



Preserving the Western Lifestyle & Keeping the Sport of Rodeo Alive in the Nevada LGBTQ Community

NEVADA GAY RODEO

ROYALTY PROGRAM HANDBOOK

The Nevada Gay Rodeo Association is an all-volunteer, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to preserving the western lifestyle and producing gay rodeos to raise funds for charitable organizations within our community.

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Eligibility for Royalty Competition

- A. A contestant must be an active Individual or Lifetime member of the Nevada Gay Rodeo Association in good standing a minimum of 180 days prior to the beginning of the scheduled competition.
- B. A contestant must be at least 21 years of age, proof required.
- C. A contestant must actually reside in the State of Nevada at the time application is made and at the time of the competition.
- D. A contestant must submit an application along with a \$25 entry fee by not less than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the scheduled competition. Entry fee is non-refundable (see Exhibit 2).
- E. A current titleholder may compete for one additional year. (In no case may a titleholder compete in the same category for more than 2 consecutive years.)
- F. Contestants for the Mr. and Miss categories must self-identify as male.
- G. Contestants for the Ms. and MsTer competition must self-identify as female.
- H. Contestants and titleholders may not concurrently hold the title of Emperor or Empress, Imperial Crown Prince or Princess Royale, Fully Professed Member of the Sin City Sisters, or Mr., Miss, or Ms. Las Vegas Gay Pride.
- I. All contestants must appear for all categories of the competition in person. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
- J. Contestants must have attended a minimum of four (4) Board of Directors/General Membership meetings, three (3) Fundraising Committee meetings, and three (3) NGRA fundraisers immediately prior to the current year in which they wish to compete.
- K. Contestants must have singly or jointly hosted a minimum of one (1) fundraiser for NGRA, raising at least \$250 per contestant.
- L. Contestants must submit a detailed personal plan of action for the reigning year to the Vice President. The Vice President will enter the plans of action of the winning competitors into the records of the association at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Competition

- A. The royalty competition will be held by no later than December 31st of the year prior to the reigning year, and the winners of the competition shall reign until December 31st of their reigning year. The date of the competition will be selected by the Board of Directors.
- B. All 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).
- C. No contestant or competition official shall consume or be under the influence of intoxicating substances during any phase of the competition.
- D. Judges:
 - 1. A minimum of five (5) judges, which have no actual or perceived conflict of interest with any contestant or other competition official, will score the contestants during the competition.
 - 2. There may not be more than seven (7) judges per category.
 - 3. Judges panels for each category will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval prior to the competition.
 - 4. Judges shall use standardized scoring sheets (See Exhibits 2, 4, 5, 6, 7).
- E. Auditors/Tally Committee:
 - 1. A tally committee consisting of one (1) auditor and one (1) assistant shall be **responsible for tallying judges' scores following each competition segment.** The individuals shall not have any actual or perceived conflict of interest with any contestant or other competition official.
- F. Contestants will be judged in the following categories: personal interview, spirit and community service, western wear, on-stage public presentation, and entertainment. These categories may be changed by the Board of Directors in order to ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- G. The western wear, public presentation, and entertainment phases of the competition will be open to the public. The personal interview and spirit/community service phases will be closed to the public.
- H. Point Values - Contestants will be judged on a 1 to 10 scale. The total points available for each phase of the competition are: Personal Interview – 100 points, Spirit & Community Service – 50 points, Western Wear – 50 points, On-Stage Public Presentation – 50 points, and Entertainment – 50 points.
- I. Scoring - In each category, the scores from each judge will be added together after the high and low scores have been thrown out. The totals from each category will be added together to obtain the number of total points received
- J.

Guidelines to Competition Phases

- 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)
 5. Question(s) will be determined by the current reigning NGRA Royalty and the Competition Director. Questions shall not be provided to competitors in advance.
- B. 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 NGRA.**
- C. 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/MsTer 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.
- 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
 5. Question(s) will be determined by the current reigning NGRA Royalty and the Competition Director. Questions shall not be provided to competitors in advance.
- E. 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 flash drive/USB, CD or live. If selection is

on flash drive/USB or CD, then the selection must be the only number on the flash drive/USB or CD.

3. Presentation shall be done solo.
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. Pre-approval 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.

