not counter privileges or give power. It imposes responsibility.

- A. To establish and maintain a city, state, and nationwide communication, which is informative, educational, and supportive: a network for our brothers and sisters of the C&W and rodeo community.
- B. To promote with power and pride the gay and lesbian C&W and rodeo lifestyle.
- C. To increase communication and understanding among men and women.
- D. Visibility and education to destroy stereotypes, misconceptions and media misrepresentations about the gay and lesbian C&W and rodeos within the community at large.
- E. To provide, through our publications, educational material -a forum for the sharing of knowledge, viewpoints, practices -from a diverse network of men and women belonging, not only to the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association, but the International Gay Rodeo Association communities and the community at large.
- F. To build, strengthen and defend individuals, organizations, publications and businesses within our community (especially against threats to their freedom of expression, freedom of the press, their right to free association and their right to equal protection from the law.)
- G. To develop an outreach to men and women, people of color, the deaf, the physically and mentally challenged and other minorities who have traditionally been discriminated against or poorly represented within the C&W and rodeo communities as well as the gay and lesbian community at large.
- H. Fundraising for deserving projects, clubs, organizations, and/or charities, which have given direct services to the community.
- I. To preserve a record of our history, traditions, and the C&W and rodeo cultures.

These Rules of Conduct Governing Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer NGRA were adopted on: August 8, 1995.