Awarding the Titles to the Competitors

- A. If there is a tie in total points obtained, the winner of the public presentation phase will determine the titleholder. If there is also a tie in the public presentation phase, the winner of the personal interview phase will determine the title holder.
- B. Each category may have a second runner-up, first runner-up, and titleholder (3 per category – Mr., Miss, Ms., MsTer).
- C. A competitor must obtain at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the total points possible (300 points possible, must score at least 225 from all categories combined).
- D. Sashes will be awarded to each titleholder, first runner-up, and second runner-up. Sashes are to be constructed with at least two (2) of the three (3) NGRA colors (blue silver and yellow).
- E. The Miss titleholder will receive a crown.
- F. The Mr., Ms., and MsTer titleholders will receive crown pins.
- G. Titleholders will be given buckles at the completion of their reigns, subject to approval by the NGRA Board of Directors.

Royalty Requirements (Titleholders and Runners-Up)

- A. Serve as active members of the fundraising committee.
 - 1. Must attend a minimum of sixty percent (60%) of fundraisers put on by the Fundraising Committee.
- B. Communicate with each other, the Vice President, the public relations spokesperson, and the fundraising chairperson throughout the year.
- C. Report monthly to the Board of Directors, either verbally or in writing. The report should include all individual and joint public relations and fundraising activities for the prior month and plans for activities for the next month.
- D. Represent NGRA in a positive manner at all times.
- E. Required to attend the following events:
 - 1. BigHorn Rodeo
 - 2. At least one other IGRA sanctioned Rodeo
- F. Recommended to attend the following events as physically and financially able:
 - 1. NGRA Convention
 - 2. As many other rodeos and events as possible.
- G. Be a visible member of the southern Nevada gay community by participating in or attending fundraisers for other community organizations while wearing the NGRA Royalty sash. Abide by the conduct rules governing Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer NGRA
- H. Remain a resident of the state of Nevada during their reign. At any time during a **titleholder's year, the Board may ask for proof of residency. If such proof is not tendered or is deemed invalid, the titleholder's title may be removed by a two-thirds vote** of the Board of Directors.

Conduct Rules Governing NGRA Royalty

"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.

These Rules of Conduct Governing Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer NGRA were adopted on: Jan. 14, 2008.

Removal of Title

- A. A royalty titleholder who fails to meet the requirements of section 6 and section 7 is subject to having his or her title removed.
- B. Any titleholder whose title is removed shall not be allowed to run for an NGRA royalty position in any succeeding year.
- C. Removal of a title must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors, and may only be approved after following disciplinary provisions outlined in the bylaws.
- D. Runners-up advance if a titleholder has his or her title removed.

Vacancies in The Royalty Team

- A. In a case where there may be no royalty competition, or in which a category may not be contested, the Board of Directors may select a past royalty member in good standing to fill the vacancy.

Miscellaneous

- A. Titleholders will sign a personal financial responsibility agreement immediately upon assuming their title. The agreement details personal accountabilities.
- B. Titleholders and first runners-up are encouraged to represent NGRA at the IGRA Royalty Competition that year.
- C. NGRA Royalty eligible to compete in IGRA Royalty competition may each hold up to two (2) individual fundraising events to fulfill the IGRA Royalty contestant requirements.
- D. Funds raised from royalty-produced required fundraisers for IGRA Royalty competition will be funneled through NGRA, provided that the event is revenue neutral to NGRA.
- E. All fundraising efforts by current royalty team members, other than fundraising to accomplish IGRA Royalty Competition requirements or through attendance at another **organizations' fundraising** event, will be held for the benefit of NGRA and through the direction of the Fundraising Committee.

Exhibit 1: Royalty Entry Form



Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer
N.G.R.A Contest

CONTESTANT ENTRY FORM

Please Circle One: Mr. Ms. MissMsTer

NAME		AGE
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
PHONE	EMAIL	

“MISS” (if applicable, A.K.A.)

ALIAS (if used)

I, _____, agree to abide by the standing rules of the Mr., Ms., Miss, MsTer NGRA CONTEST, which I have received, and agree that if I win a title, to abide by the rules governing the International Gay Rodeo Association, their members and their activities.

CONTESTANT SIGNATURE	DATE
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A \$25.00 check, payable to the NGRA, must accompany this form.

Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer N.G.R.A. Contest

SPIRIT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT INTERVIEW WORKSHEET

Contestant Name	Title Category	Contestant #
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Please describe in detail your activities and qualifications in the following areas:

COMMUNITY VISIBILITY

Participation and activities in support of organizations and events of value to the community as a whole.

PARTICIPATION WITH NGRA

Involvement and participation in NGRA meetings and events.

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Fundraising efforts in support of other organizations and/or events.

NGRA FUNDRAISING

Fundraising efforts in support of NGRA and/or its selected charities

SPIRIT & CREATIVITY

Original concepts, leadership on a project's development, recruitment and inclusion of others

Exhibit 5: Royalty Interview Score Sheet

Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer N.G.R.A. Contest

INTERVIEW (“MISS” IN MALE ATTIRE, “MsTER” IN FEMALE ATTIRE)

Contestant Name	Title Category	Contestant #								
Categories:	Point Values (Circle one for each category):									
APPEARANCE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
KNOWLEDGE OF NGRA/IGRA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ANSWER IN CONTENT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CONFIDENCE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PERSONAL DISPOSITION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Total: _____										

Was a Plan of Action submitted: YES NO (2 pt. Deduction)

Auditor's Total: _____ x 2 = _____

Judge's Comments:

_____ Judge's Signature	_____ Judge #	_____ Auditor	_____ Auditor
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Exhibit 7: Royalty Public Presentation Score Sheet

Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer N.G.R.A. Contest
PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Contestant Name	Title Category	Contestant #
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Categories: **Point Values (*Circle one for each category*):**

APPEARANCE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
KNOWLEDGE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ANSWER IN CONTENT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CONFIDENCE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
PUBLIC DISPOSITION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Total: _____

Auditor's Total: _____

Judge's Comments:

Judge's Signature	Judge #	Auditor	Auditor
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Exhibit 8: Royalty Entertainment Score sheet

Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer N.G.R.A. Contest
ENTERTAINMENT

Contestant Name	Title Category	Contestant #
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Categories:	Point Values (Circle one for each category):
ENTERTAINMENT VALUE	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
STAGE PRESENTATION	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
ORIGINALITY	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
APPAREL SELECTION	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
ARTISTIC INTERPRETATION	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Total: _____

Did the contestant comply with Time Limit? **YES** **NO (3 pt. Deduction)**

Auditor's Total: _____

Judge's Comments:

Judge's Signature	Judge #	Auditor	Auditor
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Exhibit 9: Royalty Competition Final Tally Sheet

Mr./Ms./Miss/MsTer N.G.R.A. Contest
FINAL TALLY SHEET

Contestant Name

Contestant Number

	Spirit	Interview	Western Wear	Public Presentation	Entertainment
Judge #1	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Judge #2	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Judge #3	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Judge #4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Judge #5	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Judge #6	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Judge #7	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

TOTALS (*Highest & Lowest Scores Removed*):

TOTAL POINTS: _____

Auditor _____

Percent of Points Received: _____

(out of 300 possible)

Exhibit 10: Royalty Personal Financial Responsibility Agreement



NGRA ROYALTY

PERSONAL FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AGREEMENT

I understand that as a representative and titleholder of NGRA I am responsible for the prudent use of NGRA funds.

NGRA Fundraising

I agree that any funds that I raise on behalf of NGRA will be collected and remitted to the NGRA Treasurer in accordance with NGRA policy and bylaws. At no time shall I solicit funds on behalf of NGRA for personal gain. All fundraising by me shall be conducted under the auspices of events or activities approved by the NGRA Board of Directors. I understand that failure to comply with the NGRA bylaws and policies may result in the removal of my title and forfeiture of future opportunities to compete or hold an NGRA title.

Royalty Travel Fund:

I understand that it is my responsibility to represent NGRA at other IGRA rodeos and events, and that this requires a financial commitment in order to fulfill my responsibilities as a titleholder. Pursuant to NGRA Standing Rules I understand that I may solicit funds for traveling expenses related to my activities as a member of the royalty team in a manner approved by the NGRA Board of Directors. I agree that any funds raised, through sponsorship or fundraising activities, will be turned over and accounted for by the NGRA Treasurer, and that NGRA will act as a custodian of these funds until such time as I require them. Furthermore, I agree that I will diligently and publicly disclose the purpose of any fundraising activities on my behalf as a representative of NGRA. At no time shall I solicit funds on behalf of NGRA for personal gain. Eligible travel expenses will include airfare, fuel, car rental, lodging, meals, and event entry fees. I understand that is not the intent of the NGRA Board of Directors to manage the disbursement of these funds with undue scrutiny; however, I understand that it is my obligation to use funds raised for this purpose as a representative of NGRA in a prudent manner.

Signature

Date